

February 16, 2011

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Hart Senate Office Building
Room 502
Washington, D. C. 20510

Re: Funding Threats to CDBG

Dear Senator Whitehouse:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Cranston Department of Community Development to voice our concerns to any cuts or elimination of the CDBG program in FY11 or FY12. Community Development funding is vital to the residents of the City of Cranston. Cuts or elimination of the program will severely impact the lives of our low and moderate income citizens who rely on CDBG funded programs. Listed below are some examples of programs and projects funded through the Community Development Block Grant Program in the City of Cranston.

Public Services funded with CDBG funds include the following non-profit organizations, some of whom would not be able to provide needed services without CDBG funding:

Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP) Family Health Clinic
Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP) Counseling Center
Cranston Department of Senior Services Adult Day Care
Cranston Department of Senior Services Nursing Outreach
Hope Alzheimer's Center
St. Vincent de Paul Emergency Food Bank
Day One (Counseling of Sexual Assault Victims)
Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center (Housing and resources for battered and abused spouses and children)
Cranston Community Learning Center-After School Remedial Classes
Saving Sight Rhode Island
R. I. Center for Law & Public Policy
Emergency Fuel Assistance Program

The Department of Community Development has funded many projects in the City of Cranston using CDBG funding through the years. The following are some of the major projects that have enhanced the quality of life for our residents:

Street reconstruction and resurfacing in qualified areas

Hope Alzheimer's Center, original building and addition
CCAP Dental Clinic
CCAP Adult Learning and GED Center
Tot Park renovations in qualified areas
Cranston Youth Center
Cranston Stadium Fire Code Upgrades
Cranston Fire Station 3 Upgrades
Energy Saving Lighting Program in qualified Cranston Schools
Residential Rehabilitation Program, over 221 units in 5 years
First Time Homebuyer Programs

We ask you to oppose any legislation that would eliminate or reduce funding for CDBG in FY11 or FY12 as reductions or elimination of the Block Grant funding would affect a large number of low to moderate Cranston Residents. Please allow the City of Cranston to provide needed services, and decent, safe and sanitary housing to our Low and Moderate community through our CDBG funding.

Sincerely,

Stephanie M. Susi
Interim Director