

April 28, 2009

Ms. Claudette Beaulieu
Deputy Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Social Services
25 Sigourney Street
Hartford, CT. 06106

Re: Weatherization Assistance Program/The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Dear Ms. Beaulieu:

Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. (TVCCA) is Southeastern Connecticut's Community Action Agency. TVCCA is a private, non-profit corporation that has been providing social services to citizens of New London County for over 44 years. The current 28 programs reach over 24,000 eligible clients annually, over 9,400 enrolled in the Energy Assistance program. TVCCA is well recognized as a community leader in advocating for and meeting the needs of the Southeastern Connecticut's residents.

TVCCA is seeking to be designated a "temporary subgrantee" for the ARRA Weatherization funds. I supports TVCCA in their operation of the Weatherization Assistance program funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

TVCCA has a history of service in the Weatherization Program. Up until 1995, when the Department of Social Services limited subgrantees due to serious budget cuts, TVCCA operated an effective, quality Weatherization Program in New London County. Still, to this day, this organization has qualified staff positioned to begin the program in New London County on July 1, 2009 weatherizing over 430 homes in the next three years under ARRA.

In addition to current staff, TVCCA has solid partnerships with the Eastern Connecticut Builders Association, NeighborWorks® New Horizons and other local vendors committed to weatherization activities. NeighborWorks® New Horizons (NWNH) is a nonprofit organization working to provide quality affordable homes for working families and the elderly in Connecticut since 1992 with over 500 completed units. Headquartered in New Haven, the new Southeastern office is poised to mobilize swiftly to this endeavor by bringing together its experience in the development arena, a solid project management track record and comprehensive knowledge of federal funding execution and compliance.

Not only will New London County residents benefit from this initiative, but local contractors will be afforded work opportunities so gravely needed. In this challenging economic environment, this will benefit New London County in the ways that Congress and the President envisioned with the stimulus bill, putting monies into local economies and businesses.

Simultaneous efforts are underway with Three Rivers Community College and the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board who have partnered with TVCCA to train low income individuals in the “energy efficiency” industry, increasing their job skills. Local utility companies (Norwich Public Utilities, Groton Public Utilities, Bozrah Light and Power) are working with TVCCA to outline opportunities for equipment purchases, energy auditing and weatherization activities.

I supports and recognizes TVCCA’s ability to serve this community through the Weatherization Program and strongly urges the Department to designate it a “temporary subgrantee” and thereby allocating \$3 million dollars to the citizens of southeastern Connecticut for an equitable and expeditious enterprise.

Respectfully,

Kevin Ryan
State Representative
139th District