



THE SOUTH CENTRAL HOUSING NETWORK, INC.

Mission – To provide and coordinate the best possible housing resources and supportive services to those who are most in need.

April 28, 2024

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

Dear Mr. Lee,

The South Central Housing Network (SCHN) is Indiana's Region 10 Balance of State Coordinating Council, representing Monroe, Morgan, Owen Lawrence, Greene and Martin counties. Our six-county region is seeing unprecedented numbers of unsheltered residents. Every SCHN member is dedicated to understanding the underlying causes and working to ensure all our neighbors can be safely housed.

We have long known that a lack of targeted, sustained case management outside of our region's emergency shelters is a significant gap in our service model. The partnership proposed by the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County is an exciting and innovative approach to addressing this gap. We enthusiastically support this approach.

As a region, we have been dedicated to a Housing First model for more than a decade. We know that Housing First is a nationally recognized best practice as an effective way to end homelessness for our most vulnerable community members. We also recognize that Housing First should not and cannot be housing only.

The day a client signs a lease for a new home is a moment of celebration. It should also be a moment to begin planning for sustainability. Too often, funds for maintaining housing simply are not available. We know that if we want to make homelessness rare, brief and non-repeating, we must be as dedicated to supporting people who have recently transitioned from homelessness into housing as we are to those who don't have a safe place to sleep tonight.

Similarly, we know that the housing market has left many families on the brink of a housing crisis. In order for our system to remain stable, we must begin more coordinated, intentional upstream case management that supports individuals and families after they are housed.

We believe that the CFBMC's proposed approach will work to make homelessness much more rare in our community. We are eager to welcome more robust community partnership from all sectors in this new shared case management and case conferencing model. We feel certain it will best serve our vulnerable neighbors when they need us most.

In partnership,

Emily Pike, Chair
South Central Housing Network