

Dana Simons

From: Plasse, John A <John.Plasse@vigosheriff.in.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 1:32 PM
To: george.azar@terrehaute.in.gov; curtis.debaun@terrehaute.in.gov;
cheryl.loudermilk@terrehaute.in.gov; todd.nation@terrehaute.in.gov;
neil.garrison@terrehaute.in.gov; tammy.boland@terrehaute.in.gov;
amy.auler@terrehaute.in.gov; earl.elliott@terrehaute.in.gov
Cc: Bennett,Duke A; dana@nextsteptoday.org
Subject: Rezoning of 619 Washington

City Council Members,

Good Afternoon. I am writing in support of rezoning 619 Washington St to allow Next Step to provide housing suites for pregnant and parenting women. This location is adjacent to their current property. Terre Haute and Vigo County are in dire need of additional recovery housing to help those struggling with drug addiction.

Next Step is partnering with Union Health and the Lugar Center Health Start program to help provide housing and services for pregnant women to maintain sobriety during pregnancy and after birth. But they need your help as well.

Most of the inmates in my jail are here in some way, shape or form due to illicit drugs and addiction. While our community does many things to help those battling addictions, we need to do more before they end up here.

I ask that you approve this request for rezoning. If you choose not to approve this request, I ask you make some vacant property available in Terre Haute for this very purpose. I believe it is much needed and will help those in need in our community.

Thank you for all you do for Terre Haute and our community!

Respectfully,

John Plasse



John Plasse

Vigo County Sheriff

201 Cherry Street

Terre Haute, IN 47807

p: (812) 462-3226 x7301

John.Plasse@VigoSheriff.in.gov

www.Sheriff.VigoCounty.IN.gov

This message including any attachments is intended for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you have

September 30, 2021

Denny Spinner
Executive Director
Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
One North Capitol, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Spinner:

I am writing in support of the City of Terre Haute's application for the Recovery Housing Program Pilot.

I owned a home at 1408 South Center Street in Terre Haute and lived in it from 1985 to the beginning of 2020. In the last 5 or so years, I watched as the Next Step group began acquiring properties around me, starting with the Washington Avenue Church in which I was married. Eventually, they had acquired the two houses directly across the street from me and the houses on each side of me. I was quite apprehensive at first, wondering how homes housing recovering addicts would affect my neighborhood. My apprehension was short-lived, as I began to realize and appreciate what they were doing. The houses on either side of mine had long been a source of frustration for my family, as they were apartment units not well taken care of and being rented to college students, who partied often and loudly. There was also much suspicious activity. All that changed when Next Step came along. The homes were renovated, the residents were friendly and appreciative of the opportunities they were being provided, they were well supervised, and I was very happy with my new neighbors. They were definitely better than the neighbors that had been moving in and out for the 35 years I was there. And maybe most importantly, the Next Step plan was providing hope and opportunity for those seeking to improve themselves.

My wife died in 2018 and I eventually decided to downsize and move closer to my grandchildren. I realized my house, which had been a 4-unit apartment building before I returned it to a single-family dwelling, might fit very well with the type of properties Next Step was acquiring. And my research and experiences led to me to believe in what they were doing and trust them. So I contacted Dana Simons and I ended up donating my equity and selling them my property along with the empty lot next to it which I had acquired earlier. I felt it was an excellent choice for me, for the neighborhood, and for the worthwhile Next Step program. It was a win/win situation for all, as far as I'm concerned. I remain very happy with my decision.

Fortunately, Next Step is continuing to diligently provide housing and appropriate treatment options to individuals with substance use disorders in West Central Indiana. with assistance from OCRA and the Recovery Housing Program, Next Step and the City of Terre Haute can partner to provide desperately needed expansions of housing options for individuals seeking freedom from substance use disorders, and continue to create pathways to recovery for some of our most vulnerable neighbors and their families.

I hope you will consider the City of Terre Haute's application for Recovery Housing Program funding. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 812-236-1089, by email at markwright11@gmail.com, or by mail at 7364 East Beatrice Ct., Terre Haute, IN 47802.

Thank you.

Mark Wright

November 30, 2021

Denny Spinner
Executive Director
Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
One North Capitol, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Spinner:

I am writing in support of the City of Terre Haute's application for the Recovery Housing Program Pilot. I am a former homeowner in the Farrington Grove Neighborhood for 5 years and lived there for most of my adult life. In my capacity as a homeowner, I have watched the increase of recovery housing and treatment services within our neighborhood and believe that the partnership between the City and Next Step represents a compelling opportunity to make substantive progress on this important issue.

Over the past several years, I watched as Next Step acquired homes that were in disrepair and made a significant positive impact to our neighborhood through their renovation and property maintenance efforts. When it came time for me to sell my home/property around 2014, I felt that contributing to the mission at Next Step would be the best way to make a contribution to my community so I donated the equity in my home to this worthy organization. I lived in this neighborhood for years while in active addiction myself. I used to go sit on the doorstep because something inside of me told me it was a safe place. Years later, I had the privilege of meeting Ron and Dana Simons. I volunteered at Next Step for 4 years. The lives they have touched and the transformation they have brought to my city is phenomenal. Next Step is the best thing that ever happened to the Farrington Grove Neighborhood.

Fortunately, Next Step is continuing to diligently provide housing and appropriate treatment options to individuals with substance use disorders in West Central Indiana. with assistance from OCRA and the Recovery Housing Program, Next Step and the City of Terre Haute can partner to provide desperately needed expansions of housing options for individuals seeking freedom from substance use disorders, and continue to create pathways to recovery for some of our most vulnerable neighbors and their families.

I hope you will consider the City of Terre Haute's application for Recovery Housing Program funding. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 812-243-9313 or shammah2311@gmail.com

Best regards,

Jason Wallace

1304 South 6th Street
Terre Haute, IN 47802

October 19, 2021

Mr. Denny Spinner, Executive Director
Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
One North Capitol Avenue, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Re: City of Terre Haute Application – Recovery Housing Program Pilot

Dear Mr. Spinner:

Just over ten years ago, Next Step Foundation, Inc. moved into my neighborhood. From the very beginning, it was evident that its staff is approachable and enthusiastic about its mission, its board of directors is engaged, and Next Step clients are considerate of their neighbors. Next Step's flagship property at 619 Washington Street has undergone significant renovations of which everyone is well-pleased.

When appropriate opportunities became available, Next Step has acquired additional properties within the Farrington's Grove Historical District neighborhood. These properties have been beautified, *enviably beautified*, for client housing. The proximity of these properties make for quick and easy walks for Next Step's clients to attend meetings at the 619 Washington Street office.

While many friends have watched family members "fail" with short-term institutional recovery programs, I've watched what some of the differences are with Next Step's longer-term approach. The organization is fiscally-sound and isn't interested in a super-quick turnaround. The staff are relatable and engaged. And it seems to me that living in a nice and well-maintained home on a tree-lined street, with opportunities to learn how to maintain a household, instills personal confidence in those who are working toward their recovery. Lack of confidence would surely be a hindrance to successful recovery.

My understanding of the Office of Community and Rural Affairs Recovery Housing Program Pilot opportunity is that the City of Terre Haute would be the grantee fiscal agent of \$600,000 for Next Step Foundation, Inc., as a sub-recipient, to rehabilitate or construct housing for those seeking recovery from substance-abuse disorders. If that is correct, that is fantastic news for our community.

Currently, during this proposal phase, Next Step Foundation, Inc. has capacity and proper zoning to build on the south side of its property at 619 Washington Street. I'm confident the site design would be beautiful and its executed programs would be successful.

I strongly encourage you to approve the City of Terre Haute's proposal for the Recovery Housing Program Pilot opportunity.

Sincerely,



M. Colleen Chestnut

October 14, 2021

Denny Spinner
Executive Director
Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
One North Capitol, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN. 46204

Dear Mr. Spinner,

I am writing to you in an effort to support the City of Terre Haute's application for the Recovery Housing Program Pilot. I have worked, lived and presently own rental property in the Farrington Grove area. My family and I have been involved in the Farrington Grove area for over 20 years. I have been able to observe and participate in the increase of recovery housing and treatment services personally for at least the past 8 years. I am convinced that the partnership between the City of Terre Haute and Next Step is not only a compelling but a vital opportunity to effect substantive and successful progress on this important issue.

I have observed substance use disorders taking a heavy toll on the lives of the people in the Terre Haute community. At the same time, I have been able to watch Next Step acquire homes that were in disrepair and cause a positive impact to the neighborhood through renovation and property improvements. In 2018 I considered selling a property I owned at 1400 S. Center Street but felt that I could make a greater impact to the community by donating the house to Next Step. I could have sold the property and made a personal profit but I saw a greater need and decided to become involved by giving them the house at no profit to me or my business. I am more interested in the betterment of our community at large and knew that Next Step could make a more lasting impact with my property. In the early stages as Next Step was first being established, my wife Eleanor even served for a period of time on their board of directors.

Next Step is continuing to diligently supply housing and appropriate treatment options to individuals with substance use disorders in the West Central Indiana area. With assistance from OCRA and the Recovery Housing Program, Next Step and the City of Terre Haute can partner to provide desperately needed expansions of housing options for individuals seeking freedom from substance use disorders, and continue to create a pathway to recovery for some of our most vulnerable neighbors and their families.

Please consider the City of Terre Haute's application for Recovery Housing Program funding. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me by email (tramseier@gmail.com) or call me at 812-249-3561.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Next Step,



Tim Ramseier



October 5, 2021

Denny Spinner
Executive Director
Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
One North Capitol, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Spinner:

I am writing in support of the City of Terre Haute's application for the Recovery Housing Program Pilot. As a business owner in the community, we are keenly aware of the need for increased housing options for individuals in recovery from substance use disorders in West Central Indiana and believe that the partnership between the City and Next Step represents a compelling opportunity to make substantive progress on this important issue.

Over the past several years, we have observed substance use disorders taking a heavy toll on the Wabash Valley. The impact on families in our local area has been devastating. Sadly, one of the demographics hit the hardest is the local children. Through our work with the school near Next Step we have seen children who are suffering immensely due to parental substance abuse. Having a local substance abuse facility that is adequately resourced has the ability to not only change individual lives, but families, and our community as a whole. Adequate housing is a big component in the success of Next Step's program to help these families in our community.

As Next Step's housing needs have grown, Thompson Thrift committed resources to purchase, renovate, and donate a building that provided four apartments to Next Step. Having partnered with Next Step for over three years we have seen the impact they are having in the Wabash Valley. Individuals who have gone through their program have stayed sober for years and have been restored to their families. Thompson Thrift has brought hundreds of its own team members to Next Step to serve throughout the years because we believe in their mission. Next Step is continuing to provide housing and appropriate treatment options to individuals with substance use disorders in West Central Indiana, but the need is growing. In the past 48 months Next Step has received over 1,000 applications for housing.

With assistance from OCRA and the Recovery Housing Program, Next Step and the City of Terre Haute, can partner to provide desperately needed expansions of housing options for individuals seeking freedom from substance use disorders and continue to create pathways to recovery for some of our most vulnerable neighbors and their families.

I hope you will consider the City of Terre Haute's application for Recovery Housing Program funding. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at pthrift@thompsonthrift.com

Best regards,
Paul Thrift

CEO
Thompson Thrift

State of Indiana

Senate

Senator Jon Ford
State House
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2785
Telephone: (317) 232-9517
Telephone: (800) 382-9467
E-mail: Senator.Ford@iga.in.gov

Committees:
Elections, Chair
Family and Children Services (RM)
Appropriations
Public Policy

September 30, 2021

Denny Spinner
Executive Director
Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
One North Capitol, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204

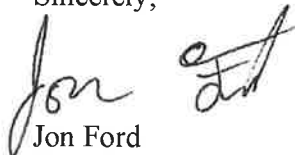
Dear Mr. Spinner:

I am writing in support of the City of Terre Haute's application for the Recovery Housing Program Pilot. In my capacity as State Senator, I am keenly aware of the need for increased housing options for individuals in recovery from substance use disorders in West Central Indiana, and believe that the partnership between the City and Next Step represents a compelling opportunity to make substantive progress on this important issue.

Over the past several years, I have observed substance use disorders taking a heavy toll on the Terre Haute community. Fortunately, Next Step is continuing to diligently provide housing and appropriate treatment options to individuals with substance use disorders in West Central Indiana. With assistance from OCRA and the Recovery Housing Program, Next Step and the City of Terre Haute can collaborate to provide desperately needed expansions of housing options for individuals seeking freedom from substance use disorders, and continue to create pathways to recovery for some of our most vulnerable neighbors and their families.

I hope you will consider the City of Terre Haute's application for Recovery Housing Program funding. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 317-232-9517.

Sincerely,



Jon Ford
State Senator



**STATE OF INDIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

THIRD FLOOR STATE HOUSE
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

TONYA PFAFF
200 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

COMMITTEES:
EDUCATION
ELECTIONS & APPORTIONMENT, RMM
WAYS AND MEANS

October 5, 2021

Denny Spinner
Executive Director
Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
One North Capitol, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Spinner:

I am writing in support of the City of Terre Haute's application for the Recovery Housing Program Pilot. As the State Representative for House District 43, I am aware of the need for increased housing options for individuals in recovery from substance use disorders in West Central Indiana, and I believe that the partnership between the City and Next Step represents an opportunity to make substantive progress on this issue.


Over the past several years, I have observed substance use disorders taking a heavy toll on the Terre Haute community. My office has received many inquiries regarding housing and treatment programs for substance use disorders and unfortunately there are few programs in West Central Indiana to direct them to.

Fortunately, Next Step is continuing to diligently provide housing and appropriate treatment options to individuals with substance use disorders in West Central Indiana. With assistance from OCRA and the Recovery Housing Program, Next Step and the City of Terre Haute can partner to provide desperately needed expansions of housing options for individuals seeking freedom from substance use disorders, and continue to create pathways to recovery for some of our most vulnerable neighbors and their families.

I urge you to consider the City of Terre Haute's application for Recovery Housing Program funding. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 812-240-5725 or at Tonya.Pfaff@iga.in.gov.

Best regards,

Sincerely,


Tonya Pfaff
State Representative
House District 43



THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF VIGO COUNTY

Commissioners

Brendan Kearns, 1st District

Chris Switzer, 2nd District

Mike Morris, 3rd District

**650 S. 1st Street
Terre Haute, Indiana 47807
(812) 462-3367
Fax: (812) 234-2409**

October 1, 2021

Denny Spinner
Executive Director
Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
One North Capitol, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Spinner:

I am writing in support of the City of Terre Haute's application for the Recovery Housing Program Pilot. In our capacity as Vigo County Commissioners, we are keenly aware of the need for increased housing options for individuals in recovery from substance use disorders in West Central Indiana, and believe that the partnership between the County and Next Step represents a compelling opportunity to make substantive progress on this important issue.

Over the past several years, we have observed substance use disorders taking a heavy toll on the Vigo County community. With overwhelming substance use in our community, it has led us to building a new Vigo County Security Center. We do not want our facility full of people that can receive help outside of simply serving time. We lack housing and treatment options in Vigo County the City of Terre Haute and West Central Indiana. We strongly support Next Step and the programs they are doing. Which is why we urge you to consider this partnership to continue the success of Next Step.

Fortunately, Next Step is continuing to diligently provide housing and appropriate treatment options to individuals with substance use disorders in West Central Indiana. The Vigo County Commissioners have had several round table discussions with Next Step and will continue to stay involved. We see the work they do in our community and remain thankful for their presence and recovery programs in West Central Indiana. Next Step has a very successful recovery program and with additional housing, it will only get better.

With assistance from OCRA and the Recovery Housing Program, Next Step and the City of Terre Haute can partner to provide desperately needed expansions of housing options for individuals seeking freedom from substance use disorders, and continue to create pathways to recovery for some of our most vulnerable neighbors and their families.

I hope you will consider the City of Terre Haute's application for Recovery Housing Program funding. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Vigo County Commissioners office at 812-462-3367.

Best regards,

Mjke Morris

Brendan Kearns

Chris Switzer



Valley Professionals Community Health Center

October 15, 2021

Denny Spinner
Executive Director
Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
One North Capitol, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Spinner:

I am writing in support of the City of Terre Haute's application for the Recovery Housing Program Pilot. In my capacity as Chief Executive Officer of Valley Professionals Community Health Center (VPCHC), I am keenly aware of the need for increased housing options for individuals in recovery from substance use disorders in West Central Indiana and believe that the partnership between the City and Next Step represents a compelling opportunity to make substantive progress on this important issue.

Over the past several years, VPCHC has observed substance use disorders taking a heavy toll on the communities we serve in Montgomery, Parke, Vermillion and Vigo counties. VPCHC offers addiction services through our Valley Addictions Program at three of our locations in the service area. The lack of available resources in the community has created waitlists for those seeking services, delaying treatment and ability to begin steps to recovery, as well as maintaining needs such as available housing.

Fortunately, Next Step is continuing to diligently provide housing and appropriate treatment options to individuals with substance use disorders in West Central Indiana. Next Step and VPCHC have a great collaborative partnership to serve those battling addiction and other resource challenges in our community. Next Step refers individuals to our addictions program, while VPCHC can also provide comprehensive patient-centered medical home services, allowing individuals to receive overall care needs in one facility. With assistance from OCRA and the Recovery Housing Program, Next Step and the City of Terre Haute can partner to provide desperately needed expansions of housing options for individuals seeking freedom from substance use disorders and continue to create pathways to recovery for some of our most vulnerable neighbors and their families.

I hope you will consider the City of Terre Haute's application for Recovery Housing Program funding. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (765) 832-3843.

Best regards,

T.J. Warren, CEO

Valley Professionals Community Health Center

Hobbs & Company, Inc
500 Farrington Street
Terre Haute, IN 47807

October 12, 2021

Denny Spinner
Executive Director
Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
One North Capitol, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Spinner:

I am writing in support of the City of Terre Haute's application for the Recovery Housing Program Pilot. I have had the offices for my CPA firm located at 500 Farrington St. in the Farrington's Grove neighborhood for 26 years. I have been involved with Next Step since their founding ten years ago and have supported their efforts to purchase and renovate properties in the blocks between my office and their main facility. They have been successful in assisting people to recover from substance use disorder and have helped add value to the neighborhood through the way that have cared for their properties. I believe that the partnership between the City and Next Step represents a compelling opportunity to make substantive progress on the issue of recovery housing needed in our community.

The Farrington's Grove neighborhood is an interesting mix of well-maintained historic properties (like the 19th Century church that houses the Next Step Foundation) and modern office buildings like mine. Unfortunately, many of the older properties have fallen into disrepair and cause a blight on our neighborhood. We have a lot of fraternity houses and other multi-unit buildings rented to students in our neighborhood as well. Next Step has been diligent in improving their properties and in assisting in neighborhood clean-up activities and supporting the other neighborhood association activities. I know that any property addition that they would undertake would fit into the neighborhood and be a value-add to all of the property owners.

With assistance from OCRA and the Recovery Housing Program, Next Step and the City of Terre Haute can partner to provide desperately needed expansions of housing options for individuals seeking freedom from substance use disorders, and continue to create pathways to recovery for some of our most vulnerable neighbors and their families.

I hope you will consider the City of Terre Haute's application for Recovery Housing Program funding. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at Linc@rpepagroup.com.

Best regards,

Linc Hobbs, CPA



October 11, 2021

Denny Spinner
Executive Director
Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
One North Capitol, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Spinner:

I am writing in support of the City of Terre Haute's application for the Recovery Housing Program Pilot. As a homeowner at 1504 South Center in the Farrington Grove District for over 40 years, I have seen Next Step foot print to revitalize our community as substantial. They have taken property that was substandard and through their renovation efforts have improved the neighborhood. In my capacity as BSW Director in the Department of Social Work at Indiana State University, I have watched the increase of recovery housing and treatment services within our neighborhood and believe that the partnership between the City and Next Step represents a compelling opportunity to make substantive progress on this important issue.

Over the past several years, I have observed substance use disorders taking a heavy toll on the Terre Haute community. However, at the same time I watched as Next Step acquired homes that were in disrepair and made a significant positive impact to our neighborhood through their renovation and property maintenance efforts. In my experience working as the PI with Next Step through a Department of Justice grant, I can without reservation say that Next Step's contribution to impacting recovery from SUD has been tremendous, not only for Terre Haute/Wabash Valley, but in neighboring counties.

Fortunately, Next Step is continuing to diligently provide housing and appropriate treatment options to individuals with substance use disorders in West Central Indiana. With assistance from OCRA and the Recovery Housing Program, Next Step and the City of Terre Haute can partner to provide desperately needed expansions of housing options for individuals seeking freedom from substance use disorders, and continue to create pathways to recovery for some of our most vulnerable neighbors and their families.

I hope you will consider the City of Terre Haute's application for Recovery Housing Program funding. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at Robyn.lugar@indstate.edu or call 812-237-3428

Best regards,

Robyn Lugar



October 13, 2021

Denny Spinner
Executive Director
Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
~~One North Capitol, Suite 600~~
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Spinner:

I am writing in support of the City of Terre Haute's application for the Recovery Housing Program Pilot. In my capacity as Executive Director of the Richard G. Lugar Center for Rural Health, A Division of Union Health, I am keenly aware of the need for increased housing options for individuals in recovery from substance use disorders in West Central Indiana and believe that the partnership between the City and Next Step represents a compelling opportunity to make substantive progress on this important issue.

Over the past several years, we've supported pregnant and parenting women who are struggling with substance use and abuse disorders through our perinatal home visiting and telehealth initiatives. Our community continues to lack the necessary resources forcing these women to travel hours away and be separated from what is often the purpose in their recovery.

I am thankful for the efforts Next Step has made to diligently provide housing and appropriate treatment options in West Central Indiana, but also recognize the significant remaining need for transitional housing benefiting pregnant and parenting women with infants. Our clinical providers, perinatal navigators, and peer recovery coaches continue to see the effects of this gap. We are encouraged the proposed initiative with assistance from OCRA and the Recovery Housing Program, will enable Next Step and the City of Terre Haute to provide the needed expansions of housing options for individuals seeking freedom from substance use disorders, and create pathways to recovery for our most vulnerable.

I hope you will consider the City of Terre Haute's application for Recovery Housing Program funding. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 812-238-7479 or via email at hrahmouni@uhhg.org.

Best regards,


Hicham Rahmouni, MBA
Executive Director



LIVE UNITED



100 S. 7th Street
Terre Haute, IN 47807
(812) 235-6287
Fax: (812) 235-3901
www.uwvv.org

**United Way
of the Wabash Valley**

October 6, 2021

Denny Spinner
Executive Director
Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
One North Capitol, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Spinner:

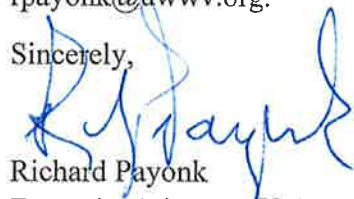
I am writing in support of the City of Terre Haute's application for the Recovery Housing Program Pilot. In my capacity as the Executive Director of the United Way of the Wabash Valley, I am keenly aware of the need for increased housing options for individuals in recovery from substance use disorders in West Central Indiana, and believe that the partnership between the City and Next Step represents a compelling opportunity to make substantive progress on this important issue.

Over the past several years, I have observed substance use disorders taking a heavy toll on the Wabash Valley and Terre Haute community. Our United Way completed a new strategic plan in 2018 and during the process conducted community conversations across the Wabash Valley. In each and every conversation the issue of substance use disorder made its way to the forefront. Since then our organization has worked directly with Next Step and other service providers to convene a group to tackle this issue collaboratively. The common themes of lack of available housing and treatment options across West Central Indiana have been a major problem this group has been focused on alleviating.

Fortunately, Next Step is continuing to diligently provide housing and appropriate treatment options to individuals with substance use disorders in West Central Indiana. Their collaborative work with not only United Way, but other organizations, shows their commitment to helping families that are suffering. They are utilizing innovative approaches to solving problems that have long plagued our community. And with assistance from OCRA and the Recovery Housing Program, Next Step and the City of Terre Haute can partner to provide desperately needed expansions of housing options for individuals seeking freedom from substance use disorders, and continue to create pathways to recovery for some of our most vulnerable neighbors and their families.

I hope you will consider the City of Terre Haute's application for Recovery Housing Program funding. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 812-235-6287 or rpayonk@uwvv.org.

Sincerely,



Richard Payonk
Executive Director, United Way of the Wabash Valley

Do more today for a better tomorrow.





October 5, 2021

Denny Spinner
Executive Director
Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
One North Capitol, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Spinner:

I am writing in support of the City of Terre Haute's application for the Recovery Housing Program Pilot. In my capacity as CEO of Anabranch Recovery Center, I am keenly aware of the need for increased housing options for individuals in recovery from substance use disorders in West Central Indiana and believe that the partnership between the City and Next Step represents a compelling opportunity to make substantive progress on this important issue.

Over the past several years, I have observed substance use disorders taking a heavy toll on the Wabash Valley community. I have worked in the addictions field for the last 15 years in the Wabash Valley and continue to serve a very underserved population. Currently, I chair the United Way Substance Use Disorder Impact Council that brings together all of the service providers in our six service areas, in addition to serving at the CEO of Anabranch Recovery Center. Anabranch Recovery Center is a detox/28-day residential facility that opened in July of this year, filling the gap in quality initial treatment. What continues to be a gap in services is having enough treatment/sober living facilities to successfully discharge our graduates. Because of the lack of housing, many of our individuals are at an increased risk of relapse, rather than long term recovery and stabilization. With the anticipation of discharging an average of 20-30 patients per month from our facility alone, increased sober living housing and quality treatment is a dire need in the Terre Haute and West Central Indiana area.

Fortunately, Next Step is continuing to diligently provide housing and appropriate treatment options to individuals with substance use disorders in West Central Indiana. The Next Step Foundation is vital in our community as we continue to increase services for recovery from substance use disorder. Next Step and their vision and community partnership continues to impact thousands of individuals across the state of Indiana. Not only does the Next Step Foundation provide residential housing and outpatient services, but they continue to increase the access to treatment by heading the Wabash Valley Recovery Center, CHESSE E-Intervention initiative, a mentoring program for pregnant women, and the upcoming Recovery Café Network. Several graduates of our program are finding success within the Next Step Foundation recovery housing and treatment program. With assistance from OCRA and the Recovery Housing Program, Next Step and the City of Terre Haute can partner to continue to provide desperately



needed expansions of housing options for individuals seeking freedom from substance use disorders and continue to create pathways to recovery for some of our most vulnerable neighbors and their families.

I hope you will consider the City of Terre Haute's application for Recovery Housing Program funding. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at:

jhutchens@anabranchrecovery.com

With hope and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jennifer L. Hutchens, PsyD, HSPP'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Jennifer' being the most prominent.

Jennifer L Hutchens, PsyD, HSPP
Chief Executive Officer
Anabranch Recovery Center



October 3, 2021

Denny Spinner
Executive Director
Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
One North Capitol, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Spinner:

I am writing in support of the City of Terre Haute's application for the Recovery Housing Program Pilot. In my capacity as executive director of the Next Step Foundation, Inc, I am painfully aware of the need for increased housing options for individuals in recovery from substance use disorders in West Central Indiana, and believe that the partnership between the City and Next Step represents a compelling opportunity to make substantive progress on this important issue.

I co-founded Next Step in 2011 due to the lack of any recovery housing options for women in the Wabash Valley area surrounding Terre Haute. We started with housing the women in a church building and due to the ongoing need for recovery housing and with the help of several generous donors that lived in the neighborhood, we have since expanded our housing in the historic district of Farrington's Grove to include 6 single family dwellings, 2 duplexes and a 4-unit apartment building. We now have room for 45 individuals (women and men), as well as housing for parents that are re-united with children during their recovery. We offer a continuum of housing options, from 90 days up to 2 years.

Over the past several years, I have observed substance use disorders taking a heavy toll on the Terre Haute community. In addition to providing housing, we also provide additional recovery support services, such as peer support, a recovery café, clinical support and intensive outpatient treatment and we partner with many other service providers. In 2021, two inpatient treatment facilities opened in Terre Haute, bringing an additional 136 beds for short-term SUD treatment to our city. This has put an added strain on the recovery housing providers in our area because many of those looking for after-care and seeking recovery housing are choosing to stay in Terre Haute, even if they have come from other communities throughout Indiana.

With the exception of a time period during the CoVid-19 lockdown, we have consistently had a waiting list of an average of 20 people seeking recovery housing for the past 5 years. The other recovery housing providers have also experienced high demand and long wait lists for their beds. We are now experiencing an average of 3 applications for housing every day and cannot meet the demand, which results in people that prefer to be in recovery housing for more support in their

recovery journey ending up in homeless shelters or on the streets, which then leads to relapse and the ongoing cycle of more treatment.

We are continuing to diligently look for ways to provide more housing and appropriate treatment options to individuals with substance use disorders in West Central Indiana. With assistance from OCRA and the Recovery Housing Program, Next Step and the City of Terre Haute can partner to provide desperately needed expansions of housing options for individuals seeking freedom from substance use disorders, and continue to create pathways to recovery for some of our most vulnerable neighbors and their families.

I hope you will consider the City of Terre Haute's application for Recovery Housing Program funding. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the information provided below.

Best regards,



Dana Simons, LCSW, LCAC

Executive Director

Next Step Foundation, Inc.

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From: Tina Simons tina@nextsteptoday.org
Subject: Support of S.O. 42
Date: December 1, 2021 at 12:14 PM
To: Tina Simons tina@nextsteptoday.org
Bcc: George.Azar@terrehaute.in.gov George.Azar@TerreHaute.IN.Gov, Curtis.DeBaun@terrehaute.in.gov Curtis.DeBaun@Terrehaute.IN.Gov, Todd.Nation@terrehaute.in.gov Todd.Nation@Terrehaute.IN.Gov, Neil.Garrison@terrehaute.in.gov Neil.Garrison@Terrehaute.IN.Gov, Martha.Crossen@terrehaute.in.gov Martha.Crossen@Terrehaute.IN.Gov, Tammy.Boland@terrehaute.in.gov Tammy.Boland@TerreHaute.IN.Gov, Amy.Auler@terrehaute.in.gov Amy.Auler@Terrehaute.IN.Gov, Earl.Elliott@terrehaute.in.gov Earl.Elliott@Terrehaute.IN.Gov

Dear City Council Members,

My name is Tina Simons. I am a homeowner in Farrington's Grove (1303 S Center St.). I am also a licensed social worker, the founder of Vigo County Mutual Aid, an active member of multiple committees with our local United Way, a graduate of ISU, a therapist who specializes in addiction, and a person in long-term recovery from substance use disorder (17 years sober). I am writing this statement to adamantly support special ordinance 42 and rezoning request by Next Step and to request your direct support of Next Step's efforts to increase recovery in our community, which we have done successfully for over 1,300 people for the past ten years.

My neighbors who oppose this ordinance, some of whom sit on this council, appear to primarily report they are concerned with preserving the "history" of Farrington's Grove. Let us consider the history we are actively creating today with our local policies and ordinances set forth by our elected officials. I ask that you please read or listen carefully to these statistics that reflect the legacy of wellness for residents in Terre Haute and Vigo County:

- Vigo County is in the lowest quartile compared to other Indiana counties in the following health categories: household income, unemployment, food insecurity, children in poverty, life expectancy, poor mental health days, suicide rate, adult smokers, sexually transmitted infection rate, HIV prevalence, and Hepatitis C prevalence. (Source: IUPUI and Indiana Public Health)
- 74 percent of the children in our United Way service area were removed from their home by DCS were removed specifically because of parental drug and alcohol abuse in 2020; notably higher than the state average of 50 percent. (Source: United Way)
- 26.4 percent of Terre Haute residents live in poverty; notably much higher than the state average of 11.9 percent. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)
- 40 percent of working class families in our area are struggling to make ends meet, according to data examining the financial condition for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) individuals estimates. Please hear that number: nearly HALF of our residents struggle to pay their bills and feed their children. (Source: United Way)

Countless empirical research studies have established a relationship between most of these factors and substance misuse. This is particularly true for poverty, adverse childhood experiences, and mental health status. These alarming statistics indicate that ALL of these factors contribute to the growing problem of substance use we have in our city.

Why do buildings, preserving so-called history, and a neighborhood association's fear of "other" matter more than the actual quality of life for Terre Hautians today and for generations to come? Why are we not investing our energy in changing the terrible rankings of our residents' physical, emotional, mental, and financial health? Our legacy should be our people, not the look of historical buildings. Our people are what matter. And our people are NOT okay. We need quality resources to help individuals and families break the cycle of addiction. Recovery IS possible, which means all the rankings that indicate our failure as a city CAN be improved with support, quality services, and local legislation that does not discriminate against those who are struggling most.

While those opposed to recovery housing and S.O 42 continue to say they want to protect "history" in the neighborhood, I am certain that the root of opposition is stigma against those facing addiction. This neighborhood has plenty of more modern buildings, like the mosque and the medical arts building. Parking has never been an issue. This is stigma. Stigma will continue to keep our city sick and in the lowest quartile of every ranking across the state. If we are going to protect the history of Terre Haute, then we need to prioritize health and healing for our community, which includes creating and supporting recovery housing. I would not be alive and a thriving member of this city today if my hometown in California had stigmatized me for trying to recover from substance use disorder. I know first hand that stigma and lack of resources for recovery lead to death, because this is how my own mother died of alcoholism. I recovered because I was supported without stigma in my community. This why Next Step will never stop advocating for and serving the beloved people whose paths lead to our doors. Support changes lives. Please support the lives of our residents above all else.

Council members, you were elected to take care of our ENTIRE community. That means you are responsible to serve every person who falls in the lowest rankings stated above, including those who face addiction. Please prioritize the people you serve over any building, appearance, or not in my backyard argument. Reality is that addiction, poor health, poverty, and incredible need for support is in ALL of our back yards because it is reality for nearly half of our city's residents. Please take care of all of us, especially those of us who are most vulnerable.

Respectfully and with hope for a better history and future for our city,

Tina Simons, MSW, LSW
Therapist, Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health
Secretary, National Association of Social Workers Indiana Chapter