



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING



DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR OPERATING EXPENSE FUNDING

(Hartford, CT) -- Commissioner Seila Mosquera-Bruno of the Department of Housing announced today a Request for Applications (RFA) for Operating Expense Funding in the amount of over \$940,000 for qualified Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO). The RFA can be found on the Department's website listed under programs. A pre-submittal conference will be held on a later date to aide interested organizations.

The CHDO Operating Expense is designed to provide operating funds to CHDOs based on financial need and the expectation that the organization is utilizing or will utilize the City's HOME CHDO set-aside funding within 24 months of the award. Operating expenses must be reasonable and necessary costs that will further the CHDO's ability to develop, own, and/or sponsor an eligible housing development project.

"CHDOs are an important component of creating and preserving homes that are affordable. Providing this support helps these organizations remain financially viable and help sustain the necessary services that they provide. I look forward to our continuing collaboration with CHDOs around the state of Connecticut." said **Seila Mosquera-Bruno, Commissioner of Housing**.

"We commend the Department of Housing for finding creative ways to support community development organizations during this critical time. The seven Connecticut organizations in the NeighborWorks network, along with other organizations, are working on the front-lines providing services to their community residents who have lost income or are affected by Covid-19," said **Joanie Straussman Brandon, Regional Vice President of NeighborWorks America**. "These organizations provide residents with safe housing, access to food, housing counseling, assistance with internet access, and financial education. This is a time for all funding institutions to support the vital work of the community development organizations and we applaud DOH for recognizing this urgent need."

"We applaud Commissioner Mosquera-Bruno and the Department of Housing for choosing to use HOME funds made more flexible by the CARES Act to provide general operating support for Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) around the state. Operating support is a critical lifeline for organizations that develop and manage affordable housing," said **James Horan, Executive Director of LISC Connecticut**. "In these uncertain and challenging times, these funds will allow CHDOs to focus efforts on advancing their development pipelines to support Connecticut residents with safe, decent, and affordable housing."

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