## York County Shelter Programs, Inc.

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Vickey Rand Scott Tibbetts Maine Continuum of Care COC 1230 Project

November 14, 2018

RE: Change to Angers Farm Program

Dear Vickey, Scott, and MCOC members,

This request is from York County Shelter Programs, Inc. (YCSP) to convert 105 Garland Road, West Newfield project (known as Angers Farm) from a 12 bed halfway house treatment for substance use disorder to 4 permanent, single room occupancy units for formerly homeless singles.

The reason to change this site relates to a DHHS contract we will be ending on December 31, 2018 to offer treatment. We have opened a 24 bed treatment facility in Alfred, Maine that is funded entirely with York County taxes. We find this method of financial support to be more effective than the OSA contract.

Changing this to a permanent housing site would be in keeping with YCSP's mission and other housing sites that provide permanent supportive housing for homeless families and individuals. YCSP currently has 4 SRO units on the property. YCSP, Inc. is proposing to convert the site to four SRO type units of permanent housing for single, disabled, homeless women and men who would come directly from York County Shelter. The building operations would be funded by various vouchers and the services would be provided by York County Shelter Programs through its Targeted Case Management Services, housing navigator, property managers. Targeted Case Management funding will provide for onsite case management services to each resident. York County Shelter Programs case management and clinical staff will offer a range of services to residents which will include mental health services, substance abuse services, case management support, financial planning and education, job training and job placement, and transportation services. The Targeted Case Management Funding is already committed and it has been used by YCSP to provide case management services to other permanent housing sites in Saco, Kittery, Sanford, and Alfred.

The building design will be excellent housing for homeless, disabled single men and women who need privacy, independence, and increasing skill development. At the same time it will not place a burden upon residents who have difficulty managing a large unit with extensive requirements for cooking, cleaning, and repairs. Also, many individuals who experience homelessness have difficulty when they are isolated in the community in housing that lacks social interaction, support and accessible activities. The building has bathrooms, two living rooms, a large kitchen and dining room and two offices and studies, as well as six large private bedrooms. This setting will not require group participation, but social and learning activities will be available in common areas, as well as case management services, support groups for mental health and substance abuse, and skill building for activities of daily living and successful financial budget management.

YCSP requests the opportunity to discuss this program change with the Maine COC and we request the approval from the C of C, subject to HUD's approval, to change the Angers Farm program to meet a growing need in York County for affordable permanent housing for homeless, and disabled individuals.

Sincerely,

Diane Gerry

York County Shelter Programs, inc

**Chief Operating Officer** 

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