

Schedule A – Local Program (Local Action Plan)

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A: IDENTIFICATION OF AREAS OF GREATEST NEED

City of Norwich Community Development Needs: Please see *Consolidated Annual Performance Report* for 2007-8 submitted to HUD in November, 2008 (attached) and the *Annual Action Plan* for 2008-9 (attached).

Areas of Greatest Need:

Norwich, a city of 40,000 residents in Eastern Connecticut, is the ninth poorest among 169 municipality in the state. (2000 census). The demographics of Norwich resemble those of larger cities such as New Haven and Bridgeport, Connecticut but the city lacks the more extensive employment, housing and transit opportunities of those larger cities. Eastern Connecticut is geographically isolated from the state's main cities and has a less diversified economy from those areas. The City is designated as a distressed community and a "priority school district" by the state of Connecticut. Norwich public schools receive Federal Title I funding due to the high poverty rates of local children. The school also received approximately \$50,000 of federal McKinney-Vento funds in the 2007-8 academic year to serve the transportation needs of homeless children. The City of Norwich serviced 145 homeless children last year. There is a homeless shelter for families located in Norwich and a two-year transitional living facility for single parent women and their children. There is an emergency winter shelter for single adults.

The percentage of children qualifying for free or reduced lunch in the public school system has risen from 44.3% in 2000 to 63.9% in 2008. Seven out of a total of nine elementary schools had over 50% of students eligible for the program. The eligibility rate for free and reduced lunch is greatest in the elementary school serving the target areas of Greenville and the Downtown Norwich. That school, Greenville School, had 87.4% of its students eligible for free or reduced