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April 30, 2024

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

Dear Brent,

We are pleased to submit a Leadership Implementation Concept Paper for Monroe County. This GIFT VIII initiative offers our foundation the opportunity to expand our leadership in an area of growing importance and concern related to the health and prosperity of our community and its residents.

Our foundation's board of directors and staff have been engaged in thoughtful strategic planning over the last six months. Stakeholders, partners, donors, and board members have been working alongside staff to define areas for community leadership over the next decade. Our community consistently tells us that the Foundation needs to grow its leadership role in addressing housing security, street homelessness, and housing availability for people of all incomes.

Our foundation and its partners have been deeply engaged in addressing the short- and long-term challenges of housing insecurity in our county for more than a decade. Today, Monroe County has many of the pieces in place to reverse escalating trends in housing insecurity and street homelessness. We have committed city leadership, a collaborating set of essential stakeholders, and data-driven foundational practices in place.

With additional resources, a reimagined structure for case management and housing diversion outlined in this concept paper will provide short-term, intensive supports to stabilize the system and build long-term, sustainable solutions to prevent those on the brink of homelessness from reaching a housing crisis.

Our community foundation has a unique role to play in advancing the strategies detailed in the concept paper. We have the capacity to bring key leaders and partners to the table, to marshal the resources of our sister organizations like CDFI Friendly Bloomington and ROI to help, to support ancillary organizations to develop capabilities complementary to new programming, to grow the \$1.3 million endowment for housing insecurity, to sustain a guiding team for the length of the project, and to manage grant dollars effectively.

We are, as always, grateful to the Endowment and for the opportunity.

Sincerely,



Jeff Wuslich
Board Chair



Tina Peterson
President and CEO