



Town of West Tisbury

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
West Tisbury, Massachusetts 02575

August 3, 2021

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 FY21

Dear Ms. Maddox,

I am writing in support of the FY21 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications to the MA Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for the Martha's Vineyard communities of Oak Bluffs, Tisbury, Chilmark and Edgartown, Aquinnah and West Tisbury. These grants will allow the towns to continue meeting the housing rehabilitation and childcare voucher needs of LMI (low-moderate income) residents of Martha's Vineyard. The grants for:

- The Edgartown Regional Grant, benefiting the Towns of Edgartown, Aquinnah and West Tisbury, will provide \$1.3 million for approximately 25 homes to be rehabbed and childcare vouchers for 35 families.
- The Oak Bluffs Regional Grant, benefiting Oak Bluffs, Tisbury & Chilmark will provide \$1.3 million for approximately 25 homes to be rehabbed and childcare vouchers for 30 families.


The affordable housing and economic development challenges on Martha's Vineyard 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 Programs provide homeowners earning less than 80% of the area median income with an opportunity to address the safety and energy upgrades to their homes. For FY20, The Resource Inc. is expected to work on 50 rehab projects for the following grants:

- Martha's Vineyard serving the Towns of Edgartown, Aquinnah, Tisbury, West Tisbury, and Oak Bluffs and Chilmark.

In addition, the childcare component of these grants provides financial assistance for the cost of childcare 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, the FY20 programs are expected to be at full capacity by the third quarter of 2021. Both programs are playing a vital role in stabilizing the year-round families living in these towns.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Rand', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Rand
Town Administrator