



ONE PLACE. HELPING PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

February 15, 2023

Representative Heath Sessions
304A Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29201

**Re: Pathways Community Center, Inc.
Request for State Earmarked Funds**

Dear Representative Sessions:

As you may know, Pathways is installing a fire suppression system in its building on S. Cherry Road. We are doing this in two phases. Phase I is scheduled to be completed this March. Once completed, The Life House Women's Shelter will be able to provide approximately 30 emergency shelter beds in the space that it occupies at Pathways' facility. These emergency shelter beds will be available on a first come-first-serve basis for homeless women in our area.

Pathways hopes to begin Phase II in the first quarter of this year. Once completed, Pathways' entire facility will be protected by a fire suppression system, and additional Pathways tenants, like the Bethel Men's Shelter, will be able to provide additional overnight shelter for the homeless.

Pathways' original estimate for the cost of this project was \$500,000. As we have learned more about all that's involved with Phase II of this project, especially the impact of escalating construction costs, our estimate now stands at approximately \$1,000,000.

Through efforts led by former Representative Gary Simrill, Pathways was able to obtain \$500,000 in earmarked funds from the State of South Carolina in 2022. Needless to say, Pathways needs any help that you can provide to obtain the additional earmarked funds needed from the State (\$500,000) to complete this project. By doing so, Pathways will be able to meet building code standards for sprinkling required for additional overnight sleeping.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter, and please call me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexandra Greenawalt".

Alexandra Greenawalt, MBA-HM, CSPS
Executive Director