

DRAFT

**ATTACHMENT 7
DPS Certification Program**

Design For Life Builder and Project Certification Program

DPS will create a Program modeled after the Green Business Certification Program. Operationally, this program will be the clearinghouse for DFL certifications for property tax credits. It will also feature certified Architects, Builders and Projects. The proposed elements of the program are outlined below:

- I. Organization - Potential organizational partners include the Design For Life Committee; MNCBIA; Montgomery County Builder's Association; Potomac Valley Architect's Association; Montgomery County Board of Realtors (or other appropriate representative)
 - a. Organization will assist with website; featuring projects and program participants, newsletters; program promotion, periodically review and provide information on costs of DFL improvements and help to oversee and guide program development and growth, etc.
- II. Certification - Architects, Builders and Projects can apply for Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze certification based upon the number of units or projects that have achieved for Visit-Ability or Live-Ability
 - a. Design and Building Professionals -- level of certification can be based upon the number of units achieved and/or the ability to provide design/units without cost premiums -
 - b. Project - 5% of units=Bronze; 10% of units=Silver; 25% of units=Gold; and 30+%of units=Platinum
- III. Certification Benefits

- a. Property tax credits -
 - b. Promotion of business as designer/builder or promotion of project through website and newsletter and announcements on County websites
 - c. Feature project or business on monthly spot on County Cable
- IV. DPS Certification responsibilities
- a. Receive and review owner/builder joint certification on DFL improvements and costs
 - b. Certify DFL improvements
 - c. Report tax credits to Finance
 - d. Fast Track treatment for DFL project
- V. Website
- a. About the program
 - b. Benefits of Certification
 - c. How to apply
 - d. Application
 - e. Certified businesses and projects
 - f. Training and information
 - g. Contacts
 - h. Newsletters
 - i. Featured projects and link to promo spot on County Cable
 - j. Number and location of Visit-Able and Live-Able units
 - k. FAQs
- VI. Annual award from CE and Council for categories -
Architect/Engineer; Builder and Project
- VII. Annual costs for contract and staffing
- VIII. Fiscal Impact - approx. \$80,000 for a contractor to set up program, website, certifications, marketing and administration

+ approximately 20% of grade 26 workyear -- \$18,694 (salary and benefits incl.);

- i. Contractor and estimated staff costs
- ii. Economic impact - Using Jackie Simon's numbers from Concrete Change
 1. Costs of constructing visit-able units in Boilingbrook, Ill. -estimated that incremental cost for a visit-able home with a basement -- \$630 *N.B. unverified*
 2. Avoided costs - costs of retrofitting - estimated One study estimates \$150 for new vs. \$1000 to retrofit for zero step entrance
 3. Avoided costs of institutional assisted living -- \$10,000/week