

To: Lexington-Fayette County Parking Authority Board of Commissioners

Re: Request for One-Year Rental Lease with Bluegrass.Org

This letter is to formally request the Lexington-Fayette County Parking Authority Board of Commissioners approve Bluegrass.Org a 1-year lease of office space located at the Transit Center Parking Garage, 150 East Vine Street as well as 10 parking passes for stated rental year.

Like many other cities, Lexington's severe mentally ill homeless population is most prominent in the downtown area as well as homeless encampments close to the downtown area. Police, service providers, business owners, citizens, and visitors to Lexington interact with this population on a daily basis. Unfortunately, these individuals often cannot or will not respond to traditional outpatient treatment.

Program Goals and Outcomes

The goal of this partnership and the reasoning for the rental space downtown is to provide as much service to the most vulnerable population in a community based setting.

This team would be able to engage individuals using an "on the streets" "meet them where they are" method and then provide multi-disciplinary services to this vulnerable population.

We will analysis the success of the partnership with data collection on the following:

1. Stabilization of clients otherwise not engaged or successful in traditional outpatient treatment;
2. Permanent housing with ongoing case management for those homeless individuals with severe mental illness and not currently engaged in the homeless system or mental health system;
3. Reduction in police interaction and/or emergency detentions;
4. Reduction in public complaints; and
5. Reduction in disturbances to businesses and events.

Program Design

The Bluegrass.Org Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) program is a team treatment approach designed to provide comprehensive, community-based psychiatric treatment, rehabilitation, and support to persons with serious and persistent mental illness outside of an office setting.

ACT is person-centered recovery oriented model and focuses on increasing the individual's ability to meet self-defined goals, increase skills and gain confidence to maintain long term mental health recovery. A team of professionals whose backgrounds and training include social work, rehabilitation, counseling, nursing and psychiatry provide assertive community treatment services. Among the services the ACT team provides are: case management, initial and ongoing assessments, psychiatric services, employment and housing assistance, family support and education, substance abuse services, and other services and supports that are critical to an individual's ability to live successfully in the community.

The Bluegrass.Org ACT team wishes to establish a downtown presence in order to more effectively and efficiently provide services and outreach that would impact the immediate mental health situations in the Lexington area. The majority of ACT services would take place outside the small rental space of the Transit Center. Services are provided within community settings, such as a person's own home and neighborhood, local restaurants, parks and nearby stores.

ACT team members will meet each morning (Monday- Friday) in the Transit Center office space to case conference for the day. An "on call" member of the team will remain in the office during business office with the possibility of a supervisor. The on call member will be responsible for responding to crisis related phone calls from police and as well as the Hope Center street outreach team.

Cost and Request

The Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention, pending board approval, has agreed to award Bluegrass.Org with a grant for the following expenses:

- 1-year lease for the office space located in the Transit Center
- 10 Transit Center parking passes for the rental year

Other Requests

- Allowance of Bluegrass.Org signage to be placed on office entrance door

Sincerely,

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