



April 18, 2023

Dear Town and County Leaders,

IFC is again following up our Outside Agencies/Human Services Application with a request to enter a process for an inter-local agreement to fund our emergency housing programs: HomeStart for women and families and Community House for men. **We are asking again that funding for our emergency housing programs be considered separately from the Outside Agencies/Human Services process.** We will, however, work through the Outside Agencies/Human Services process for funding for our food security programs.

As you well know, we engaged in a similar process last year at this time, which we had hoped would lead to an inter-local agreement. We have not yet completed the process for the ILA, though we are grateful for the requested financial support we received from Orange County and the Towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro for the current year (FY2023).

Thank you for prioritizing funding to support our community members who are experiencing homelessness. The emergency housing programs that IFC provides are unique in Orange County. No other organization provides these essential basic human services in our community. Without these vital services, more people would be living outdoors, given the worsening affordable housing crisis.

For FY2024, IFC is requesting \$669,502 through an inter-local agreement for our emergency housing programs. We hope this year to be able to complete the process for an inter-local agreement for 5 years, indexed for inflation, to be considered for renewal at the end of the initial period. Here is how the \$669,502 would break down, assuming the same allocation process as the current year:

Orange County	\$264,453
Town of Chapel Hill	\$265,792
Town of Carrboro	\$95,739
Town of Hillsborough	\$43,518


IFC leverages a considerable amount of diverse resources in order to support members of this community with their most basic needs. As a non-profit provider, the depth and variety of support we receive is greater than what the government would be able to leverage if required to step in and provide the same services. We continue to raise 65% of our annual revenue from private sources, including individuals, the faith community, foundations, and businesses. We also leverage significant in-kind support to meet people's basic needs. Community members volunteer almost 15,000 hours of staffing each year, and nearly all the food distributed at the Community Market and served at the Community Kitchen and both shelters is donated. We maintain two reserve funds to draw from in emergencies and for needed capital maintenance on our three buildings (projected at \$110,000


annually, which is 1% of the value of our aging buildings). Without this dependable funding from the local government, we are not able to sustain all our safety net services, and we face making very difficult decisions. Unexpected one-time gifts and bequests in past years have covered our funding gap to date, but we cannot rely on these unexpected funds to continue to materialize.

Orange County has one of the highest income disparities in the state. When adequately funded, IFC helps to make this community more affordable for low-income residents and workers who make this a diverse and desirable place to live.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and dependable partnership confronting the causes and responding to the effects of poverty in our community. We appreciate the decisions ahead of you.

In partnership,


Jackie Jenks
President and CEO


Susan Laidlaw
Board Chair