



November 26, 2024

Jennifer Deaver
Housing Programs Manager

Dear Jennifer:

As a follow-up to our meeting last week, the purpose of this letter is to describe the current status of our CDGB allocated funding spenddown and proposal for use of next year's allocation of funding.

During the past two years we have faced several challenges in securing and completing projects that meet the HUD requirements which resulted in underutilization of the CDBG allocation for last year and will be so again for this current year. SIL is currently on track to spend an additional \$25,000 before the end of 2024, which would bring the total YTD expenditures to \$61,923, which is \$33,076 short of the \$95,000 allocation.

Prior to October 14, 2024, Services for Independent Living (SIL) was managing a HUD Older Adult Home Modification Program (OLHMP) grant along with the CDBG program that stretched our resources across multiple counties. Our entire focus for home modifications now rests with the CDBG program. A major challenge is the lack of contractors in Columbia willing to bid and take on jobs, particularly those less than \$5,000. The larger jobs require lead testing and potential mitigation when lead is present, which can extend the project completion timelines.

Going into next year, we proposed to the Housing team that we would like to put on our payroll someone that could complete home modification projects focusing on the jobs that the independent contractors shy away from. This gives us more control over the project costs and completion timelines. We are awaiting from your team a determination as to whether we can invoice these as project-specific "hard" costs, the same as if we had contracted the services out. We are working through the challenges described above and as a show of good faith are willing to accept a portion of the funds that are allocated to SIL for next year (\$50,000 to \$60,000) to demonstrate that we can meet the expectations.

Sincerest Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Patrick N. Lee', written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Patrick N. Lee, Executive Director