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Proposed eastern Idaho haven for troubled teens loses grant

Associated Press - October 4, 2008 7:44 PM ET

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho (AP) - The Idaho Department of Commerce has pulled a \$500,000 grant that would have helped pay for the construction of a group home for troubled teens after losing confidence in the project.

Ammon city officials were awarded the federal community development block grant in 2006, and intended to pass the money on to Family Care Center to use in the construction of the proposed \$7.5 million Pearl House. The Department of Commerce was holding the money in trust until construction began.

But construction on the project has been delayed for years because Family Care Center hasn't been able to sell \$5 million in bonds.

Commerce department spokeswoman Bibiana Nertney says the department decided it would not be in the state's interest to be a financing partner in the project.

Family Care Center Board Chairman Ron Carlson says the loss of the grant means the group will have to try to make up the \$500,000 in bonds.

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