



**Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
Investment Connection Proposal**

Proposal title	Affordable Housing Wellspring Improvements
Contact	Kimberly Johnson
Title	Development Director
Email address	Kim.Johnson@WellspringKY.org
Phone	502.753.1453
Organization name/address	Wellspring 225 W. Breckinridge St. Louisville, KY 40203
Mission statement	Wellspring promotes mental health recovery and supports individuals in building healthy and hopeful lives through behavioral health, housing and employment services.
Overview of organization	<p>With 36 years of grassroots experience, Wellspring is a unique, comprehensive organization serving complex mental health needs in Louisville. Wellspring was the first organization in Kentucky to focus on supportive housing and we remain the only agency with a primary focus on housing and intensive support for adults with serious mental illness. Wellspring provides: case management, Peer Support, Community Support services and therapy to approximately 800 adults each year. Programs are available to people of any socioeconomic capacity; however, many people enter Wellspring after being chronically homeless. The majority of Wellspring clients live well below the poverty level with Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid.</p> <p>Wellspring operates the region’s only adult psychiatric crisis stabilization units, which help reduce hospitalizations and alleviate client symptoms for more than 500 adults in psychiatric crisis every year. Wellspring also provides a supported employment program (Wellspring Works) that offers individual placement and support for adults with mental illness to find and maintain meaningful, competitive jobs with Louisville businesses.</p>

	Wellspring proves that when people with mental illness live in stable housing with flexible supportive services, hope is awakened, self-sufficiency is restored, and families are strengthened. As a result of Wellspring's efforts and proven model of service, the agency is considered Kentucky's pioneer and lead provider of housing and supportive services for adults with serious and persistent mental illness.
Website	http://wellspringky.org/
Social media link(s)	Facebook https://www.facebook.com/wellspring.ky/
Location of project/activity	Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN (MSA) Kentucky Jefferson County
Geographic Impact	Countywide
Support request	Grant
Requested dollar amount	\$25,000
Proposal description and structure	Funds for this project would provide new laminate flooring for 20 Wellspring residences (approx. 15,000 square feet of living space). We would install durable laminate boards that protect from spills, scratches and burns and eliminate hiding spaces for bed bugs, allergens, and other health hazards that are challenges with the existing carpeted areas. The new flooring would be easier to maintain with a simple broom or mop instead of the need for vacuums that the low-income residents cannot afford. While some financial assistance is available from HUD and the Louisville Metro Housing Authority that enables Wellspring to provide low-income or homeless adults with a roof over the head and a secure place to sleep, the granted funds are not enough for property maintenance and upkeep. Wellspring fundraising efforts generate operating resources; however, major renovations such as new flooring are well beyond the normal reach of our annual budget.
Issues addressed	Affordable Housing
Target population/geography	This project assists Louisville adults with serious mental illnesses - many of whom have been chronically homeless and/or have co-occurring substance use disorders. These adults live in Wellspring's Supportive Housing programs that provide safe, community-integrated environments. Last year, Wellspring served approximately 275 adults through Supportive Housing. Wellspring owns and manages approximately 100 of the Affordable Housing units. Nearly one-fourth of the clients with serious mental illness who live in Wellspring-owned supportive housing are in need of new, safe and cost-effective flooring for their homes. As a Housing-First agency, Wellspring

	utilizes the evidence-based practices of providing decent and affordable housing as a meaningful basis in recovery for homeless men and women. We have seen the proven positive results with an approach that places individuals in independent housing and provides them with case management and access to mental health treatment.
Population served including income	During our fiscal year 2018, Wellspring served 797 adult clients with serious mental illness in Louisville/Jefferson County according Electronic Health Records data collected. The majority of Wellspring clients live well below the poverty level with Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid, many are referred to Wellspring after being chronically homeless.
Anticipated outcomes/impact	The goals of the Wellspring Residential Improvement project are to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide 20 residential units of low-income or previously chronically homeless clients with new flooring that is more durable and efficient to maintain. 2. Provide a healthier environment for the Supportive Housing clients with flooring that is more sanitary, attractive and easier to clean; 3. Reduce replacement costs or operational maintenance costs due to bed bug infestations, spills, etc.
How will the program be evaluated	The Wellspring staff and Board of Directors will evaluate the success of installing new flooring based upon client health and safety records, Wellspring maintenance records and client satisfaction surveys.
Project time frame	Existing Program Project Duration: 1-3 Years
Other significant partners in the proposal	HUD Funding https://www.hud.gov/ Louisville Metro Housing Authority Funding http://www.lmha1.org/
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