

DRAFT GRANTEE LETTER TEMPLATE

June 30, 2006

Federal Housing Finance Board
1625 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Board Members:

As a representative of an agency that has helped to develop safe, affordable quality housing for people with mental illness and co-occurring disorders in Tennessee, I am deeply disappointed to learn of new guidelines you're considering that will put the Affordable Housing Program of the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLBank) in jeopardy. It is my understanding that these guideline changes have already resulted in the elimination of two affordable housing programs—the American Dream Homeownership Challenge and the New Neighbors program.

The lack of safe, decent, permanent, and affordable housing options for persons with mental illness and co-occurring disorders is a crisis in Tennessee. Through the Affordable Housing Program my agency was able to help people such as name (withheld due to confidentiality)

I had lost temporary custody of my children. I felt like my whole world had crumbled in front of me. I had no place to keep my children safe so I lost them. The homeownership program and dedicated people trying to help me found me a home and worked with me. I finally thought I may have a better life some day. As a result of this program; not only did I receive a home but I got custody of my children too. None of this could have been accomplished without the FHLB and the on going dedication to people like myself. My life has changed forever and thanks to you; so has my children. Please reconsider cutting any monies you have. There are so many people like me who need your help.

I want to continue to help people like (name protected and my agency needs the help of the FHLBank. Please do not let these valuable programs that have helped so many needy people be placed in jeopardy. The loss of these funds would strike a serious blow to some of Tennessee's neediest and most vulnerable citizens—those who have serious and persistent mental illness or co-occurring disorders.

My belief is that this proposed rule will harm a group of people in desperate need of affordable, safe, permanent and quality housing options in local communities. I therefore ask you to withdraw the proposed rule. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Richard E. French
Fiscal Director
Carey Counseling Center, Inc.

Cc: David H. Hehman, FHLBank of Cincinnati
Carol Peterson, FHLBank of Cincinnati
Jeff Reynolds, FHLBank of Cincinnati
William H. Frist, U.S. Senate (TN)
Lamar Alexander, U.S. Senate (TN)
U.S. Congressional Representatives
Marie Williams, Tennessee Department of Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities
Gregory Fisher, Tennessee Department of Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities