



Community Action Agency of New Haven

May 1, 2009

Ms. Carlene Taylor
Weatherization Assistance Program
Community, Energy and Refugee Services
Connecticut Department of Social Services
25 Sigourney Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Weatherization Assistance Plan

Dear Carlene:

We are writing in strong support of the request by the Community Action Agency of New Haven (CAANH) to the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) that CAANH should be included in the DSS Weatherization Stimulus Plan. As members of the CAANH Board of Directors, we firmly believe that the Agency has been performing in all respects in accordance with the Corrective Action Plan required by DSS. Accordingly, DSS should not exclude CAANH as a sub-grantee in the Weatherization Stimulus Plan.

In addition, the CAANH meets all of the qualifications set forth in the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) guidelines for the Weatherization Assistance Program, at 10 CFR Section 440.15, in that:

- CAANH is a Community Action Agency;
- CAANH has demonstrated its success in providing Weatherization services;
- CAANH has the requisite experience in assisting families with low incomes in its service area; and
- CAANH has the capacity to undertake a timely and effective Weatherization program, as can be seen in our current program, which is funded by DSS.

The exclusion of CAANH from the Weatherization Stimulus Plan is inconsistent with the DOE Regulations in 10 CFR subpart 440, which provides that preference be given to a Community Action Agency or other nonprofit agency.

DSS is aware of the extensive corrective actions which the CAANH Board of Directors and our President and CEO, Mr. Amos Smith, have implemented on an ongoing basis to remedy the earlier deficiencies attributed by DSS to earlier CAANH administrations. In light of the current successful efforts of CAANH, we believe that we should be given full

The Community Action Agency of New Haven offers pathways to prosperity to those in poverty in the Greater New Haven area through:

- ◆ Service
- ◆ Collaboration
- ◆ Advocacy
- ◆ Knowledge Generation

and equal consideration in the Weatherization Stimulus Plan proposed for Connecticut. DSS' proposal to exclude CAANH from the Plan will compromise access to services by families with low incomes in the New Haven area, who rely upon CAANH for all of their Energy assistance needs. These needs have historically included weatherization services.

We urge you to give every consideration by CAANH's request to be included in the Proposed Connecticut State Plan for the Weatherization Program. Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Klaus
Board Chair

cc: Amos L. Smith