



March 13, 2026

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W Jefferson St, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear IL Health Facilities and Services Review Board:

Lincoln Economic Advancement & Development (LEAD) is pleased to reaffirm our strong support for Arcadia Estates at Lincoln's application to expand into a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) with a Memory Care unit at 1507 7th St, Lincoln, IL 62656. As this application moves toward its April hearing, we write to underscore the critical community need this facility will address and the meaningful economic relief it will bring to Lincoln and Logan County.

LEAD is a 501(c)(3) local economic development organization committed to developing projects and programs that encourage community and economic development, support town revitalization, create jobs, expand housing options, and foster small business development. The reopening of Arcadia Estates as a skilled nursing facility is squarely aligned with Lincoln's mission and directly addresses several urgent community priorities.

A Community in Need

Lincoln and Logan County are experiencing significant growth in their senior population. Logan County's residents aged 60 and older now comprise 26% of the total population — nearly one-third of all county residents (US Census, ACS, 2023). This represents a substantial increase from 22% just ten years ago (US Census, ACS, 2010), mirroring a statewide trend in which people aged 60 and older now make up 23% of Illinois' total population for the first time in the state's history.

The need for skilled nursing services is particularly acute. According to the Illinois Department on Aging's State Plan (2025–2028), more than one-third of adults over 65 experience physical and mental disabilities, with increasing difficulties in independent living and self-care. As a rural community, Lincoln currently lacks sufficient local skilled nursing options, which forces families to seek care in distant communities — creating an unnecessary emotional and financial burden. The reopening of this beautiful campus will restore a vital local resource and keep families together.

Economic Relief and Job Creation

This facility's opening represents a direct and meaningful contribution to Lincoln's economic recovery. Logan County's unemployment rate of 4.7% (IDES, July 2025) remains above the national average, and quality job creation remains a top priority for our community. Health and Human Services is already the fourth-largest employment sector in Logan County (Center on Rural Innovation, 2024), and Arcadia Estates will expand this sector with stable, career-track positions that keep healthcare dollars local.



Beyond direct employment, the facility will strengthen Lincoln's broader economic ecosystem through partnerships with local pharmacies, medical suppliers, food service providers, and other businesses. This multiplier effect is precisely the kind of sustained economic activity our community needs.

Workforce Development and Educational Partnerships

Arcadia Estates has already taken proactive steps to build a local workforce pipeline. The Executive Director has met with the Director at Heartland Community College's Lincoln Center to develop an educational partnership around Heartland Community College's 8-week CNA program. This collaboration will provide Lincoln residents with accessible career pathways in healthcare — a tangible, lasting benefit to our community that extends well beyond the facility's walls.

Community Support and Integration

The community's support for this campus is clear. Arcadia Estates will serve as a community asset by:

- Complementing existing Lincoln medical services and creating continuity of care for residents transitioning from hospital to long-term care settings
- Allowing families to remain close to loved ones, reducing the emotional and financial strain of out-of-town care
- Serving as a hub for intergenerational programming, community health initiatives, and educational partnerships
- Contributing to Lincoln's economic recovery plan by reopening a valuable, underutilized campus and returning it to productive community use

LEAD believes that licensing Arcadia Estates at Lincoln as a Skilled Nursing Facility with Memory Care is the right decision for our community. It addresses a documented and growing healthcare need, creates quality employment, supports local economic recovery, and reflects the kind of long-term community investment Logan County needs. The public declaration period has concluded without contestation — a testament to the broad local support this project has earned.

We respectfully and enthusiastically request that you consider this application favorably. LEAD stands ready to provide any additional information that may support your review and looks forward to the positive impact this facility will have on Lincoln and our entire community.

Sincerely,

Andrea Runge

CEO

Lincoln Economic Advancement & Development

217-871-1439

arunge@thriveinlincoln.org