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**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**

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**New England**

NOV 17 2015

Mr. Timothy Sheehan  
Executive Director  
Norwalk Redevelopment Agency  
125 East Avenue  
P.O. Box 5125  
Norwalk, CT 06856-5125

Dear Mr. Sheehan:

The City of Norwalk received \$889,453 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in Federal Fiscal Year 2014, the year covered by this report. This is the Department's assessment of the use of those funds.

The Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, require that grant recipients submit annual performance reports for the programs covered under these Acts. The Acts also require the Secretary of HUD to determine annually that the grant recipient is in compliance with these statutes and has the continuing capacity to carry out the programs for which it received funds.

This review includes an analysis of each grantee's planning process; its management of funds; progress in carrying out the strategies and goals expressed in the Consolidated Plan; compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements; accuracy of required performance reports; and evaluation of its accomplishments in meeting key departmental objectives. This Annual Assessment is directed not only toward meeting the mandates of the statutes, but to provide the basis for working together collaboratively to achieve the revitalization goals of Norwalk. HUD congratulates Norwalk on the community's many accomplishments during this past year regarding the achievement of Departmental Objectives.

### **Noteworthy Accomplishments**

The City of Norwalk provided \$46,000 to the Norwalk Housing Authority for accessibility improvements to kitchens, bathrooms and common areas, which benefitted 39 low-income frail, elderly, and handicapped individuals. The City also provided \$30,000 to the Child Guidance Center of Mid-Fairfield for youth in need of psychiatric assessments and medication management.

## **Financial**

Norwalk met the standard that the Department uses to determine if communities are delivering program activities to residents in a timely manner. The grant recipient must have no more than 1.50 years of unexpended CDBG funds in its line of credit 60 days before the end of the program year. Norwalk's 60 day balance was equivalent to 1.17 years of grant funding. The City's federal single audit for the period ending June 30, 2014, was submitted timely to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse (FAC).

In 2014, Norwalk expended 84% of its CDBG funds on projects or activities that benefited low- and moderate-income individuals, exceeding the 70% requirement. Expenditures for planning and administration activities were below the expenditure cap.

## **Public Access**

If the City wishes to submit comments on this letter to HUD, please do so within 30 days of the date of this letter. HUD will consider any comments submitted, and may revise the content of HUD's letter or attach comments received from the City. If the Department does not hear from the City, HUD will assume that the City concurs and has no objections to our letter. After the 30 days have expired, this letter must be readily available to the public. There are several ways to make it available to the public. The City can assist the Department in this regard by sharing HUD's letter with the media; with a mailing list of interested persons; with members of your advisory committee; or with those who attended hearings or meetings. HUD will make this information available to the public upon request.

## **Conclusion**

The Department is rating our Connecticut grantees' overall performance in carrying out their programs as either satisfactory or unsatisfactory. This determination is based upon information available to this office, and does not reflect a comprehensive evaluation of specific activities. The City of Norwalk's performance has been determined to be satisfactory. The City obtained an Environmental Review (ER) waiver in FY2014 and will attend ER training on December 3, 2015 at the Hartford Field Office. The Department further deems that Norwalk has the continuing capacity to administer its programs.

If you have questions or would like to discuss any of these issues, please do not hesitate to call me or Kelsey Brown, Community Planning and Development Representative, at (860) 240-9723.

Sincerely,



Alanna C. Kabel

Director

Community Planning and Development