

January 11, 2023

Jennifer Maddox, Undersecretary
Department of Housing and Community Development
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 300
Boston, MA 02114

Re: CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Application for FY22/23

Dear Ms. Maddox,

I am writing to support of the following communities submission of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications to the MA Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). These grants will allow the regional lead towns of Edgartown, and Oak Bluffs, to continue meeting the housing rehabilitation and childcare voucher needs of LMI (low-moderate income) residents in 6 towns across the Commonwealth.

The affordable housing and economic development challenges across the Commonwealth are historically well documented; our current economic and health crisis has only exacerbated those challenges. Now, more than ever, CDBG funding is a vital resource for stabilizing and preserving existing homes in our region and ensuring that working families have affordable childcare.

The Housing Rehab Program provides homeowners earning less than 80% of the area median income with an opportunity to address critical safety and energy upgrades to their homes. The childcare component of these grants provides financial assistance for LMI families who rely on local, licensed childcare providers to care for their children while they are at work. Given the extraordinary current economic situation in our region, these programs typically reach full capacity by the third quarter of the fiscal year. Together, the Housing Rehab Program and Childcare Voucher Program play a vital role in stabilizing the year-round families living in these towns.

For FY22/23, The Resource Inc. is expected to work on 52 housing rehab projects through the following grants:

- The Oak Bluffs Regional Grant, serving the towns of Oak Bluffs, Tisbury and Chilmark, will provide approximately \$1.7 million to rehab about 25 homes and provide childcare vouchers for up to 35 families;
- The Edgartown Regional Grant, serving the towns of Edgartown, Aquinnah and West Tisbury, will provide approximately \$1.7 million to rehab about 26 homes and provide childcare vouchers for up to 28 families;

I urge you to provide the funds requested so that our local communities can continue their work with LMI homeowners in need of critical home repairs and with working families in need of safe and affordable childcare for their young children. Thank you for your consideration of these proposals.

Sincerely,