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COMMUNITY ADVOCATES
Where Meeting Basic Needs Inspires Hope

May 13, 2010

Mr. Steven L. Mahan, Director
Community Development Grants Administration
City Hall
200 E. Wells Street, Rm. 606
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Mr. Mahan

The purpose of this letter is to request that the Community Development Block Grant office allow Community Advocates to receive HPRP funds previously allocated to HACM in the amount of \$300,000. Community Advocates would like for these funds to be allocated to our Mediation-Financial Assistance grant (Grant # AR1511039174). I have spoken to Mr. Falek, Director of Housing Authority, and we both agree that it is in the best interest of the city of Milwaukee residents that this transfer of funds occurs. The City of Housing Authority learned after applying for those funds that they longer had a need. Community Advocates would like to use the funds under the program homelessness prevention, more specifically under mediation because the need for additional funding in this area has become more apparent over the last several months.

It is evident when looking at current court statistics what the effects of these funds are having in the court system and within the shelter system. According to a study conducted by UW-Madison, evictions for the month of December was less than 200, whereas last year at the same time there was over 500 evictions. During an economic crisis this is a remarkable feat, and should be applauded and expanded.

Community Advocates to date has utilized roughly 33% of those funds allocated for financial assistance-mediation during a six-month period. If we continue to spend at this rate the current funds would be expended within 1 ½ years. The addition of Housing Authority's allocation of \$300,000 would help to sustain our efforts to prevent homelessness into the 2012 budget cycle. Please let me know if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph L. Volk', written over a horizontal line.

Joseph L. Volk
Chief Executive Officer