



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF

RENEWAL AND HOUSING OFFICIALS

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February 25, 2010

Michael A. Skrebutenas, Deputy  
Commissioner  
Office of Housing Operations, DHCR  
Hampton Plaza, 38-40 State Street  
Albany, NY 12207

Mario Musolino, Executive Deputy  
Commissioner  
NYS Department of Labor  
W. Averell Harriman State Office Campus  
Albany, NY 12240

Gary Hallock, Deputy Commissioner  
Office of Community Development, DHCR  
Hampton Plaza, 38-40 State Street  
Albany, NY 12207

Brian Segel, Director, NSP  
NYS Housing Finance Agency  
641 Lexington Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of the statewide members of the NYS Association of Renewal and Housing Officials (NYSARHO), we write to ask your help in strengthening the long-standing partnership between your agencies and the local housing and community development agencies operating in New York State.

Your work in the administration of existing programs, as well as your additional role of implementing the new federal programs provides an opportunity for multiple new partnerships that maximize the many roles played by public housing and community development agencies across New York State; at a time when local strategic partnerships are more important than ever. Programs such as the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), the new Federal Housing Trust Fund, federal stimulus (ARRA) programs including Department of Labor workforce development programming offer opportunities to redefine the state and local partnership with housing and community development agencies.

As you are aware, New York's Public Housing Authorities and Community Development Agencies are doing much more than merely managing federal programs. Many are establishing non-profits in order to engage in development and service-related programs. Most are seeking new sources of grant funding, some are managing non-federal properties, and many are exploring and engaging in opportunities that enable them to meet the needs of the larger community rather than just their own agency.

We are requesting a meeting in Albany during February/March to discuss and explore active engagement in mutually supportive partnerships with your agencies that include but are not limited to:

- Maximizing the role of housing and community development agencies in neighborhood stabilization and in meeting the NSP federal requirement that 25% of funding must be used to purchase and redevelop abandoned or foreclosed homes or residential properties that will be used to house individuals or families at or below 50 percent of area median income.



- Leveraging investments through the housing trust fund and begin by fully participating in the state process for drafting the annual Allocation Plan which will detail how grants are made to eligible recipients.
- Pursue collaboration between PHAs/CDAs and Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) that was first encouraged by Secretary Donovan (HUD) and Secretary Solis (DOL) in the Federal Interagency Partnership announced in June 2009. The job training needs of the PHA resident population and newly mandated Section 3 compliance requirements combined with the resources and skills offered through WIB One-Stop Career Centers to increase training and employment opportunities make this a practical step forward.
- Work cooperatively with current and future funding initiatives that rely on local collaboration and cooperation to maximize investments.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to building and expanding partnerships that support our communities and the state. Please feel free to call NYSARHO President Jeff McTiernan to discuss this request. Our Federal Liaison, Pam Ray, will assist us in setting up the meeting. Please contact her at 703-522-8278 ([pamrayllc@earthlink.net](mailto:pamrayllc@earthlink.net)).

Sincerely,

Jeff McTiernan, President, NYSARHO

ED, Ilion Housing Authority / ED, Village of St. Johnsville Housing Authority

Paul Fink, Chairman, Legislative Committee & Community Development  
ED, Town of Islip Community Development

David Aldrich, Past President  
ED, Harriestown Housing Authority

Pat Lucia, Past President  
ED, Plattsburgh Housing Authority