



July 6, 2016

Jeremy Ratliff
Managing Director Multifamily Programs
Kentucky Housing Corporation
1231 Louisville Rd.
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Jeremy:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the amendment to KHC's 2016 Consolidated Action Plan incorporating the new National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) allocation. We are writing on behalf of the Kentucky Medicaid-Housing Partnership Team, homeless advocates and government representatives working with the Center for Medicaid Services on a plan to use Medicaid to provide housing services for the most vulnerable Kentuckians.

We encourage you to design a plan that facilitates the construction of supportive housing by including these items:

- 1) Prioritize NHTF resources for projects that will provide housing to special needs individuals and families such as people with physical and behavioral health disabilities, people experiencing domestic violence, people experiencing homelessness, people cycling in and out of public crisis systems like jails, emergency rooms, and substance abuse treatment, or families and individuals with long histories of housing instability and child welfare involvement.
- 2) Maximize the use of NHTF funds for operating funding. Up to 33% of NHTF funding may be used for operating assistance. Potential models for disbursing funds include yearly renewable contracts or capitalized operating reserves of up to five years that are also renewable.
- 3) Prioritize projects that have commitments of services funding from sources such as Continuum of Care, VASH and MCOs as well as from housing providers that receive Medicaid. Partner with other organizations and state agencies that serve supportive housing populations such as state Medicaid, disability and mental health departments, and other housing providers to ensure that the supportive services required to maintain housing stability are provided to residents.
- 4) Ensure that supportive housing projects are competitive for Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTCs) by coordinating with developers of the QAP process. Ensuring that funding priorities



are aligned for the NHTF and LIHTC funding sources will make it easier and less expensive to develop supportive housing.

We look forward to working with you to create more housing opportunities for the most vulnerable Kentuckians.

Sincerely,

The Kentucky Medicaid-Housing Partnership Team

Natalie Harris, Executive Director
Louisville Coalition for the Homeless

Curtis Stauffer, Executive Director
Homeless & Housing Coalition of Kentucky

Sherry Currens, Executive Director
Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Katharine Dobbins, Chief Executive Officer
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Tom Manning Bevin, President
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