



**City of Bloomington  
Office of the Common Council**

September 4, 2024

**Mr. Brent Lee**

Program Director, Community Development  
Lilly Endowment, Inc.  
2801 N. Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46208

**Dear Mr. Lee,**

On behalf of the Bloomington City Council, I write to express support for the proposed Community Leadership Grant project to be directed by the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County (CFBMC) and its partners. We are grateful to the Lilly Endowment for this opportunity through the Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT) VII grant process.

The Bloomington City Council is the nine-member legislative body of the city. We are elected to represent all residents of the community and to further Bloomington's social, economic, and environmental well-being. We also oversee the finances of the city government, approving the annual budget, bonding, and all other appropriations. We aim to promote the health, safety, and welfare of Bloomington's residents and to foster an inclusive and accessible environment for all.

As described in the grant proposal, homelessness has risen to a crisis level in Bloomington and Monroe County over the last few years. The city government has prioritized incentives and a broad range of options for affordable housing and has consistently partnered with social service organizations to support their efforts, both financially and logistically, to prevent homelessness and to help those who are unhoused. Through the process of revising and relaunching the Heading Home plan in 2021, the city reinvigorated partnerships with the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County, emergency day and night shelter providers, township and county government offices, and experts in the community. The City Council has since approved \$2.7 million in ARPA funds toward implementation of the 2021 Heading Home Plan.

We are very supportive of the proposal that the Community Foundation has drafted and believe it will go a long way to achieve the Heading Home goal of making homelessness brief, rare, and non-repeating. Addressing homelessness not only improves the quality of life for those directly affected but also benefits the broader community by reducing strain on emergency services, enhancing public safety, and fostering a more inclusive and compassionate city.

With clear intent and an evidence-based approach, the Community Foundation and its impressive array of community partners have proposed a sound path forward. By addressing the city's housing crisis, the Council can help ensure that all residents have access to stable housing—fundamental to achieving overall community well-being and economic stability.

The Council enthusiastically supports the proposed project. On behalf of the City of Bloomington, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

City of Bloomington Common Council

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Isabel Piedmont-Smith, President  
Bloomington Common Council