

August 28, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this correspondence is to recommend Mr. Stephen Forbus for the position of Director of Development.

I am the Aging Services Specialist that oversees all Area Agency on Aging (AAA)-affiliated senior community centers, and nutrition and congregate meal programs for the Pennsylvania Department of Aging's (Department), Bureau of Aging Services, Division of Older Americans Act Services.

Each year the Department is allocated \$2 million to make individual grants of \$5,000 to \$150,000 to Pennsylvania senior community centers. It is my responsibility to coordinate and administer all aspects of the Department's Senior Community Center (SCC) Grants Program, guide senior community center applicants through the applications process, and ensure grant awardees comply with grant guidelines.

I first became acquainted with Mr. Forbus in 2014 when the grant application on behalf of a small senior center in Morrisville, PA was chosen to receive a grant award. The grant proposal was very well-designed, demonstrated careful planning, and incorporated strong community support into the project. Since then Mr. Forbus has submitted many successful grant proposals on behalf of senior centers across Pennsylvania, each one carefully constructed and complimented by building programs with community development.

Over the grant years, I've come to know Mr. Forbus personally and professionally.

Early last year I requested to review Mr. Forbus' strategic planning guide he developed to help senior community centers across the state. I found it to be smart, comprehensive and actionable. I recommended Mr. Forbus to the Pennsylvania Association of Senior Centers (PASC) to present a seminar on senior community center strategic planning at PASC's annual statewide conference in 2018.

This year I secured Mr. Forbus as a conference speaker to present his ideas for strategic planning at the 2019 Nutrition Conference which is attended by our network's nutrition experts who are tasked to deliver congregate and in-home meal services to seniors across the state.

Stephen Forbus has demonstrated himself to be a reliable and knowledgeable resource to assist organizations serving disadvantaged and aging populations to develop resources and engage community support, guiding them towards success.

It is because of these qualities and experiences that I can recommend Mr. Forbus without hesitation.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Cherry
Pennsylvania Department of Aging
Older Americans Services Act Division