

November 6, 2019

City of Concord

Community Development Advisory Committee

RE: Community Development Block Grant



The Crisis Center of Central New Hampshire has been serving Merrimack County for 41 years. We are the only direct service agency that is exclusively dedicated to providing services to victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking and human trafficking. Each year, we are called upon to answer thousands of calls from survivors in our community who are seeking guidance and support in the most difficult times in their lives. The Crisis Center provides all of our services confidentially and free of charge to all who seek our support.

Our agency owns and operates out of two separate locations in downtown Concord, NH. The first location is our emergency shelter for victims, and their children, who are fleeing imminent danger and need a safe, confidential location to stay until we can find them permanent housing. The second location is our administrative offices, where we operate all other services for our clients. We are kindly requesting Community Development Block Grant funds to improve both locations, therefore generating long-term benefits for the community.

If this Crisis Center did not provide services, we believe the County and many of the municipalities would bear a heavy economic and social burden. One of the core services the Crisis Center provides is emergency shelter. In the year 2018, we nearly doubled our bed space at the shelter, increasing from 13 beds to 21 beds, which has allowed us to serve an increasing number of families each year. While in emergency shelter, families receive ongoing support from the Crisis Center, including housing assistance and job placement. We believe that by providing these services, the Crisis Center is supporting the economic stability of the City, as the families are not reaching out to local welfare or benefits centers for assistance. In addition, by working with Crisis Center advocates, we are finding permanent housing for families locally, therefore increasing the long-term sustainability of our community.



**CRISIS CENTER**

of  
Central New Hampshire

P.O. Box 1344

Concord, NH 03302-1344

Office 603-225-7376

Fax 603-225-2850

[www.cccnh.org](http://www.cccnh.org)

The Crisis Center emergency shelter provided 3,014 bed nights to survivors of domestic and sexual violence in 2018. This year, it has come to our attention that the shelter is in dire need of a new HVAC system, which is not in our current budget. The size of the building and the age of the house has proven to be challenging and more expensive than we anticipated. We kindly request an award from the Community Development Block Grant funds to replace the HVAC system at our emergency shelter. Survivors of crime deserve the same amenities as anyone else, most importantly, the basic needs such as heat and air.

### **Emergency Shelter**

#### **Purpose: HVAC System**

#### **Request Amount: \$50,000.00**

Our mission statement is to work toward the end of domestic and sexual violence in our communities. We do this through advocacy, empowerment, education and collaboration. All of our services are free and confidential. Services include:

- 24-hour hotline
- Emergency shelter
- Court advocacy and support
- Referral to legal services
- Hospital accompaniment
- Emergency financial assistance
- Prevention education
- Social services advocacy
- Housing assistance
- Financial Empowerment programs
- Support groups
- In person support
- Safety planning

All of our services are provided regardless of gender, age, health status, HIV status, physical, mental or emotional ability, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, socio-economic status, race, national origin, immigration status, religious or political affiliations.



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The Crisis Center is dedicated to the needs to the communities we serve. Unfortunately, there has been an influx of sexually charged cases within our schools over the last year. As we continue to navigate through these troubling times as a community, the Crisis Center has been able to provide ongoing prevention education to the schools, as well as free training to many of our community partners in an effort to enhance the quality of life in Merrimack County and create hope for those who are most vulnerable.

In 2018, the Crisis Center took 5,885 crisis line calls. This was an increase of 130% from 2017. The need for our services is increasing, which has caused us to look at what more we can do to help our community. As of January 2020, we are thrilled to increase our staff capacity in order to further support survivors and community members. The Crisis Center needs to renovate our administrative offices, which will increase the private and confidential space for survivors to meet with advocates. The Crisis Center provides critical services to victims in our community who are in need of life saving resources. We have spent years building meaningful relationships with community partners, such as Law Enforcement, Child Advocacy, Legal Services, Courts and Hospitals. It is with these partnerships that the Crisis Center receives critical referrals, as well as the ability to refer the most vulnerable populations to services they otherwise would not be able to obtain. The Crisis Center is the frontline for victims who have no one to turn to, we are their strength when they believe they don't have any, and most importantly, we allow them to take their voices back when they haven't had it for most of their lives. We kindly ask for an award from Community Development Block Grant funds to renovate and expand our administrative offices, ultimately generating long term benefits for our community.

The Crisis Center office space is currently extremely limited. Attached is the proposed design to finish the third floor, which is currently unused and unfinished. The design also includes the necessary changes to the second floor in order to expand space and make the third floor accessible.

### **Administrative Offices**

**Purpose: Building Renovation**

**Request: \$200, 000.00**



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Our services are critical to the communities of Merrimack County. We recognize that we could not continue to grow and provide our services if it were not for the support of our City delegation. We continue to be grateful for the support the City of Concord has shown to the Crisis Center.

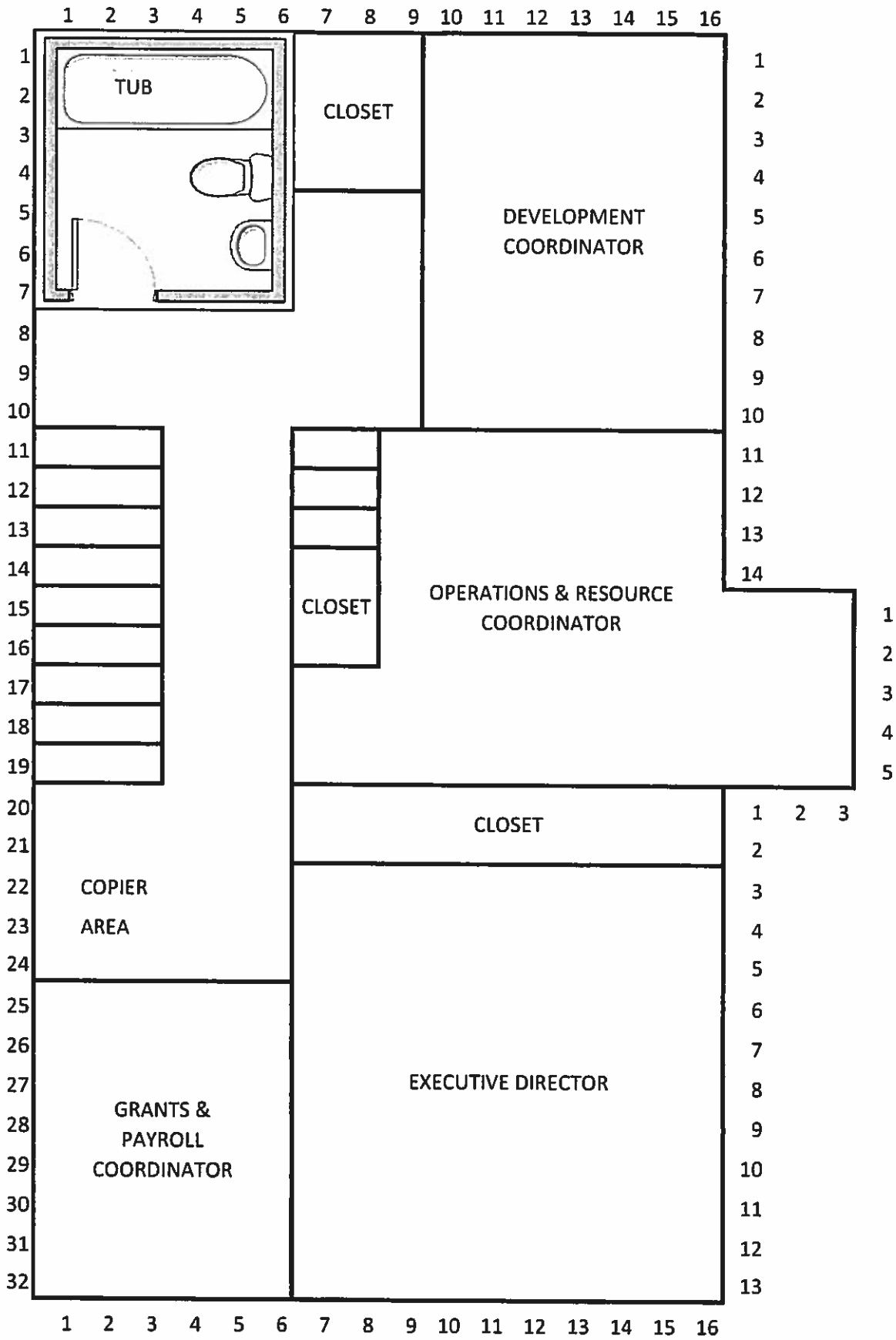
Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer M. Pierson

Executive Director

Crisis Center of Central New Hampshire

[jennifer@cccnh.org](mailto:jennifer@cccnh.org)



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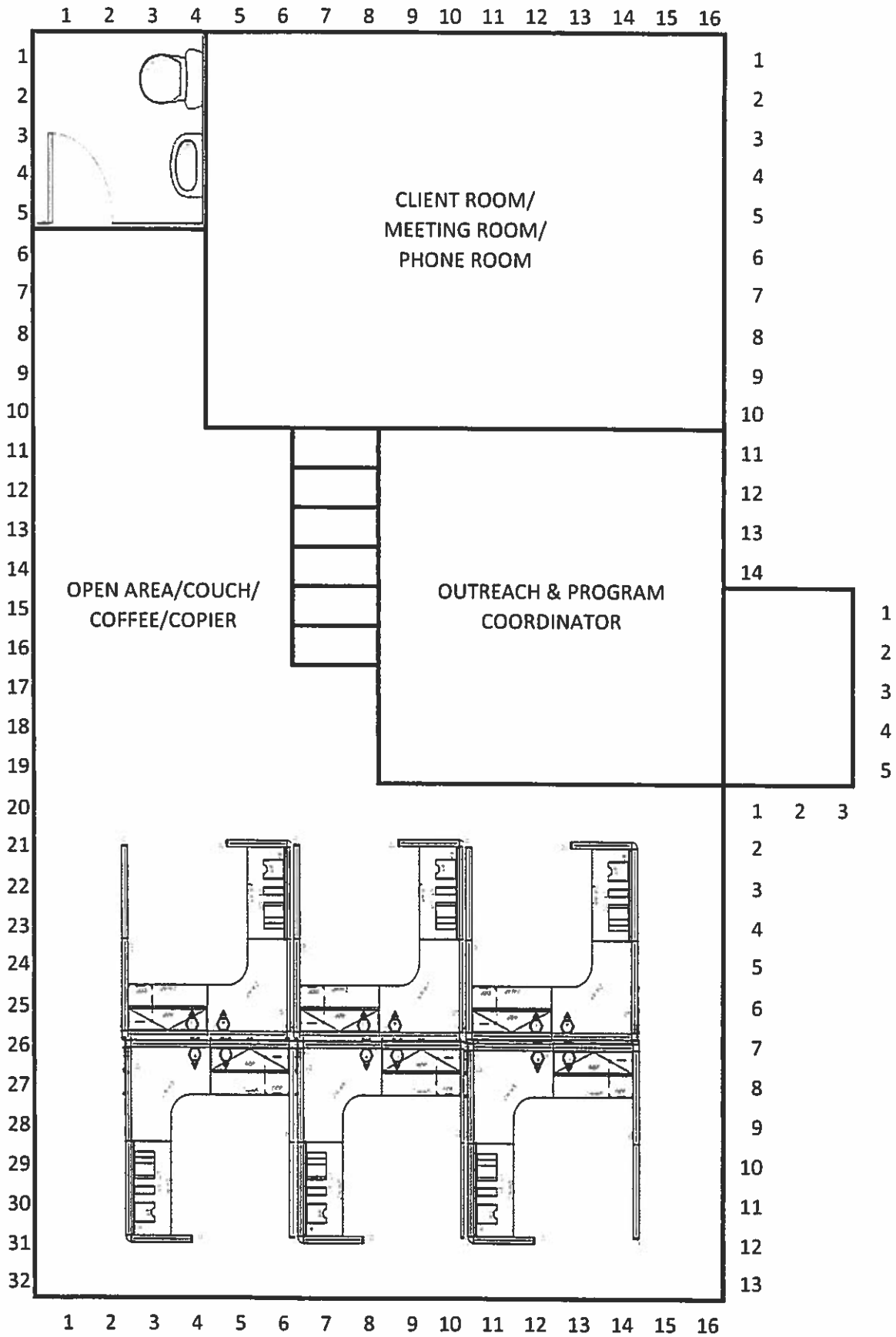
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GRANTS & PAYROLL COORD.

OPERATIONS & RESOURCE COORD.

DEVELOPMENT COORD.





**ATTIC 991 SQF 100% PROGRAM/OUTREACH**

**\* OUTREACH & PROGRAM COORD.**

**1 OUTREACH ADVOCATE 1**

**2 OUTREACH ADVOCATE 2**

**3 PROGRAM & EDUCATION ADVOCATE**

**4 PREVENTION EDUCATION ADVOCATE**

**5 HOUSING FIRST ADVOCATE**

**6 CHILD (SUBSTANCE ABUSE) ADVOCATE**