

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

April 17, 2013

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor of New York
Executive Chambers
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On April 4, 2013, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Grant Programs of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) wrote Matthew Nelson, President of the New York State Office of Community Renewal, regarding the administration of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (“CDBG-DR”) funds related to the recovery from Superstorm Sandy in Westchester. In that letter, the Deputy Assistant Secretary indicated that New York State would be the administrator of the CDBG-DR funds allocated to Westchester. The April 4th letter references the current situation regarding the federal housing settlement entered into between HUD and the County in 2009.

Please know that all County departments have been directed to provide any assistance to facilitate the state’s role in the administration of these funds.

As both a county resident and as Governor, you are undoubtedly aware of the current situation regarding the housing settlement. Should you request, my office will provide any or all information that has been submitted to HUD that demonstrates the County’s full compliance with the settlement. The County is quite proud of the fact that it already has surpassed the 2013 benchmark of 300 fair and affordable units of housing as required under the settlement. Despite the lack of any judicial or administrative determination that the County is not in compliance with the settlement, on March 25, 2013, the Director of Community Planning and Development (“CPD”) indicated that HUD intended to terminate and reallocate the FY2011 payment of \$7.4 million awarded to the County after April 25, 2013. The majority of this \$7.4 million, nearly 80%, is slated to go to municipalities and organizations that are not subject to the settlement. The terms and conditions in the 2009 settlement are applicable only to 31 of 43 county municipalities.

In view of the fact that New York State will already be administering the CDBG-DR funds, the County will request of HUD that the state also administer the FY 2011 CPD funds. This would provide for an immediate release of the \$7.4 million to municipalities and not-for-profit organizations that have relied upon these CPD funds. Further, it alleviates the need for potential litigation the County is contemplating to get these funds released by HUD.

This provides a unique opportunity for the state to partner with HUD and the County for the benefit of Westchester municipalities that are not subject to the housing settlement. For example, the state can administer funds for Bi-Lingual Social Workers in Mamaroneck and medical equipment for Open Door in Port Chester and Sleepy Hollow. It can free up \$600,000 for improvements to the downtown gazebo in Peekskill and streetscape improvements in Ossining, among other projects that all will create jobs.

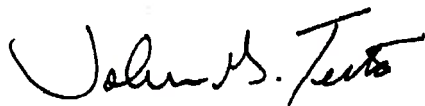
Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. Allow me to emphasize the urgency of this request. HUD intends to reallocate these funds on April 25, 2013, so a prompt response is requested. A letter is being sent to HUD Secretary Donovan urging HUD to have the state administer the FY2011 CPD funds. My office and all county departments are willing to discuss this further with any one you designate.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Astorino
Westchester County Executive

Chairman Kenneth Jenkins



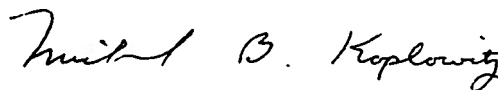
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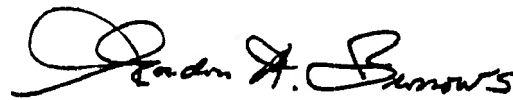


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