

Sherman Park Community Association



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April 10, 2023

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RE: Letter of Commitment for the Healthy Homes and ECO Neighborhoods Project

Stacy Mc Swain
Secretary

Dear Grant Review Committee,

Members

Felice Green

Sherman Park Neighborhood Association (SPCA) is pleased to serve as an Implementation Partner for the City of Milwaukee's Healthy Homes and ECO Neighborhoods Project under the direction of the Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO).

Thomas J. Littellmann

Jacquelyn A. Rice

This letter of commitment will demonstrate our roles and responsibilities to this project over its three-year period. SPCA will house a Resilience Ambassadors who will, in essence, become part of the SPCA staff and will be fully integrated, having access to all resources needed to develop comprehensive programming, create effective communication for the public, and conduct outreach activities. With the assistance of the Resilience Ambassador, SPCA and its staff will engage in the following activities to make this project successful and sustainable:

Marcia Taylor

Dawn Turnipseed

PROGRAMS

Home Repair/ Housing
Survey

- Help lead the planning process and facilitation of meetings, trainings, conducting outreach, and providing referrals for residents.
- Coordinate and implement programs and activities designed to educate community members about the benefits of becoming ecologically conscious.
- Continue providing retrofitting, repairing and providing weatherization upgrades to homes in the Sherman Park community to lessen the high energy burdens for residents.
- Join with Clean Wisconsin to convene partner meetings and provide support to the Advisory Committee along with other city-wide, eco-based initiatives.
- Assist in the creation and marketing of culturally relevant communication campaigns using traditional methods and social media platforms to reach targeted populations.
- Prepare program evaluation and analysis for grant reporting purposes as federally required.

Community Organizing

ECO Neighborhood #2

Neighborhood
Improvement Program
(NIP)

Neighborhood
Improvement District #4
(NID)

Neighborhood Block
Watch/ Block Club

Together with ECO, Clean Wisconsin, and community partners, we work to will to empower underserved neighborhoods in Milwaukee by educating residents about the interconnectedness between reducing high energy burdens, and an improved quality of life. Collectively, we are committed to providing our communities with the tools necessary to affect change around issues of environmental justice.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mabel Lamb

Sincerely,



Mabel Lamb

Mabel Lamb, Executive Director, SPCA
414.704.6005



April 10, 2023

U.S. EPA Headquarters
Environmental Education Grant Program
Office of Environmental Education

Re: EPA EJ G2G Letter of Commitment

Dear Grant Review Committee,

This letter expresses the commitment of Clean Wisconsin to the City of Milwaukee Environmental Collaboration Office's (ECO) Environmental Justice Government to Government grant project – Healthy Homes & ECO Neighborhoods. This project addresses the needs of Milwaukee's north and south side residents that experience financial and health disparities worsened by old housing stock, lead laterals and barriers to housing improvements by increasing residents' knowledge about housing improvement programs and resources.

Since 1970, Clean Wisconsin has worked to protect and preserve Wisconsin's clean air, water and natural heritage through a mix of community-focused engagement, legal, policy, communications, and scientific expertise. We believe that affected communities are in the best position to determine the best climate-resilience strategies for their neighborhoods. For the past 10 years, we have partnered with the Century City Triangle Neighborhood Association (CCTNA) and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District to support the movement for local climate resilience in Milwaukee's northside 30th Street Industrial Corridor. Building a sense of community and shared trust, this collaboration has increased public awareness of the need and benefits of green infrastructure whether on private or public land. To date, 738 rain barrels, 8 trees, 39 StormGUARDens and 3,885 sq. ft. of rain gardens have been installed in the community contributing to an increased ability to prevent flooding through managing stormwater runoff and better air quality.

Our organization has a successful reputation of strengthening community partnerships and educational outreach that aligns with the ECO office's mission, working closely with the office to support CCTNA as they pursue an ECO Neighborhood designation. Additionally, many of our staff members have served on various working groups that pieced together the city's comprehensive Climate and Equity Plan. As a funded partner of this project, we can leverage the community trust and outreach framework that our organization has built to ensure this project uses tried and true strategies to raise residents' awareness of housing programs and resources in a meaningful way. We have also begun having conversations with partners to expand our work to the southside of Milwaukee where a large portion of residents are Spanish-speaking and many are underserved. We will use this momentum to connect the project to south side organizations and residents.

At Clean Wisconsin, we are committed to elevating the voices of underserved communities, promoting community resilience, and empowering neighborhoods. We will share our expertise and that of the communities we serve, to guide the project as part of the core project team and advisory committee. We will also recruit and train at least one full-time climate resilience ambassador with the goal of sustaining this position beyond the duration of this grant. This grant partnership not only improves capacity for community-led engagement work that Clean Wisconsin advances in Milwaukee, but it provides an opportunity for our organization to recruit from within the communities that we serve, so that we can accurately represent the lived experiences of our target audience. This position is critical as we continue



to expand our work to support underserved communities that are disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis.

We look forward to our continued partnership with the City of Milwaukee's ECO office. Please consider funding this significant proposal. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at nre-tana@cleanwisconsin.org.

Sincerely,

Nancy Retana

Nancy Retana
Resilient Communities Program Director

3959 N. 29th Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216



centurycityna@yahoo.com

April 10, 2023

U.S. EPA Headquarters
Environmental Education Grant Program
Office of Environmental Education

Re: EPA EJ G2G Letter of Commitment

Dear Grant Review Committee,

This letter expresses the commitment of Century City Triangle Neighborhood Association (CCTNA) to the City of Milwaukee Environmental Collaboration Office's (ECO) Environmental Justice Government to Government grant project. This project will address the needs of our residents that experience economic and health burdens exacerbated by old housing stock and barriers to housing improvements by increasing resident's knowledge about housing improvement programs and resources.

The City of Milwaukee ECO and community partners will implement the *Healthy Homes & ECO Neighborhoods* pilot program to expand outreach for housing improvement programs and the Inflation Reduction Act's financing opportunities for homeowners through the existing ECO Neighborhoods Initiative in underserved neighborhoods of Milwaukee.

CCTNA is a "Grassroots" organization committed to improving the quality of life opportunities of residents local and beyond. Over the past fifteen years, CCTNA has partnered with many organizations, including the City of Milwaukee to implement a number of programs related to quality housing. Our focus is collective environmental stewardship and education, using community based strategies. These strategies are in alignment with the City of Milwaukee's *ECO Healthy Homes & ECO Neighborhoods pilot program*.

As a partner and ECO Neighborhood, CCTNA will engage with other partner neighborhoods to provide in-kind support, develop and execute a research based framework that can produce measurable outcomes to:

- Support the project's Resilience Ambassadors in their outreach and marketing efforts.
- Provide community input as part of an Advisory Committee that gives feedback and guidance on the project's goals, strategies and outcomes.
- Foster connections to other neighborhood-based groups and organizations to expand outreach

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with the team to address long-standing environmental justice issues in our community through healthier housing.

Respectfully,

Yvonne McCaskill, Coordinator



April 3, 2023

U.S. EPA Headquarters
Environmental Education Grant Program
Office of Environmental Education

Re: EPA EJ G2G Letter of Commitment

Dear Grant Review Committee,

This letter expresses the commitment of Community Advocates to the City of Milwaukee Environmental Collaboration Office's (ECO) Environmental Justice Government to Government grant project. This project addresses the needs of Milwaukeeans who experience economic and health burdens exacerbated by old housing stock and barriers to housing improvements by increasing resident's knowledge about housing improvement programs and resources. Through this funding opportunity, community-based organizations like ours can spread the word about desperately needed resources for addressing decaying housing stock that affects the health and wellbeing of so many residents.

City of Milwaukee ECO and community partners will implement the *Healthy Homes & ECO Neighborhoods* pilot program to expand outreach on housing improvement programs and the Inflation Reduction Act's financing opportunities for homeowners through the existing ECO Neighborhoods Initiative in underserved neighborhoods in Milwaukee. By concentrating our efforts in low-to moderate-income communities, residents will increase their understanding of and access to the information and improvements that help reduce high energy burdens for those who are on fixed incomes or do not have the disposable income to repair or rehabilitate their homes. We are happy to be a part of a collective effort using our existing community outreach to expand environmental justice, and eco-education in neighborhoods most harmed by neglect and toxic housing issues.

Community Advocates provides support and advocacy to ensure individuals and families are able to meet basic needs and live in dignity. On an annual basis, tens of thousands of individuals and families receive housing assistance and Energy Assistance. In addition to providing immediate, direct service we also work to address root causes. For example, it is helpful to assist with paying utility bills and even better to reduce energy usage and costs through energy conservation education and housing retrofits.

Community Advocates strongly supports the ECO application. As an in kind partner, Community Advocates will participate in Advisory Committee meetings and build on our existing community outreach to inform people about opportunities to address unhealthy living conditions. Our goal will be to coordinate with others to disseminate materials and information about the Healthy Homes and ECO Neighborhoods

project. We see—on a daily basis—the results of decades of inadequate oversight and lack of investment in our housing stock. This has led to extremely unequal and negative health impacts on many of our residents. Our city can and must do better.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with the team to address long-standing environmental justice issues in our community through healthier housing.

Sincerely,

Andrea Mallmann-Elliott

Andrea Mallmann-Elliott
Chief Executive Officer
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Pastor Martin Childs, Jr., D.Min

April 10, 2023

U.S. EPA Headquarters
Environmental Education Grant Program
Office of Environmental Education

Re: EPA EJ G2G Letter of Commitment

Dear Grant Review Committee,

This letter expresses the commitment of Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church to the City of Milwaukee Environmental Collaboration Office's (ECO) Environmental Justice Government to Government grant project. This project addresses the needs of the Roosevelt Grove Neighborhood that experiences economic and health burdens exacerbated by old housing stock and barriers to housing improvements by increasing resident's knowledge about housing improvement programs and resources. Through this funding opportunity, Pilgrim Rest can act as a conduit – spreading the word and learning about existing resources that can help our neighbors upgrade their homes and make them become more energy efficient, thereby creating a savings in their family budget.

City of Milwaukee ECO and community partners will implement the *Healthy Homes & ECO Neighborhoods* pilot program to expand outreach on housing improvement programs and the Inflation Reduction Act's financing opportunities for homeowners through the existing ECO Neighborhoods Initiative in underserved neighborhoods in Milwaukee. By concentrating our efforts in low-to moderate-income communities, residents will increase their understanding of and access to the information and improvements that help reduce high energy burdens as many of our neighbors are on fixed incomes or do not have the disposable income to repair or rehabilitate their homes.

We are happy to be a part of a collective effort using our voice, influence, and actions to show that we remain committed to environmental justice, and eco-education through community engagement.

Our mission is to promote holistic transformation and liberation. Accordingly, we have organized several community projects and activities designed to enhance the quality of life for our neighbors and to further holistic health and well-being. We are an anchor and serve as the coordinator for the Roosevelt Grove Targeted Investment Neighborhood (TIN). We have supported the neighborhood in home repairs, energy conservation resources, information on city funding sources and remain committed to long-term, resident benefiting solutions.

In 2020, the median household income was \$36,171. However, 21.8% of families live in poverty. Our neighborhood ranks 11th among the 25 poorest zip codes in Wisconsin. Consequently, home ownership is only 41% of the housing stock. Many of our members represent similar demographics which undergirds our 71-year fight for justice in all forms for our community and the City of Milwaukee. As a partner, we will provide in kind support and specifically assist by gathering and sharing feedback from our community members at Advisory Committee meetings to ensure their ideas and perspectives around environmental justice issues guide the creation and delivery of the program to the rest of the community, assist the lead agencies by creating volunteer teams who will disseminate information and distribute marketing materials throughout our, and adjacent neighborhoods, to help educate people about these issues and the *Healthy Homes & ECO Neighborhoods* project and connect other congregations to the project to expand its potential outreach.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with the team to address long-standing environmental justice issues in our community through healthier housing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Childs, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pastor Martin Childs, Jr.