



Tenants to Homeowners, Inc. dba The Lawrence Community Housing Trust
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January 10, 201

City Commission
PO Box 708
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear City Commission:

The Lawrence Community Housing Trust is requesting that you consider allowing the \$30,000 that was allocated for the Small House Initiative out of the first round of 2017's HTF allocations to be leveraged and possibly used for a three home rental development to serve very low income tenants transitioning out of homelessness. This change is being requested for several reasons—first, it would allow more leveraging of \$500,000 in additional funds for affordable housing in Lawrence. Second, the city is still working out a mechanism for us to be able to build more densely for affordable housing within the code but as of yet there is no way to get a density bonus for affordable building as we had planned to get the small units to meet targeted costs and we are hoping the city will continue to work with us to reach this goal. Finally, we did not receive some leveraged funds for the Small House Initiative that we were hoping for. We will be able to replenish this amount, but not as quickly as we would be able to complete the rental project if we receive the federal funds from the state. We believe this would serve a critical need in Lawrence more quickly and provide housing for a more vulnerable population. This application is due February 1st and we need to have a commitment of local funds to even be considered, but we have support for this project at the state. If we do not receive the federal money, we will use the \$30,000 to complete the small houses as planned, but if the city would allow this change, this small local contribution could allow us to receive an additional \$500,000 in federal money that we could not get otherwise.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Buford
Executive Director,
Lawrence Community Housing Trust