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Carroll County Commissioners  
95 Water Village Road  
Ossipee, NH 03864  
July 19, 2021

Dear Commissioners,

The Gibson Center for Senior Services would like you to consider our request for use of ARPA funds to assist with the replacement of an aged air conditioning and ventilation system in our dining room, kitchen and activity room to make the air quality safer and welcoming to our senior patrons. The project is explained below.

#### **Mission and Background of the Gibson Center**

The Gibson Center for Senior Services is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with an EIN of 02-0351152 that has been in existence since 1979. Our Mission Statement is that we provide the Mount Washington Valley with programs and services that enrich the lives of seniors and foster connection, joy and purpose. We do this through our Meals on Wheels and congregate dining (50,000 meals annually), transportation services for persons over age 60 or with disabilities, social, exercise, educational and supportive programs and classes. These supportive services include computer literacy and provision of equipment, cyber-safety, financial estate planning, AARP Safe driver education and a host of other topics pertinent to our elders.

#### **Project Information**

Our current air conditioning and heating system is over 20 years old and uses out of compliance refrigerants. It is also ill-equipped to provide the recommended number of air exchanges in circulation to meet high quality air standards necessary to mitigate viral spread, be that COVID-19 or any other viruses. More modern systems can meet those important public health standards.

Our structure is complicated. Two of the three air handlers are hung from the roof above an unsealed, dropped ceiling that has hot water pipes and electrical equipment coursing through otherwise unheated space. We have had ice dams, pipe leakages and frozen pipes in the past and we know that while we have the underside of the roof exposed, we must complete a spray foam insulation to prevent further damage.

*Silver Lake*  
SENIOR HOUSING CORPORATION

We have scheduled an independent building energy audit for September and quotes are being obtained from traditional air conditioning installers as well as energy efficient heat exchange mini-split and ventilation contractors. It is too late to expect contractors to do the work this fall so we anticipate the onset of the work after the winter of 2022.

Regardless of the decision and choice for the replacement, we know the overall cost to make the necessary ventilation replacements and insulation is going to be more than \$110,000 based on quotes we have to date. We know this is highly variable. Our Board is eager to proceed cautiously and with integrity to reduce our energy consumption, reduce our carbon output and clean the air through an improved ventilation system for our seniors that is also cost effective.

We are in discussions with representatives of the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative who will help us with assessments of the energy efficiency savings of this work and will help us apply for the 35% rebates on heating and insulation if the work meets their standards which is our intention. That could offset an estimated \$31,500 of the costs. We are asking for your consideration of making a distribution to the Gibson Center of \$78,500 to cover the remaining costs.

**How will this project benefit our community?**

Benefits come in multiple ways – on the most micro level, our patrons and staff benefit from the health benefits of cleaner filtered and ventilated air, improved comfort and avoiding an emergency shutdown of the systems or the building. On a higher level, we receive town, state and federal funding as well as many private donations for our operations. Energy efficiency uses those dollars for services instead of fossil fuels.

The Board and staff and I thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,



Marianne Jackson, MD

Executive Director

Gibson Center for Senior Services

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