



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF

RENEWAL AND HOUSING OFFICIALS

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March 2, 2010

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Secretary
US Department of Housing & Urban Development
451 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Donovan:

The New York State Association of Renewal and Housing Officials, Inc (NYSARHO) requests your support for using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds as a resource to increase the federal public housing stock while also providing the ongoing operating and capital funds to support those new federal housing units. A number of NYS housing authorities are pursuing the transfer of state owned public housing to the federal public housing program, by March 17, 2010, as is allowed under a provision of ARRA that temporarily lifts the public housing stock ceiling for the first time since 1999.

In adding new units to the federal program, we also ask you to assure that your budget request in FY 2011 and subsequent years incorporate increases in the public housing operating fund (100%) and capital fund (accrual and backlog) commensurate with the number of housing units added to the public housing inventory under ARRA. Adding additional units without additional funding will be problematic for all housing agencies in New York State.

This is a unique opportunity to expand the housing stock available to low-income families, elderly and disabled in many New York communities. We look forward to working with you on important housing and community development issues throughout 2010.

Sincerely,

Jeff McTiernan, President, NYSARHO
ED, Ilion Housing Authority / ED, Village of St. Johnsville Housing Authority