

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, 25 SIGOURNEY STREET, HARTFORD, CT**

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE STATE WEATHERIZATION PLAN FUNDED BY ARRA. May 5, 2009**

Good afternoon Ms. Carlene Taylor. Thank you for the opportunity to share the thoughts of the Board of Directors of the Community Action Committee of Danbury, Inc. and its staff. My name is Bobby J. Poole and I am the Executive Director. The Community Action Committee of Danbury has had a long and successful collaboration with New Opportunities Inc. We collect, determine eligibility and certify applicants for energy assistance in 19 towns and cities in North Western Connecticut. We served over 4500 clients in the current year. The files of applicants approved for weatherization are forwarded to New Opportunities for inclusion in their weatherization plan. In addition to this historical collaboration, we collaborate on Eviction and Foreclosure Programs that cover the major cities of Danbury, Torrington and Waterbury. We also collaborate with New Opportunities to provide services to customers in the One-Stop office of the Connecticut Department of Labor.

Since 2003, DSS has sought to foster a Human Services Infrastructure (HSI) Process for customers served in our communities: that is "no door is the wrong door" for customers in need of our services. In addition the HIS process fosters the elimination of silos in organizations and enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of communities ability to meet customer's needs. So on April 9, 2009, when I returned DSS's telephone call, I was surprised that they would foster a plan of exclusion with certain community action agencies. The relationship between CACD and New Opportunities has been building over the past six years. Dr. Gatling and CACD have discussed a temporary sub-grantee role for CACD in the weatherization Stimulus Program. CACD is prepared to support the attainment of the goals of DSS through the recruitment and training of staff to conduct energy audits and to augment weatherization services of New Opportunities in a time-phased process.

This 2-3 year program is also designed to address the unemployment challenges that we are experiencing across the state. To deny CACD's service delivery area this opportunity smacks of inequitable treatment for our agency and the customers we employ and serve. I request that DSS modify their current position and allow CACD to act as a temporary sub-grantee for the ARRA Weatherization Program and accrue the benefits therein provided.

We know that there are significant additional funds to be delivered to the State of Connecticut. We hope that the current anticipated actions of DSS are not reflective of the plans for these funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. What you do to the least of us sooner or later you do to all of us.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this statement.

**Bobby J. Poole, Community Action Committee of Danbury Inc. 66 North Street, Danbury, CT 06810**

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