



May 4, 2017

Mr. Keith Cunningham
Louisiana Housing Corporation
2415 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Dear Mr. Cunningham,

We are writing to voice our concern over the ten point allocation for Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant Areas in the 2017 Qualified Allocation Plan. There was some discussion on the intent of this allocation at the QAP approval hearing last month, and it was our understanding that the distinction between “planning grant” and “implementation grant” was made unintentionally in regard to these points; that both were meant to be included. We were surprised to see that the final QAP has not been updated, and that planning area maps and definitions have been posted to the QAP page on LHC’s website, underlining that implementation areas are not to be included. Ten points is a significant allocation, and we ask that LHC reconsider the omission of implementation grant areas.

Both grants are awarded to struggling neighborhoods. Areas that have received implementation grants have undergone an intensive planning phase and are in the process of conscientious development, whereas planning grants are awarded to communities to create “comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plans” (source: HUD CNI website). One planning grant area in Louisiana received their award just last year and is still in the comprehensive planning stage. We believe that implementation grant recipients (AKA Treme/Iberville in New Orleans) are just as worthy of this point allocation, and are unclear as to why they would be deemed less so.

Thank you for your consideration, and we eagerly await your reply.

Sincerely,

Andreecia Morris
President/Chair, Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance

A Shared Initiative, Inc.
Alembic Community Development
Alliance for Affordable Energy
Asakura Robinson Company
Broadmoor Improvement Association
Committee for a Better New Orleans
Crescent City Community Land Trust
Desire Community Housing Corporation
Dillard University
Enterprise Community Partners
Family Resources of New Orleans
Finance Authority of New Orleans
First NBC Bank
Foundation for Louisiana
GCR Inc.
Global Green USA
Greater New Orleans Foundation
Green Coast Enterprises
GNO Fair Housing Action Center
Greater New Orleans, Inc.
Gulf Coast Housing Partnership
Harmony Neighborhood Development
Home by Hand, Inc.
Housing Authority of New Orleans
Iberia Bank
Iris Development
Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative
Jefferson Community Action Programs
Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative
Jerusalem Economic Development Corp.
JPMorgan Chase Bank
LA Association of Affordable Housing Providers
Louisiana Appleseed
Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Orgs.
Louisiana Homebuyer Education Collaborative
Louisiana Housing Alliance
Louisiana Housing Corporation
Lower 9th Ward Homeownership Association
McCormack Baron Salazar
Neighborhood Development Foundation
Neighborhood Housing Services
New Day Homeowner Services
New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity
New Orleans Redevelopment Authority
Northshore Housing Initiative
Office of Housing Policy & Community Development
Perez, APC
Preservation Resource Center
Project Homecoming
Providence Community Housing
Puentes New Orleans
Rebuilding Together New Orleans
Redmellon
Renaissance Neighborhood Development Corporation
Renaissance Property Group
SBP
Service Providers and Professionals Assoc.
Spottswood CDC
St. John the Baptist Housing Authority
St. Roch Community Development Corporation
Tulane/Canal Neighborhood Development Corporation
Tulane City Center
United Way of Southeast Louisiana
University of New Orleans
Urban Focus
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Volunteers of America
Wells Fargo
Whitney Bank

cc: Marjorianna Willman, Louisiana Housing Corporation
Ellen Lee, Director of New Orleans Office of Community Development
Jeff Hebert, Deputy Mayor of the City of New Orleans
Gregg Fortner, Executive Director of the Housing Authority of New Orleans
Councilmember LaToya Cantrell
Councilmember Jared Brossett
Councilmember Jason Williams
Councilmember Stacy Head