

October 16, 2012



Jarrold N. Bernstein
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Bernstein:



A centerpiece of the agenda of President Obama's administration was the commitment to weatherize 1,000,000 homes. The National Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) has accomplished the President's goal, with 100,000 housing units being completed in New York alone. When the President took steps to create jobs and stimulate the economy, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the WAP agencies rallied to provide the needed stimulus, creating thousands of jobs, directly in their agencies, and at subcontractors in their communities – fully achieving the goals the President laid out.



The importance and impact of the Weatherization programs has been recognized across party lines. It has impact on our National Security by moving the United States closer to Energy Independence. It impacts the Environment by reduction of energy use, carbon emissions and pollution. It creates and retains thousands of Jobs through the private sector contractors who complete the work, and it provides Social Benefits to low income residents, by ensuring that their homes are Healthy and Safe for their families and by making energy costs more affordable for the "energy poor."



These are some of the highlights of this program's achievements nationally to date.

- Reduced carbon emissions by 2.65 metric tons per year
- Every \$1.00 invested has returned \$1.80 in reduced energy bills/consumption
- Annual savings per family per year, \$437.00
- Over 7,000,000 homes have been served



However, with the end of ARRA, the entire infrastructure that has been built up – staff, offices, vehicles and equipment, as well as years of accumulated expertise – is in danger of being wasted. Weatherization has been hit doubly hard with a reduction of investment in the current fiscal year to only a quarter of the pre-ARRA funding level. The agencies have only maintained their infrastructure this year because of the DOE's ability to shift the funds to those states that had spent their ARRA allocations. If the current funding levels were to be repeated in the 2014 budget, Weatherization, and the Community Based Organizations that operate the program, will be devastated, perhaps irreversibly.



The importance of these local agencies in New York City cannot be overstated. These community-based agencies are best placed to understand local needs. These are, for the most part, multifaceted agencies who are also building communities, maintaining quality housing stock to keep working people in the cities, providing access to the safety net for the most disadvantaged.

Nowhere is the importance of strong local agencies more crucial than in the five boroughs of New York City, where our multiracial, multi-ethnic and diverse



organizations are working together to build a better community, with energy savings being one component of a much larger picture. Across the City and within the boroughs, our agencies collaborate on economic and social issues, not the least of which being the vast improvement in race relations that has been accomplished largely through a strong and diverse coalition of community groups in Brooklyn.



This is in addition to the fact that there are an estimated 35.6 million homes waiting to be served nationally. That's an opportunity to generate five times the savings we've already generated, bringing about energy savings in homes that would never have the opportunity to address massive inefficiencies, because tax credits and other incentives available to the more affluent are not useful to the poor and disadvantaged.




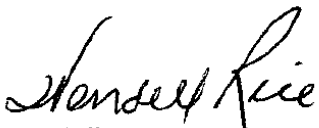
We are writing to you now to try to ensure that the President's proposed budget, now being put together, includes an appropriation to enable this essential work to continue. Please convey to the Administration our urgent request for a return of funding for the National Weatherization Assistance Program to the \$240 Million level that it was over the past few years, prior to before this year.


On October 30, 2012, we will be celebrating National Weatherization Day, with a series of events highlighting the important achievements of this program. We would be delighted to have a representative of the Administration join us for a day of events beginning with a briefing on what this program has accomplished in the Bronx, followed a celebration of our accomplishments and potential for the future in Brooklyn.





Sincerely,

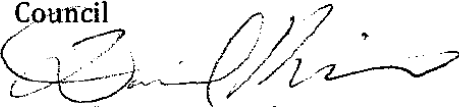

Yehudah Turner, Executive Director
ODA Community Development Corp.

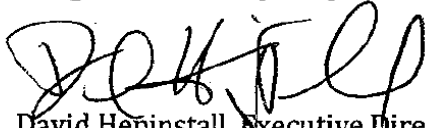

Wendell Rice, Weatherization Director
Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp.


Gary Brown, Executive Director
Sunset Park Redevelopment Committee


Eli Cohen, Executive Director
Crown Heights Jewish Community
Council


Joseph Barden, Executive Director
Margert Community Corporation


Daniel Rieber, Weatherization Director
Northern Manhattan Improvement
Corp.


David Hepinstall, Executive Director
Association for Energy Affordability

cc: Senator Charles Schumer
Commissioner Darryl Towns, Commissioner, NYS HCR
Tom Carey, NY State Director of Energy and Rehabilitation

