

To: Ray Rose, Chairman Housing and Community Development Commission

From: ElderCARE@ChristChurch/Christ Church
410 Grand Avenue
Waukegan, IL 60085

Date: January 30, 2015

Re: Amending Lake County Affordable Housing Program Grants A1245 and A1395

ElderCARE@ChristChurch seeks to amend recent Lake County Affordable Housing Program (LCAHP) Grants in two ways:

1. to extend the time performance (A1245)
2. increase the maximum grant award to \$2,000, current maximum award is \$750 (A1245 & A1395)

LCAHP Grants enabled ElderCARE to implement its Accessible Safe Homes for Elders (ASHE) grant program. These grants enable income eligible Lake County residents, ages 65+, to make their owned home safer or more accessible.

Background to request 1: Our grant program, while based on demonstrated need, was new in Lake County. We have done extensive marketing and outreach. (See supplemental information.) Over time, we have worked to make the program more user-friendly. The ASHE application to request a grant has been streamlined. Our ASHE Grant Review Committee reviews applications monthly as opposed to the originally proposed quarterly review. We now also provide elders with lists of potential contractors given to us by the Center for Independent Living and Waukegan Community Development. To fill gaps in these lists, we have created an additional list of contractors, which we continue to update.

As with any new program, it takes time for the community to become aware of the program and comfortable with its processes. We are making progress educating both elders and contractors. Comparing the eight applications completed in 2014 with the five in process as of early January 2015 provide evidence of this.

Despite many challenges, we are gaining momentum and making good progress on spending down these grant funds. We foresee spending them in full within the next six months. Please see Funding Overview as of 1-8-15. Therefore we seek an extension to fully expend the funds.

Background to request 2: Several elders have approached us with very worthwhile projects whose total costs exceed our current maximum grant award of \$750, e.g. extensive sidewalk repair, chairlift installs as well as electrical and bathroom modifications. In some cases elders have been able to segment the work, doing some in one year and some in the next. In others we have been able to partner with agencies such as Catholic Charities and Family Services to pool funds to meet needs. However, there have been several cases where the work is not amenable to segmentation and we have not been able to pool funds with other agencies due to their programs' eligibility requirements. Therefore we are requesting this increase to help elders whose safety and accessibility needs cannot be met with the current \$750 grant award limit. This amendment will also work to facilitate the timely use of our LCAHP funds.

Thanks to you and the Housing and Community Development Commission for the time to review our request.