



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 PHONE: (707) 476-2390

January 31, 2023

Life Plan Humboldt
Dr. Ann Lindsay

RE: Support for Life Plan Humboldt (LPH) Funding Request

Dear Dr. Lindsay:

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors supports LPH budgetary funding request of \$2.5 million to the State. Life Plan Humboldt, is a nonprofit formed to build and operate a resident-run life plan community serving the North Coast. There is no such community within 200 miles of Eureka. Life Plan Humboldt will offer 144 independent cottages and apartments, assisted living and memory care services for people over 60 years old who pay a one-time entry fee. With leadership from the LPH project, the Rural Community Housing Development Corporation will be enabled to build 60 affordable senior housing units on the same campus with shared common facilities, but under separate funding streams and management.

Housing for all ages and stages was identified as the number one goal in the California Master Plan for Aging in 2021. The Humboldt County Housing Plan identified housing for elders as the number one challenge for the county in coming years. LPH will help address this challenge while opening up housing for working families as LPH residents downsize. Good jobs will be created in the building and operating of this senior community.

LPH and the associated affordable housing will allow older adults to “age in community.” Otherwise, older residents in rural areas face significant health risks, particularly when they can no longer drive and become socially isolated. Having close relationships and frequent social interactions are two of the strongest predictors of a longer life. Rural older adults face these risks:

- Social isolation increases the risk for dementia depression.
- Nutrition can suffer due to inability to shop or prepare food.
- Fall risk is heightened in homes not designed for frailty.
- Access to medical care and preventive health services will suffer with lack of transportation.
- Home care is hard to find, difficult to administer, and can cost up to \$30,000 per year.
- Family caregivers may leave the work-force, compromising future social security.

LPH has not received public funding to date. \$2.5 million one-time state funding would supplement \$2 million raised locally from individuals, businesses and foundations to pay for pre-financing development cost. State funding is critical so that LPH can secure \$75,000,000 bond financing to complete the project.

Sincerely,

Steve Madrone, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

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