

# Foothills Area Family YMCA Issues ‘Request for Proposal’, Seeking Sites for Permanent Facility

For press release

Seneca, SC – Foothills Area Family YMCA (YMCA) is issuing a request for proposal (RFP) for sites suitable to house/construct a permanent facility. The organization desires to accomplish an open process in its site selection that incorporates input from stakeholders and weighs near-term need with long-term vision.

“This is a critical step in an ongoing effort to expand the reach of our YMCA and support the programming needs of our entire service area,” said recently elected Board Chair Fred Stutsman. “We have empowered a Facility Task Force – led by Larry Brandt, Esq. and involving both Board and non-Board members – to implement a thoughtful RFP process and evaluate alternatives based on the best interests of our stakeholders and their YMCA.”

The Facility Taskforce hopes to receive and evaluate proposals through early December, consisting of potential land for development and/or facilities for consideration. Their goals for the RFP process are to:

- Uphold an open process to the broader service area
- Examine all past, present and future facility solutions
- Evaluate options utilizing a formal system of assessment
- Encourage collaboration by key community leaders

“The Taskforce has already convened and begun considering a method of site evaluation, including a rating system to ensure an open process of assessment,” said Larry Brandt. “We’re going to be very intentional about identifying the requirements of the facility and making sure that all anticipated proposals are measured against five general categories:

1. Potential to serve the programmatic needs of the YMCA
2. Accessibility by stakeholders
3. Visibility/Prominence of Property
4. Potential for membership
5. Potential for funding

In its first 78 years as an official charter of the National YMCA, Foothills Area Family YMCA operated as a part of the Clemson University campus. In 1972, the organization relocated to a 30 acre parcel of land two miles from its original home on the main part of Clemson’s campus, a location it occupied until its lease went unrenewed in 2010. Since then, YMCA has occupied temporary space associated with the Keowee River Development along State Road 130 as it has endeavored to secure a permanent facility.

“We hope this RFP process will yield opportunities for the YMCA to open its doors widely to exceptional program offerings,” said Executive Director Anna Connelly. “We need to reach much deeper into our service area than ever before and exponentially increase its access to programs, facility, outreach and enrichment activities.”

Foothills Area Family YMCA, a part of the National YMCA organization, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization established by Charter over 117 years ago and committed to the charge to “build strong kids, strong families, and a strong community”. The organization serves the communities of Clemson, Seneca, Central, Pendleton, Westminster, Walhalla, Salem, Six Mile and Fair Play, in the “Golden Corner” of Upstate South Carolina and provides a long list of sports and family support opportunities; including spring and fall soccer, two after school care programs, flag football, summer camp, dog obedience, a youth swim team and special events.

For all inquiries related to Foothills Area Family YMCA and the subsequent RFP, Please contact Executive Director Anna Connelly at [ceo@y4all.org](mailto:ceo@y4all.org)