



July 23, 2022

ARPA - RFP Coordinator
Monroe County Purchasing and Central Services
39 West Main Street, Room 200
Rochester, NY 14614

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the staff and clients of NeighborWorks® Community Partners, I am writing in full support of Rochester ENergy Efficiency and Weatherization (RENEW)'s proposal for Monroe County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Opportunities.

NeighborWorks® Community Partners offers programs and services that help low-to-moderate income homeowners make comprehensive energy-efficiency improvements, health and safety repairs, reduce energy bills, remediate lead paint, and prevent foreclosure. Since 2015, NeighborWorks® has worked with RENEW's partners in collective impact, community development, housing, environmental health, climate change, and weatherization. Those partners include Action for a Better Community, City of Rochester, Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning, Common Ground Health, Greater Rochester Housing Partnership, Heat Smart Monroe, Ibero Development Corp., Monroe County Dept. of Public Health, Monroe County Office on Aging, PathStone Corporation, Town of Greece, Town of Irondequoit, and University of Rochester.

Collaborating with RENEW has created multiple opportunities to bridge funding gaps by working with community partners to address unmet needs and create energy-efficient, healthier, and safer homes for our clients – many of them are elderly.

RENEW's flexible funding is crucial to removing barriers that allow a far greater intervention and/or any work at all. Grants from RENEW to NeighborWorks® Community Partners cover issues such as replacing deteriorated electrical panels and sewer lines, installing hot water heaters and furnaces, and addressing health and safety issue for elders wishing to remain in their homes. If not for the funding from RENEW, these clients would have been ineligible to access enough funds to cover necessary home repairs. Removing barriers to energy-efficiency and weatherization work, which other programs do not cover, enabled us to facilitate comprehensive energy efficiency work and help those most in need.

NeighborWorks® Community Partners is a committed partner in RENEW's work and looks forward to continuing our multi-agency collaboration to help improve the health and well-being of low-to-moderate income homeowners, build economic security for vulnerable citizens, decrease energy costs for those least able to afford them, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and help stabilize neighborhoods.

We urge you to fund RENEW's critical work and thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela Lazio". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pamela Lazio
Director Of Residential Rehabilitation & Energy Services

