

5/5/2009

Hearing

COPY

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

RE: PUBLIC HEARING
WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

DATE: May 5, 2009
HELD AT: The Watermark
3030 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor Lounge
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606

Reporter: Katrina Loda
BRANDON SMITH REPORTING SERVICE

44 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(860) 549-1850
(800) 852-4589

Six Landmark Square, 4th Floor
Stamford, Connecticut 06901
(203) 316-8591
(800) 852-4589

APPEARANCES:

State of Connecticut
Department of Social Services
25 Sigourney Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
Pamela A. Giannini, MSW
Julie Bisi

1 MS. GIANNINI: Good morning
2 everyone. I'd like to welcome you to the
3 Public Hearing on the Weatherization
4 Assistance Program, WRAP Plan, for both
5 the regular Weatherization Program and the
6 additional American Recovery and
7 Reinvestment Act Weatherization Assistance
8 Program. So this morning -- my name is
9 Pamela Giannini and I am the Director of
10 the Bureau of Aging, Community and Social
11 Work Services at the Department of Social
12 Services. One of my responsibilities
13 there is for the energy and weatherization
14 programs and we are here today on May 5,
15 2009 at the Watermark at 3030 Park Avenue
16 in Bridgeport, Connecticut. I will make
17 some opening remarks about the
18 Weatherization Assistance Program and I
19 will open the public hearing to your
20 comments.

21 This public hearing is being held
22 in accordance with United States
23 Department of Energy Regulation 10 CFR
24 Part 440 specifically section 440.14 which
25 requires that the state shall conduct one

1 or more public hearings for the purpose of
2 receiving comments on the proposed state
3 plan. Today there is a hearing here and
4 also in Hartford at 25 Sigourney Street.
5 This hearing is being held to provide an
6 opportunity for Connecticut citizens to
7 comment on the proposed weatherization
8 assistance for low income persons program
9 state plan in the amount of \$64,310,502
10 made available through the American
11 Recovery and Reinvestment Act, ARRA, of
12 2009, Public law 111-5. The plan shall
13 comply with applicable law including
14 regulations of the United States
15 Department of Energy at 10 CFR 440, Final
16 Rule, especially sections 440-12 and
17 440-14. We also encourage people to
18 provide comments regarding the appropriate
19 subgrantees for this program which is part
20 of what we are seeking through this public
21 hearing.

22 The public hearing will also cover
23 amendments to the current state plan in
24 the amount of \$5,315,348 in order to
25 parallel the services offered in the

1 proposed ARRA Weatherization Plan and
2 incorporate some changes made in the
3 program. This amount is a decrease in the
4 funding amount originally provided to the
5 Department of Social Services and the
6 amendment provides the final allocations
7 for the period covered in the plan.

8 In addition, the goals for the
9 numbers of units to be weatherized have
10 been revised as the average expenditure
11 per unit has been increased to \$6,500 from
12 \$2,500. Please note that if you wish to
13 comment there's a sign up sheet at the
14 entrance to the room and people will speak
15 in the order of who signed in first.
16 Comments will be accepted until 1:30 p.m.
17 today. Even if you're not speaking,
18 please sign in and indicate that you will
19 not be speaking. Also if you do not wish
20 to comment and would prefer to submit your
21 comments in writing, you may do that as
22 well by either e-mailing them to
23 geltzer@ct.gov or by sending the comments
24 by U.S. Mail to Carlene Taylor, Program
25 Manager, Weatherization Assistance

1 Program, Community, Refugee Services
2 Division, Department of Social Services,
3 25 Sigourney Street, Hartford, Connecticut
4 06106 by no later than 4:30 p.m. on
5 Wednesday May 6th, 2009. I will also
6 accept any written comments here today if
7 you choose to hand them to me.

8 I would like now to provide a quick
9 overview of what is included in the
10 proposed state plan and then open the
11 hearing to public comment. I think what
12 I'm going to do is provide an overview of
13 the ARRA Weatherization Program and then
14 talk about the regular Weatherization
15 Program a little bit to tell you what has
16 changed with that. Both parallel what
17 we're doing here. As you come in please
18 sign in at the desk over there, we'd
19 appreciate it and we will continue on with
20 the presentation.

21 Okay. As I said earlier, the
22 Department of Social Services will receive
23 an additional funding of \$64.3 million for
24 weatherization from the Department of
25 Energy. These funds are temporary and

1 must be spent over a three-year period
2 ending March 31, 2012. This funding has
3 substantially increased the Weatherization
4 Program. Our typical number of units
5 weatherized in a year is 700 to 900.
6 Typical funding is 2.5 to \$3 million
7 annually. The Department of Social
8 Services submitted an initial application
9 to the Department of Energy in March 2009
10 as per the guidance provided under the
11 ARRA. The final plan is due to US DOE on
12 May 12, 2009. As I said earlier, we're
13 having public hearings today in two
14 locations; here in Bridgeport and in
15 Hartford. We provided draft plan and
16 notice of the hearing which was available
17 online at www.ct.gov/dss. Comments may be
18 submitted in writing or electronically by
19 May 6th, 2009. Those notices appeared on
20 April 25th in various newspapers across
21 the state about this public hearing on
22 April 25, 2009.

23 How will the ARRA dollars in
24 weatherization help? Under the ARRA its
25 goal is to stimulate the economy by

1 creating new weatherization training
2 programs and projects by -- hopefully to
3 lead to new and sustainable green
4 technology jobs and increase efficiency
5 and reduce energy costs for residents of
6 the State of Connecticut. Through this
7 plan Connecticut anticipates creating and
8 or retaining 640 jobs. And we hope that
9 it will, our state activities will include
10 the development of a green workforce with
11 sustainable jobs beyond the funding of
12 these ARRA dollars. Our plan includes
13 weatherizing at least 7,500 units over a
14 three-year period.

15 You might want to know who
16 qualifies for this program. Currently our
17 present program uses the guideline of 200
18 percent of the federal poverty level which
19 is \$20,800 for one person or \$42,400 for a
20 household of four as the income
21 eligibility for the Weatherization
22 Program. In our proposed plan we hope to
23 go to 60 percent of the state's median
24 income which is \$29,272 for one person or
25 \$56,293 for a household of four. These

1 higher income levels hopefully will help
2 us to coordinate services with other low
3 income weatherization programs offered by
4 the major public utility companies and the
5 Fuel Oil Conservation Board, and both
6 homeowners and renters are eligible to
7 apply.

8 The Department of Energy requires
9 us to serve people under a priority scheme
10 and the priorities are for vulnerable
11 households where a member is elderly,
12 disabled or under six years of age, those
13 who are high energy users or renters who
14 pay for their own heat. The dwellings
15 that are eligible are any single-family or
16 multi-family building not previously
17 weatherized is eligible as long as it is
18 not for sale, in foreclosure or in need of
19 major rehabilitation.

20 There is a caveat about those
21 previously weatherized. Units weatherized
22 prior to 1994 may be eligible for
23 reweatherization. For multi-family
24 dwellings, two to four-unit multi-family
25 buildings in those units, at least half of

1 the tenants must be income eligible. For
2 larger buildings, at least two-thirds of
3 the tenants must be income eligible. And
4 for all rental units the landlord must
5 agree to the weatherization work and the
6 landlord must make a co-payment of 20
7 percent of the material cost for or a
8 maximum of \$500 per unit, whichever is
9 lower. People that are familiar with the
10 Weatherization Program, and there are some
11 of you in the room, know that an energy
12 audit is required when we weatherize a
13 unit.

14 An energy audit is performed on
15 each unit to determine whether the
16 weatherization is to be installed. The
17 types of services or conservation measures
18 that are used would be heating system
19 tune-ups and repairs, attic and side wall
20 insulation, blower guided air sealant to
21 reduce drafts and storm windows. Also,
22 health and safety inspections are
23 performed on the unit to make sure that it
24 is a safe structure.

25 Spending limits. The federal

1 regulations currently allow an average
2 spending limit of \$6,500 per dwelling
3 unit. That was just changed this year.
4 Previously it had been \$2,500 per unit.
5 This increase was made as a result of the
6 ARRA funding and a recognition that the
7 \$2,500 was not enough in general to
8 perform strong weatherization services in
9 the state. We are proposing in the plan a
10 maximum spending limit per unit of
11 \$10,000. Within that there will be a
12 maximum health and safety spending limit
13 of \$2,500. So our average across the
14 state will be \$6,500 per unit, some may be
15 higher and some maybe lower, but 6,500 is
16 the average.

17 Funding. DSS proposes to allocate
18 the \$64.3 million as follows. To the
19 Community Action Agencies \$28,500,000. To
20 the Connecticut Department of Economic and
21 Community Development \$20 million. To the
22 Department of Labor, the Workforce
23 Investment Boards and the Office of
24 Workforce Competitiveness \$3,500,000. To
25 the community colleges and vo-technical

1 high schools \$1.5 million. For special
2 projects and initiatives \$7.1 million.
3 And to the Department of Social Services
4 for admin and training and technical
5 assistance \$3.7 million.

6 For further explanation we are
7 allowed up to 11.8 million of the total
8 funding available for training and
9 technical assistance activities. Any
10 funds that we don't use out of that, we
11 can reallocate for the weatherization of
12 additional units. Up to ten percent of
13 the funding, 6.4 million, may be used for
14 administrative purposes. From this amount
15 five percent or 3.2 million may go to the
16 subgrantees to oversee the operation and
17 implementation of the program. And, of
18 course, all funds must be spent in
19 accordance with the Department of Energy's
20 regulations governing the Weatherization
21 Program.

22 We will continue to work with our
23 subgrantees and with the Connecticut Light
24 & Power's Weatherization Residential
25 Assistance Program or WRAP and United

1 Illuminating's help. Program funds may be
2 used for a variety of different activities
3 such as installing additional measures on
4 weatherization jobs, serving other low
5 income clients that do not receive
6 services under the Weatherization Program,
7 so this stretches our dollars even
8 further. Funding for energy audits comes
9 from the major utility companies such as
10 Connecticut Light & Power, United
11 Illuminating, Yankee Gas, Connecticut
12 National Gas and Southern Connecticut Gas
13 Company.

14 A little bit about our subgrantee
15 network. DSS proposes to distribute these
16 additional funds to both existing
17 weatherization subgrantees that are in
18 good standing with the Department of
19 Social Services which are Community Action
20 Agencies and other public or private
21 non-profit partners that have experience
22 with training and or serving the housing
23 needs of low income clients. According to
24 the regulations of the Department of
25 Energy, each subgrantee must be a

1 Community Action Agency or other public or
2 non-profit entity, be selected on the
3 basis of public comment received during a
4 public hearing, such as we're having
5 today, based on the subgrantee's
6 experience and performance in
7 weatherization or housing renovation, the
8 subgrantee's experience assisting low
9 income persons, and the subgrantee's
10 capacity to undertake a timely and
11 effective Weatherization Program.

12 Preference will be given to any
13 Community Action Agency or public or
14 non-profit entity which has or is now
15 administering an effective program. We
16 hope that by working with these existing
17 subgrantees and new partners DSS will be
18 able to bring a certain economy of scale
19 to bear in the expenditure of these funds.
20 This will be made available in the areas
21 of eligibility determination because our
22 present program operated is based on the
23 intake that we receive under our Energy
24 Assistance Program, and referrals come
25 into the Community Action Agencies and

1 then those homes that need weatherization
2 under the present program are gleaned from
3 those energy applications. So we
4 anticipate continuing work with all the
5 Community Action Agencies on eligibility
6 determination.

7 Also, on oversight of the program,
8 training and technical assistance and of
9 course record keeping and reporting.
10 There are very strong recommendations
11 under the ARRA regarding record keeping
12 and reporting and there will be much
13 stronger monitoring under this program.

14 The recommended ARRA weatherization
15 subgrantees that are proposed in this plan
16 are Action for Bridgeport Community
17 Development, ABCD; The Community Renewal
18 Team, CRT, for Hartford and Middletown;
19 New Opportunities, Waterbury and Meriden;
20 The ACCESS Agency, ACCESS, in Willimantic;
21 the New Haven area will be served by a
22 subgrantee to be determined, The
23 Connecticut Department of Economic and
24 Community Development, DECD. And of
25 course the department reserves the right

1 to select additional subgrantees as deemed
2 necessary to accomplish the purposes of
3 this act.

4 We are also encouraging our
5 subgrantees to use the other Community
6 Action Agencies that are in good standing
7 and have past experience with the
8 Weatherization Program, that work with low
9 income clients, and that are knowledgeable
10 of the needs in their catchment areas as
11 temporary subcontractors to accomplish the
12 work for which this funding was made
13 available. The temporary subcontractors
14 proposed in the plan are TEAM, Inc. in
15 Derby; The Human Resource Agency of New
16 Britain, HRA, of New Britain; Norwalk
17 Economic Opportunities Now, NEON, in South
18 Norwalk; Thames Valley Counsel Community
19 Action, TVCCA, in Norwich and New London
20 area; CTE, Inc. in Stamford and BCO, Inc.
21 in Bristol.

22 The work that we anticipate doing
23 with the Department of Economic and
24 Community Development is an initiative to
25 weatherize the state finance rental

1 housing stock in Connecticut. Connecticut
2 is one of only four states that has used
3 state money to build low income public
4 housing. In over 30 percent of the state,
5 financed rental housing stock is more than
6 50 years old. State financed elderly and
7 disabled housing was first constructed in
8 the early 1960's and that means most
9 housing in the state was built at a time
10 when energy costs were low and the
11 technology to produce energy efficient
12 housing was unavailable. So DECD as a
13 subgrantee will provide weatherization to
14 2,850 units of state financed public
15 housing. These properties generally house
16 very low income elders, persons with
17 disabilities and families that have
18 children under six years of age or have
19 very high energy bills. We intend to
20 weatherize elderly housing units where
21 heat is not included in the rent as a
22 first priority. Housing units with
23 tenants who have a disability or have
24 children under age six will be weatherized
25 if funds are available after those of the

1 elderly.

2 Under our special projects, that
3 \$7.1 million, the Department of Energy
4 allows the weatherization of shelters. So
5 approximately \$3 million will be allocated
6 for the weatherization of shelters;
7 homeless shelters, domestic violence
8 shelters and transitional housing units.

9 We also anticipate that another \$3 million
10 will be provided as an incentive pool to
11 subgrantees that meet or exceed production
12 goals. Performance -- this performance
13 based incentive will be available to
14 existing subgrantees that effectively use
15 the ARRA funding. And what that means is
16 if a subgrantee is able to meet their
17 goals, they can then come back to us and
18 say we've met our goals already, we would
19 like you -- we would like to do more
20 units. These incentive dollars would be
21 to do, to weatherize additional units. So
22 it's not incentive dollars for added men
23 or incentive dollars just because you
24 finished your job, it would be to do
25 additional units, to complete additional

1 units. These incentive pool funds will be
2 allocated according to a formula ensuring
3 equitable distribution statewide. So, for
4 instance, if the Community Action Agency
5 in Hartford was able to complete all their
6 units very quickly, we would have to make
7 sure that not an inordinate amount of
8 housing units were weatherized in
9 Hartford, it would still have to balance
10 across the state to make sure that we
11 fairly distribute the weatherization of
12 housing throughout the state.

13 As I said earlier, this program is
14 not only a Weatherization Program, it's a
15 program to buy training and jobs to people
16 as well. And so we anticipate working
17 with additional partners to ensure that
18 people that have been displaced as workers
19 or people that need job skills will be
20 provided the necessary training and we're
21 working with the Connecticut Department of
22 Labor, The Workforce Investment Boards,
23 the community and technical college
24 network, the vocational technical high
25 school system, the Office of Workforce

1 Competitiveness, the Institute for
2 Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut
3 State University and the Conservation
4 Services Group. This plan includes
5 efforts to ensure that weatherization
6 assistance will increase the state's
7 activity related to the development of a
8 green workforce.

9 Recruitment will target a diverse
10 population, some skilled and some
11 unskilled. Low income people, these are
12 some of the targets, persons with
13 disabilities, older adults, veterans and
14 displaced and unemployed workers. Our
15 employment estimates for the life of the
16 ARRA funding we anticipate, and this is
17 just an estimate, either people gaining
18 new jobs or being retained of about 640
19 people over the lifetime of this grant.
20 Now, that may -- we're not sure exactly
21 how we're going to calculate that, but we
22 have to keep track of that for this whole
23 grant period. Now, this may be people
24 that are retained over the three years so
25 each year they're counted again, or it

1 could be that it's front loaded where you
2 hire a whole bunch of people and train
3 them at the very beginning and then as you
4 complete your units, they would go on to
5 other successful careers, but we have to
6 follow-up on where those jobs are either
7 retained or created. If a Community
8 Action Agency has a crew system, how many
9 people -- new hires do you provide, or how
10 many contractors hire additional staff to
11 meet the goals of this program. So it has
12 to get down to that level, even to the
13 point of where our materials come from.

14 If we are purchasing materials from
15 various locations, are, for instance, Home
16 Depot or Lowe's hiring additional people
17 at some point in time that because of the
18 ARRA those people were either retained or
19 new jobs were created. And in the plan it
20 includes the type of jobs that we
21 anticipate creating under this program
22 which includes crew workers, crew chiefs,
23 energy auditors, intake staff, technical
24 monitors, fiscal people, and inventory
25 control staff. That's just a quick

1 overview.

2 We also, you know, there's certain
3 core competencies that anyone that works
4 on this program needs to have and the plan
5 talks about those. There are some core
6 competencies and some training needs that
7 anybody that works on this program will
8 have to have. It includes statewide lead
9 safe training, energy auditor
10 certification training, on-the-job
11 training of crews, mold and moisture
12 detection training, client education
13 training, and other safety training.

14 As I said earlier, oversight of the
15 program will be critical and DOE has
16 informed states that they and their
17 subgrantees must ensure the transparency
18 and accountability of these funds
19 available in ARRA. The state and DSS are
20 committed to ensuring fiscal
21 responsibility. All subgrantees are
22 required to inspect the weatherization
23 work performed on a dwelling before it may
24 be submitted to DSS for approval and
25 reimbursement. Comprehensive monitoring

1 will be conducted at each subgrantee and
2 its partner agency. DSS will also provide
3 the same oversight to any partner agency
4 that it contracts with to perform
5 weatherization work. Under the
6 regulations, DOE requires that there be a
7 ten percent file review of units
8 weatherized and on site inspections of
9 five percent of completed units. Under
10 this plan DSS intends to increase that to
11 20 percent file reviews of units
12 weatherized and inspections on site to at
13 least 12 percent of the total units
14 weatherized. So out of the 7,500, the
15 file reviews will be completed on 1,499
16 and the on site inspections will be at
17 least 900. We hope to exceed those goals,
18 but that's what we have placed in our
19 plan.

20 In order to meet these goals, of
21 course, there's going to have to be
22 increased staff at the DSS level for a
23 durational period because presently we
24 have two experienced program specialists
25 who are responsible for monitoring all

1 aspects of weatherization. With this kind
2 of increase we anticipate that we'll need
3 additional staff for program management,
4 for file reviews, for inspection of
5 completed jobs, on procurement procedures,
6 inventory control, operation and
7 maintenance of vehicles and equipment, and
8 to ensure that there's adequate coverage
9 of all serviced areas.

10 We'll need additional fiscal staff
11 to process the monthly financial reports,
12 to complete monthly reports for submittal
13 to DOE, and to perform annual
14 comprehensive fiscal monitoring of all the
15 subgrantees. The fiscal people must
16 review each building weatherization report
17 for each unit that is weatherized and
18 inspect it in order for it to be
19 reimbursed.

20 There is going to be increased
21 quality assurance and we will be auditing
22 financial transactions in the funding and
23 payment cycles and we will ensure that the
24 funding and state federal requirements are
25 met. I think that the plans before you

1 give you breakdowns of the different
2 number of units by area of the state and
3 that completes my remarks on the ARRA.

4 I would like also to speak a little
5 bit to the, what we call the regular
6 Weatherization Assistance Program for 2009
7 through 2011. The final allocation under
8 this program is \$5,315,348. Of that the
9 base program is \$4,365,962. Under that
10 program the service providers will remain
11 in the current configuration. There are
12 five service providers, the Community
13 Action Agencies and I spoke of them
14 before, they include ABCD, CRT, the
15 Community Action Agency of New Haven, New
16 Opportunities and ACCESS. The changes to
17 that program are as follows. The average
18 expenditure of limit per unit will
19 increase to the \$6,500 to complement the
20 ARRA funding, the average material and
21 program support cost will be \$1,857 for
22 material and \$4,643 for program support.
23 Reimbursement will be at \$2.50 per program
24 support for every \$1 of material
25 installed. The unit goals will be 657

1 units over two years under this program
2 and the number of units that can be
3 reweatherized will be 25. The the maximum
4 limit expenditure of material and labor
5 will be \$10,000 with waivers for dwellings
6 needing a heating system replacement. The
7 increase of the income eligibility
8 guidelines will go to 60 percent of state
9 medium income from 200 percent of the
10 poverty level. Health and safety material
11 average per unit will be \$500.

12 The landlord contribution, a
13 co-payment of 20 percent of the total
14 material cost up to a maximum of \$500 per
15 eligible dwelling unit by landlord with
16 exceptions if the owner is income eligible
17 for weatherization. DFS can waive the
18 co-payment if the landlord is income
19 eligible themselves. Air sealing in all
20 dwelling units including mobile homes
21 except where not feasible. And those are
22 the only changes to the regular
23 Weatherization Program.

24 I'm going to now close my comments
25 and open this up to public comment and I'm

1 going to go over and get the list of names
2 and we're going to go in order of who
3 signed up first. I'm going to ask whoever
4 wants to make comments to come up to the
5 front of the room so everybody can hear
6 you and to have you say what your name is
7 so that our transcriptionist can make sure
8 she has the correct names because some of
9 the writing here, I'm not sure I have it
10 correct. The first person that has signed
11 up to speak would be Graham Powell.

12 MR. POWELL: Yes.

13 MS. GIANNINI: Would you come
14 forward?

15 MR. POWELL: Yes. My name is
16 Graham Powell, I'm a director of, a
17 volunteer director of an elderly living
18 facility in Stamford and particularly
19 there are two issues in the policy which I
20 think need to be reviewed. The first one
21 which is on page 3 of the assistance
22 program downloaded from the internet, and
23 it's an issue which I think I understood
24 you to say was a Department of Environment
25 or a DOE requirement. Priority will be

1 given to tenants who pay for their own
2 heat. This I think is an extremely
3 illogical requirement. It is caused by an
4 accident of construction, for example, in
5 this building there will obviously be a
6 central heating system with individual
7 thermostats and there might be very large
8 weatherization savings potential in a
9 building such as this which is not
10 dissimilar with the one I'm connected
11 with. So it's an accident whether
12 individuals happen to pay for their rent
13 directly or whether they pay for their
14 rent indirectly through their normal
15 rental payments, and in my case, the
16 not-for-profit organization then pays the
17 utility bills.

18 And I would have thought also that
19 the ARRA program would have -- will
20 receive much better returns if it were
21 able to concentrate on buildings with
22 major opportunities such as multi-family
23 dwellings rather than any other type of
24 dwelling.

25 I would also suggest that you may

1 want to consider including in the criteria
2 buildings that have, on their own
3 initiative, taken advantage of all
4 possible opportunities to increase their
5 energy efficiency through CL&P WRAP
6 Program for example, through obtaining
7 funds to replace furnaces, maybe the
8 easiest one to administer would be those
9 buildings who have already accepted the
10 assistance of CL&P WRAP because it shows
11 they're prepared to help themselves and I
12 believe that these funds should be
13 directed primary to those that have
14 already demonstrated they're prepared to
15 help themselves.

16 The next area of comment refers
17 again to the rental issue, um, but again
18 on page 6 which is division of funds
19 between the department of economic and
20 community development initiative and
21 others, the building I'm connected with,
22 for example, was built at exactly the same
23 time as the majority apparently as the
24 state elderly low income housing. It
25 doesn't happen to be owned by the state,

1 it happens to be owned by a not-for-profit
2 which obtained contributions voluntarily
3 for members to do it. So therefore to
4 make the distinction between buildings
5 owned as a matter of accident by the DECD
6 and those that have the same issues
7 because they were built at the same time,
8 but don't happen to be owned by DECD, but
9 are instead owned by a not-for-profit, is
10 illogical. And I would therefore suggest
11 a way around it might be just to put a
12 date in that buildings built before 1970
13 say are going to all have similar
14 characteristics in construction which
15 didn't pay much regard, if any regard, to
16 energy efficiency. So I therefore suggest
17 that a date be included and the artificial
18 distinction between those owned by DECD
19 and those not owned by DECD should be
20 removed.

21 And on page 7, again, under the
22 proposal is, again, this is where the heat
23 is not included in the rent as a first
24 priority, I see that as totally illogical,
25 I see it as discriminatory, I see it as

1 accidental as to how a particular building
2 happens to be built and I think that
3 requirement should be removed as to
4 whether an elderly low income person
5 pays -- happens to have their heat paid
6 directly or they live in a communal
7 facility such as this where obviously the
8 heat will be centrally provided rather
9 than having individual furnaces about the
10 place.

11 And that is my -- concludes my
12 comments. And I wish the department great
13 success in implementing what could be an
14 exciting program.

15 MS. GIANNINI: Thank you very much
16 for your comments.

17 MR. POWELL: Thank you.

18 MS. GIANNINI: Okay. I'm trying to
19 read a name because it looks like
20 Adrienne --

21 MS. HOUEL: Adrienne Houel.

22 MS. GIANNINI: Great.

23 MS. HOUEL: I would like to yield
24 to Mr. Tisdale who is my elder and much
25 wiser than I. I will follow Mr. Tisdale.

1 MR. TISDALE: We'll go up together,
2 how's that?

3 MS. GIANNINI: Why don't you come
4 up.

5 MS. HOUEL: He'll get me back for
6 that comment, I'm sure.

7 MR. TISDALE: First, I prefer to
8 stand if that's okay. I'm the Executive
9 Director of ABCD here in the City of
10 Bridgeport and we've been involved in the
11 Weatherization Program for two years now
12 with the meetings that we attended with
13 you in Hartford. We are the lead
14 Community Action Agency in the Fairfield
15 County. We felt that we had to involve a
16 CTE in Stamford and NEON immediately and
17 after some discussions among ourselves, we
18 felt the need to reach out to all of the
19 participants who have interest in this so
20 that we could achieve the main objective
21 that was established by Washington and
22 also by the state and that is to create
23 green jobs. And we felt by convening the
24 meeting, I believe it was on Friday past,
25 not to my surprise, but 48 representatives

1 from Bridgeport, the City of Bridgeport,
2 Norwalk and Stamford attended, union
3 people attended, the community colleges
4 attended, the technical colleges attended
5 this and it was a very productive meeting
6 and we concluded that we needed to put
7 together a coalition that would be
8 representative of the Fairfield County
9 initiative, and we felt that that can be a
10 prototype not only for Fairfield County,
11 but we felt that this is something that
12 would be good for the State of Connecticut
13 for the Community Action Agencies and
14 other people who will be participating in
15 this program. The Workplace attended and
16 I think that we came up with a working
17 model that could be mutually advantageous
18 not only for Bridgeport County, but for
19 the state and after my, I almost said
20 elderly, my junior --

21 MS. HOUEL: I told you he'd get me
22 back.

23 MR. TISDALE: Then we would like to
24 submit this written document to you on
25 behalf of not only the Community Action

1 Agencies, although we have been identified
2 as a lead in this, but I think this is
3 representative of all of the participants
4 in Fairfield County. Thank you.

5 MS. HOUEL: My name is Adrienne
6 Houel and I'm a sister agency to and child
7 of ABCD that founded our Community
8 Development Corporation about
9 two-and-a-half years ago. We're dedicated
10 to training for green jobs and have
11 advanced already on two classes for
12 weatherization technicians which is the
13 first pre-apprenticeship kind of program
14 for folks who can do weatherization work.
15 I might say that our first effort was
16 financed through BMA and paid for by
17 Sieman's Building Technologies and our
18 second class is paid through the
19 Department of Labor and we are an approved
20 employment training provider for the
21 Department of Labor.

22 The work that we've been doing for
23 the last two-and-a-half years was kind of
24 in advance of what's been happening with
25 the ARRA and has positioned us to assist

1 ABCD and the other CAP agencies in
2 Fairfield County in elaborating a program
3 that would address itself to preparing all
4 sorts of individuals for work in energy
5 saving kinds of work, and other kinds of
6 green jobs as well, because we have
7 trained also for lead, asbestos, mold and
8 Hazwoper and OSHA and so what we would
9 like to see is that the training effort be
10 a continuum, hence the approach that Mr.
11 Tisdale described, of involving all the
12 actors who would be working on training
13 issues.

14 So we go from a pre-apprenticeship
15 right on through university and graduate
16 work. The effort that would be involved
17 includes the Community Action Agencies
18 which are particularly well placed in
19 terms of outreach, not only for the homes
20 that have to be weatherized and the
21 buildings that have to be weatherized, but
22 also for the attraction of all of the
23 people who would be qualified and
24 interested in getting training at
25 different levels.

1 It's a matrix that we'd like to see
2 put together that could reemploy people
3 who are in the trades already, that could
4 reemploy those who are unemployed now of
5 whatever they have been doing before that
6 really does go to the pre-apprenticeship
7 program because we have a large urban low
8 income group that needs to find new jobs
9 and new outlets that would make their
10 families more economically stable.

11 In a couple of remarks about the
12 plan itself, um, we can only facilitate
13 the DSS and DOE for elaborating such a
14 comprehensive plan. We think that there
15 are a few things that could possibly make
16 it more comprehensive and integrate all
17 the actors to a higher degree. We noticed
18 that DECD will be going out to bid for
19 everything from the recruitment and
20 screening of families right on through, of
21 course, the contracting of the work to be
22 done, and we would like to have the
23 Community Action Agencies involved in that
24 process.

25 As you know the energy assistance

1 is the chief funnel for the families and
2 the agencies are already equipped with an
3 elaborate IT system that permits the
4 communication, so we'd like to see in
5 Fairfield County at least, if not
6 throughout the state, that all of the
7 agencies involved be on the same IT system
8 and that all of that information is
9 integrated and that the families are
10 recommended through the CAAs. It must be
11 said that the CAAs have never been able to
12 get to the end of the list of people
13 wanting to be weatherized and so there is
14 a wealth of referrals already in the
15 system that could be used for purposes of
16 the ARRA investments.

17 The cross training we feel is
18 extremely important. You mentioned some
19 of the competencies, core competencies,
20 that need to be included in training and
21 we feel very strongly about that. If
22 you're going to weatherize homes of
23 children six and under, um, we would like
24 to have assurances that folks are trained
25 in lead abatement techniques as well, and

1 those must be a 40-hour course and cannot
2 be a one-day course.

3 There are other kinds of cross
4 references that were extremely useful if
5 you're dealing with people's furnaces,
6 they're likely to be wrapped in some cases
7 with asbestos and the pipes are almost
8 always wrapped in asbestos. That has to
9 come out of the house. We'd like to have
10 an integrated approach into the safety and
11 health of each household. And therefore
12 when you walk into a house, use it as a
13 good excuse to get all the abatement
14 issues, health and safety issues and
15 weatherization issues taken care of at the
16 same time.

17 I think that's about it that I can
18 say in support of what Mr. Tisdale already
19 told you. One last word about the
20 Community Action Agencies themselves.
21 They are a tremendous repository of
22 knowledge and information about the
23 families we hope to impact. And at first
24 blush everybody was horrified by the fact
25 that there were additional partners that

1 would take away from the investment given
2 to the Community Action Agencies. I think
3 in Fairfield County the agencies that have
4 had the foresight to get in front of the
5 problem and to work with the partners that
6 have been identified in your proposition,
7 your proposal. The one that is not is
8 DECD and I would encourage you to find
9 every opportunity to regroup the buildings
10 that would be weatherized through DECD and
11 through the State of Connecticut to the
12 current system because the CAAs have
13 proven over more than 25 years their
14 capacity for doing this kind of work and
15 doing it successfully with low income
16 families. Thank you.

17 MR. TISDALE: Now you understand
18 why I made my remarks brief.

19 MS. GIANNINI: Great, thank you
20 very much. Is there anyone else? I see
21 all nos remaining of people that are here.
22 Did I get everyone to sign in that is
23 here, because even if you're not speaking
24 we would really like you to sign and make
25 sure we know who attended.

1 Okay. Well, that concludes the
2 hearing for now unless more people come in
3 and have something to say. We're going to
4 be here until 1:30 to hear the comments
5 and to collect additional comments on the
6 plan. So you're welcome to stay with us
7 if you'd like.

8
9 (Whereupon, a break was taken after
10 which the following proceedings were had:)

11
12 MS. CORREA: Okay. This is Rosa
13 Correa, C-o-r-r-e-a. I represent Family
14 Re-Entry, Inc. and my comment and question
15 is I didn't see listed as those vulnerable
16 communities people who are ex-offenders.
17 Some of them do live in transitional homes
18 such as Department of Correction and
19 transitional homes and one of the concerns
20 that I have is they might be excluded from
21 training or that ultimately would exclude
22 them from jobs. And basically what I do
23 is my job is an employment coordinator
24 trying to seek employment for them. So if
25 that could be included in your list of

1 vulnerable populations, it really will be
2 very helpful to all of us who do this
3 work. Now, that's not a question; right?

4 MS. GIANNINI: That's a comment.

5 MS. CORREA: But there isn't any
6 reference to them at all, so I appreciate
7 it. Thank you very much.

8 MS. GIANNINI: Thank you so much.
9 We're taking comments all day so if
10 anybody wants to come back, we're here.

11
12 (Whereupon, a break was taken after
13 which the following proceedings were had:)

14
15 MS. GIANNINI: Okay. Back on the
16 record. This is Mike McCarthy speaking
17 now from The Workforce.

18 MR. MCCARTHY: I'll be brief and
19 then I'll leave this report here and I did
20 find a typo in it as I was reading it this
21 morning.

22 MS. GIANNINI: We'll get the point.

23 MR. MCCARTHY: So, again, my name
24 is Mike McCarthy, I'm the Assistant Vice
25 President for new business development at

1 Workplace, Inc. I want to thank you, the
2 Connecticut Department of Social Services,
3 for the opportunity to testify today
4 regarding the proposed state plan for
5 Weatherization Assistance to low income
6 persons.

7 I'm here today as a representative
8 of Workplace, Inc. Southwestern
9 Connecticut's Regional Workforce
10 Development Board. The Workplace
11 administers workforce development funds
12 and coordinates providers of job training
13 and education programs to meet the needs
14 of residents and employers in the
15 Southwestern Connecticut region. Our
16 mission is to develop a well-educated,
17 well-trained, and self-sufficient
18 workforce that can compete in the changing
19 global marketplace. Essential to our
20 mission is the creation of a seamless,
21 coordinated system of education, training
22 and employment that is customer centered
23 and easily accessible, that meets the
24 needs of both employers for the employable
25 people and of persons who face barriers to

1 the kind of employment that provides
2 economic self-sufficiency; has a high
3 level of commitment and collaboration from
4 business, education, government and
5 community agencies including economic
6 development, employment and training, and
7 human services; and has defined goals and
8 performance standards.

9 The Southwestern Connecticut region
10 is comprised of the following towns and
11 I'll just list them; Ansonia, Beacon
12 Falls, Bridgeport, Darien, Derby, Easton,
13 Fairfield, Greenwich, Monroe, New Canaan,
14 Norwalk, Oxford, Seymour, Shelton,
15 Stamford, Stratford, Trumbull, Weston,
16 Westport and Wilton.

17 I'm here this morning to discuss
18 one of our programs that is highly
19 relevant to the matter before you called
20 the Bridgeport Jobs Funnel. I should note
21 that we work closely with the Community
22 Action Projects, community colleges and
23 vocational technical schools in our region
24 and that our testimony in no way
25 diminishes our support for these very

1 worthwhile and important programs. The
2 purpose of my testimony is to strongly
3 advocate for incorporating job training
4 and education into the Weatherization
5 Assistance Program. I can envision this
6 program helping thousands of low income
7 homeowners to make their homes more energy
8 efficient and I can see this program
9 benefiting those very homeowners by
10 building pathways out of poverty by
11 creating jobs and work in their
12 communities. As Van Jones, the guru of
13 Green jobs, so articulately stated, "I
14 want people to buy a hybrid, I want people
15 to put solar panels on their second homes.
16 But the people struggling for bus fare in
17 this county, they have a place in the new
18 economy." I'm going to read a quote from
19 Van Jones.

20 "Try this experiment. Go knock on
21 someone's door in West Oakland, Watts or
22 Newark and say: 'We got a really big
23 problem.' They say, 'We do? We do?'
24 'Yeah, we got to save the polar bears!
25 You may not make it out of this

1 neighborhood alive, but we gotta save the
2 polar bears!'

3 We need a different on-ramp for
4 people from disadvantaged communities.
5 The leaders of the climate establishment
6 came in through one door and now they want
7 to squeeze everyone through that same
8 door. It's not going to work. If we want
9 to have a broad-based environmental
10 movement, we need more entry points.

11 You can't take a building you want
12 to weatherize, put it on a ship to China
13 and then have them do it and send it back.
14 So we are going to have to put people to
15 work in this country--weatherizing
16 millions of buildings, putting up solar
17 panels, constructing wind farms. Those
18 green-collar jobs can provide a pathway
19 out of poverty for someone who has not
20 gone to college.

21 Remember, a big chunk of the
22 African-American community is economically
23 stranded. The blue-collar,
24 stepping-stone, manufacturing jobs are
25 leaving. And they're not being replaced

1 by anything. So you have this whole
2 generation of young blacks who are
3 basically in economic freefall.

4 If we can get these youth in on the
5 ground floor of the solar industry now,
6 where they can be installers today,
7 they'll become managers in five years and
8 owners in ten. And then they become
9 inventors. The green economy has the
10 power to deliver new sources of work,
11 wealth and health to low income people--
12 while honoring the earth. If you can do
13 that, you just wiped out a whole bunch of
14 problems. We can make what is good for
15 poor black kids good for the polar bears
16 and good for the country."

17 Van Jones, as told to Thomas
18 Friedman in the October 17, 2007 issue of
19 The New York Times.

20 I want to illustrate that only
21 because of the strong sense that we have
22 that these programs are green jobs that
23 we've all heard about in the news and that
24 these are opportunities for advancement
25 for low income folks in our community.

1 I want to tell you about the
2 Bridgeport Jobs Funnel specifically today
3 which takes this concept and puts it into
4 practice right here in our city. The Jobs
5 Funnel is a result of several key state
6 holders in the City of Bridgeport
7 including the Office of the Mayor, Career
8 Resources, Anne Casey Foundation, The
9 Fairfield County Foundation, the
10 Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition, Local
11 Carpenters Unions 210 and other community,
12 business and trade organizations. Some of
13 our partners may be here today. Our
14 program was seeded with an investment of
15 \$75,000 from State of Connecticut,
16 Department of Labor in early 2009.

17 The Jobs Funnel projects like
18 Bridgeport's are well established in other
19 Connecticut municipalities, including
20 Hartford, New Haven and Waterbury. The
21 state's One-Stop Career Center systems
22 plays an integral role in the outreach and
23 recruitment of participants, as well as
24 provides access to training and support
25 services. Participants receive work

1 readiness skills training and educational
2 remediation, making them job ready in all
3 aspects to meet the needs of the employer
4 and to retain employment.

5 Funnel projects are designed so
6 that residents benefit from economic
7 development initiatives. By adapting this
8 project to the WAP initiative, residents
9 of low income communities that are in most
10 need of weatherization assistance and who
11 are also in most need of job training will
12 benefit in two ways.

13 I've had the privilege of managing
14 the Bridgeport Jobs Funnel project over
15 the last several months. It's focus has
16 been to train individuals to enter jobs in
17 the construction industry, and take
18 advantage of ongoing and planned economic
19 development in and around Bridgeport.
20 The program is designed to give
21 participants a well-rounded training and
22 education experience to make them as
23 work-ready as possible. The same can be
24 done with a weatherization industry focus.

25 For instance, the Bridgeport Jobs

1 Funnel has enjoyed the cooperation of
2 Carpenters' Local 210, which provides
3 training and awareness of construction
4 safety and health concerns in the
5 construction industry, as well as
6 terminology, tool and material
7 identification, basic math/measuring and
8 work ethic/job site procedures. The
9 services of a private training group,
10 (EMGC Inc. of Shelton) were also included
11 to give participants training in Hazwoper,
12 H-a-z-w-o-p-e-r, asbestos abatement and
13 lead-based paint training. By partnering
14 with Career Resources, the STRIVE program,
15 which is a program for soft skill
16 development and attitude training and how
17 to teach people the importance of work
18 readiness is also a component of the
19 funnel and was administered through an
20 intensive multi-week job readiness
21 workshop, with a focus on helping
22 graduates obtaining entry-level
23 employment.

24 A job funnel model also allows for
25 the formation and expertise of a steering

1 committee, which allows for input on
2 program development from a cross-section
3 of the community, and a feeling of
4 connection to the program through multiple
5 channels and interests.

6 I will be happy to answer any
7 additional questions about Bridgeport
8 Funnel Job program or any aspects of The
9 WorkPlace, Inc.

10 MS. GIANNINI: You're going to give
11 us this as well?

12 MR. MCCARTHY: So that's it. I
13 don't know if you have any questions or
14 this is just more a listening for you?

15 MS. GIANNINI: This is more of a
16 listening at this point for us. We don't
17 comment on anything, we just gather as
18 much information as we can get.

19 MR. MCCARTHY: I think we're
20 supportive of the plan as it was put
21 forward and that's important on the work
22 we want to see happening here in
23 Connecticut so thank you.

24 MS. GIANNINI: Thank you for
25 coming. We appreciate your points.

1 MR. MCCARTHY: Not a problem.

2 MS. BISI: Written comments were
3 also submitted by Bill Villano,
4 V-i-l-l-a-n-o, of Department of Social
5 Services.

6

7 (Whereupon, a break was taken after
8 which the following proceedings were had:)

9

10 MR. JOHNSON: Curt Johnson with
11 Connecticut Fund for the Environment from
12 New Haven. I have a little written stuff
13 for you and I'm going to say a few words.

14 MS. BISI: The director just
15 stepped away for a few minutes. Do you
16 mind holding for a few?

17 MR. JOHNSON: No, I could wait.

18

19 (Whereupon, a break was taken after
20 which the following proceedings were had:)

21

22 MR. JOHNSON: I just noticed that
23 ABCD was here and while I was sitting here
24 I was asking if I can glance at their
25 testimony, but I don't need to, that's not

1 a big deal. I can just go ahead with --

2 MS. GIANNINI: Yeah, why don't you
3 go ahead.

4 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. So I've
5 submitted some written testimony and I'll
6 just introduce myself, Curt Johnson, I run
7 programs of Connecticut Fund for the
8 Environment. We're the largest, I guess
9 largest environmental advocacy
10 organization in the state and have about
11 5,000 members around the state. And our
12 particular -- and our obvious interest is
13 in the energy efficiency aspects and how
14 they relate to various global warming
15 efforts around the state and my first
16 comment is that we're pleased. It's
17 obvious looking at your plan that you guys
18 have done quite a bit of coordination with
19 other groups that are working on this
20 effort which is a very positive thing, and
21 several of my comments have to do with
22 continuing that coordination effort. And
23 obviously this is a really important
24 opportunity for the state given the
25 dramatic increase in funding available for

1 this effort and finally that there's
2 obviously many, many cross-social and
3 environmental benefits which are actually
4 very positive for the state including
5 energy savings for low income folks and
6 energy reduction in the state and
7 potential training and expansion of a
8 green work force.

9 So my main comment which it goes
10 from page 1 into page 2 is the importance
11 I think of DSS working with others that
12 you've identified as partners in your
13 program which is really DECD and the
14 Energy Efficiency and Load Management Fund
15 people in particular in investing in a
16 common protocol and data collection system
17 for really precisely identifying the
18 amount of energy savings and therefore
19 greenhouse gas savings that are made real
20 by this program, but are realized by this
21 program.

22 And there's actually three reasons
23 for that. Just last year the state passed
24 Public Act 08-98 and that is, um, mandates
25 very aggressive greenhouse gas emissions

1 in Connecticut so there's going to be a
2 need to document those reductions and DEP
3 is currently working on a greenhouse gas
4 inventory and I had a conversation last
5 week with Tracy Babbidge who's setting up
6 that effort about the fact that, you know,
7 that inventory should be designed to be
8 able to be updated and influenced by
9 building energy savings which occur in the
10 state, and certainly this program is one
11 big area where that can occur.

12 So, in other words, by properly
13 coordinating with DEP we can prove the
14 amount of progress we've made in that
15 greenhouse reduction which is important
16 towards meeting that mandate. But more
17 importantly, that program allows in the
18 future for possible trade in of greenhouse
19 gas credits and obviously there's a very
20 big discussion in Washington right now
21 about a National Cap and Trade program and
22 certainly from our understandings from the
23 discussion down there, there's a lot of
24 concern and a lot of consideration for
25 giving credits, greenhouse gas reduction

1 credits, to early actions which are
2 achieved in states. So that's the second
3 one.

4 And the third one is that the state
5 has another set of green energy or
6 renewable energy credits that are required
7 for electric generators to procure and
8 show our part of their portfolio that
9 they're selling to Connecticut residents,
10 so certainly there's the potential for
11 this weatherization effort and the energy
12 savings at least on the electricity side
13 that are generated by it to be available
14 as part of that credit system.

15 All of those have potential
16 monetary advantages so they could have
17 advantages for your weatherization
18 subgrantees or the State of Connecticut or
19 some combination thereof. So that we're
20 quantifying and doing consistently with
21 those other partners who are actively
22 engaged in this wider effort on energy
23 efficiency and the other agencies which
24 I've listed here which are pretty obvious;
25 the DECD, the DEP, as well as the

1 electrical utilities in the state who are
2 in Efficiency and Load Management Fund
3 Board.

4 So there's an opportunity there and
5 we suggest that you invest, potentially we
6 put down a certain sort of potential
7 number of a million dollars, that's just
8 off the top of my head, but an amount of
9 money that can bring the department into
10 partnership with these other groups who we
11 really need to work together with to
12 document the savings in a consistent and
13 very reliable way. So that's point number
14 one.

15 Point number two is just, again,
16 congratulating the department on seeing
17 the importance of coordinating
18 weatherization with other parallel
19 efficiency programs in the state and it
20 certainly makes sense to us that you're
21 starting out with CL&P WRAP home check
22 energy audit tool which is used by the
23 utilities and it's a very familiar tool
24 with the private contractors who provide
25 energy efficient services throughout the

1 state. So that's a good place to start
2 and there may need to be development of a
3 different kind of protocol for the
4 multi-family much larger structures which
5 involve more complex, you know, energy
6 systems, but that also be done and it be
7 tied into sort of the reduction
8 coordination protocol that I mentioned in
9 the previous comment.

10 And the last comment is just sort
11 of an investment protocol that we
12 certainly support the draft plans comments
13 about encouraging use of renewable and
14 alternative and other green practices on
15 page 4, but we also point out that it's
16 important to recognize that the
17 Weatherization Program is pretty well
18 designed to invest in the most cost
19 effective measures first, that's something
20 we support.

21 In one of the aspects, I haven't
22 looked at the full plan, I've looked at
23 the one that I got off -- the shorter one
24 that I got off the web a few days ago, but
25 we think there's an advantage in looking

1 at some of the basic, reviewing some of
2 the basic materials you guys use. I'm
3 pleased to see that your full plan does
4 identify cellulose as a preferred blow-in
5 method in the side walls, that's positive
6 because it's recycled and it's also
7 positive because it's low toxicity level
8 so it's possible I think to take a relook
9 at weatherization materials in general
10 from a point of view of are they -- do
11 they come from recycled materials which
12 means that they are usually much lower
13 energy demand materials to begin with
14 which is positive for the environment and
15 also often, not always, but often have
16 lower levels of some of the toxic
17 compounds like formaldehyde and volatile
18 organic compounds.

19 And another example of that is that
20 they're right here in Bridgeport, there's
21 a center for green buildings that does
22 sell denim-based cotton insulation. It
23 has a couple of advantages to it, it's
24 number one not made of petroleum products
25 so it has a much -- and it's a hundred

1 percent recycled cuttings from blue jeans
2 and extra scraps that would otherwise go
3 to God knows where. But also because it's
4 cotton-based it also has less concerns
5 generally, from the little we know about
6 it, in terms of emissions, you know, and
7 also in terms of worker exposure because
8 it's mainly cotton fibers. So we would
9 recommend starting with looking at green
10 alternatives within the world we already
11 work in and it's potential is possible
12 that this program because of it's scale,
13 even if it were to invest in 30 or 40 or
14 50 percent of that material, it could
15 really increase the market demand and the
16 distribution network in Connecticut to
17 provide those kind of alternatives to
18 other systems. So there's an advantage
19 there.

20 And, finally, just it might be
21 helpful to clarify how you intend to
22 support renewable alternative energy
23 systems and also possibly in a higher,
24 slightly higher investment systems in some
25 of the energy efficiency programs that

1 perhaps you're not able to reach right now
2 because of budget constraints, but would
3 like to. Those systems might be better
4 served by a small set aside that, um,
5 maybe in the neighborhood of two to \$4
6 million to include in that 7.1 million and
7 it could be administered by you or a low
8 income fund, but be directed at
9 demonstration projects for low income folk
10 that could potentially there could be some
11 design competition aspects there.

12 The last, I suppose, question for
13 you that is not included in the comment,
14 but I don't know if it would be eligible
15 under the program, there is a significant,
16 as you know a significant amount of new
17 lower income housing that is being
18 developed throughout the state and that
19 certainly, you know, and I'm talking about
20 combination of supportive housing and also
21 rental subsidized housing, but
22 particularly supportive housing, and I
23 guess my question is, is it conceivable
24 for this program to support some slightly
25 more consistent design work and advanced

1 design work and technical support for that
2 effort so that green and advanced energy
3 efficient programs can be designed into
4 those kinds of projects in a little bit
5 more of a comprehensive training and
6 technical support in the design stage for
7 those programs. I know often those
8 aspects are cut out of low or not even
9 considered to be included in low income
10 housing or lower income housing projects
11 because of cost consideration, but perhaps
12 a combination of that technical support be
13 used perhaps as part of this program and
14 even more sensibly outside of this program
15 there could be a small subsidy available
16 because oftentimes as you, Department of
17 Social Services, realizes, the most cost
18 effective time to invest in these
19 structures is in the design phase. So
20 anyways, that's it.

21 MS. GIANNINI: That's a good
22 suggestion, even though it's outside the
23 purview of the this program, it's a
24 suggestion I can bring to the board
25 because of staff members that work with

1 supportive housing. I'm not sure exactly
2 what they've done in design phases in
3 public housing in investing in green and
4 we got your information and you sound like
5 you're an expert on this stuff.

6 MR. MCCARTHY: Well, I wouldn't go
7 that far. I was saying that actually one
8 of the interesting pieces was that my
9 first job as an adult was working with a
10 small housing agency in New Haven that did
11 weatherization and a number of outlying
12 towns so, you know, I became familiar with
13 that and that was my thing was energy
14 stuff at that time, but we're going back
15 three decades or so now.

16 MS. GIANNINI: A lot has changed
17 since then; right?

18 MR. MCCARTHY: A lot has changed,
19 exactly. Do you have any questions for me
20 or comments?

21 MS. GIANNINI: No, I don't, but
22 I've rethought your request to see the
23 ABCD comments and you can look at this
24 because it's public information anyway and
25 you can even ask them for it. But they

1 did ask additional comments -- they
2 present that to us, but then they did
3 comment in addition to that so.

4 MR. MCCARTHY: Okay. Good. Is it
5 possible just to have an off the record
6 question for you that isn't part of the
7 hearing?

8 MS. GIANNINI: We could take it off
9 the record.

10

11 (Discussion off the record)

12

13 (Whereupon, a short break was taken after
14 which the following proceedings were had:)

15

16 MS. GIANNINI: I'm ready to listen.
17 Thank you for coming down.

18 MR. MANN: I'm Joseph Mann. Thank
19 you for the opportunity and should I --

20 MS. GIANNINI: Just start.

21 MR. MANN: I know I don't need much
22 time.

23 MS. GIANNINI: That's fine. Take
24 as much time as you need.

25 MR. MANN: I just wanted to come

1 and make sure for the record I indicated
2 that I'm the president and CEO of NEON,
3 Norwalk Economic Opportunities Now in
4 Norwalk and to come and just to speak
5 certainly on behalf of the Connecticut
6 state plan as in regard to the American
7 Recovery and Reinvestment Act
8 Weatherization Assistance Program. And I
9 think as -- I think the idea of the plan
10 is that, you know, as regards to community
11 actions agencies there's five of them that
12 do it now and then there will be some
13 subcontractors. We would be one of those
14 other community actions agencies that
15 would be a subcontractor as we're not one
16 of the four that do it currently. And I
17 really just wanted to support the plan and
18 indicate that certainly NEON is prepared
19 to engage itself, you know, in making this
20 happen, committing our agency in whatever
21 and all that we can do to make this a
22 success. I do believe that it can be a
23 success as contemplated in the plan, you
24 know, I certainly think that the community
25 action network is one that has a long

1 history in weatherization and even NEON
2 used to be very much involved in it. So
3 we're certainly prepared to go forward.
4 We've been meeting with ABCD here in
5 Bridgeport and CTE down in Stamford just
6 to make sure that Fairfield County is
7 represented in this endeavor and ready to
8 move forward, you know, to weatherize the
9 homes, to create the jobs and to do all
10 those things that are necessary to ensure
11 that Connecticut has a successful
12 implementation of its plan. That's
13 probably about it.

14 MS. GIANNINI: Thank you.

15 MS. BISI: Glad you came down.

16 MR. MANN: Well, thank you all so
17 much and I'm glad I made it, even with
18 five minutes left.

19

20 (Hearing concluded at 1:30 p.m.)

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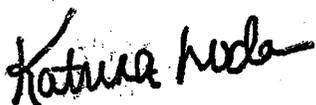
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CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

I, Katrina Loda, a Notary Public and Court Reporter for the above state, do hereby certify that the foregoing Public Hearing of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Weatherization Assistance Program was taken before me on May 5, 2009, at The Watermark, 3030 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor Lounge, Bridgeport, Connecticut, and I certify that this is a true and accurate transcription of my stenographic notes so taken.

I further certify that I am not interested in the events of this cause.



Katrina Loda, LSR
Notary Public

My commission expires May 31, 2013.