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TOWN OF GREECE

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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July 23, 2022

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

Dear Sir/Madam:

On behalf of the residents of the Town of Greece and the clients of our Greece Residential Improvement Program (GRIP), 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.

The GRIP program provides grants to Greece residents who are income-eligible, single-family homeowners for home repairs and improvements. Under this program, homeowners may be eligible (dependent on their household's income and size) for a subsidy that could pay up to 100% of the project cost, not exceeding a maximum grant amount of \$6,000. If the project costs exceed the maximum grant amount, the homeowner would be responsible for paying the difference. Participation in the GRIP program is limited to a one-time grant per household. Unfortunately, there are many more Greece residents in need than we are able to serve with our program.

The Town of Greece began working with RENEW a few years ago. Working with RENEW and their community partners has allowed GRIP to expand our information, resource referrals, and capacity to assist homeowners.

By braiding funding from a variety of sources and working cooperatively, as of April 2022, RENEW's community partners have collectively invested over \$6.0M into the homes of 420+ low-income Monroe County homeowners. The 900+ residents of these homes are experiencing an average savings of 20% on fuel costs and better self-reported physical and mental health outcomes. Some families, with clean heating & cooling technologies like heat pump furnace and heat pump hot water heaters installed, have seen energy costs reduced by 36% to 50%. Estimates show that so far, this work will keep over 5,600 tons of greenhouse gas emissions from entering the atmosphere.

In the Town of Greece specifically, RENEW and community partners have worked with 40 low-income families to make their homes more energy efficient, safer, and healthier. Projects have included new roofs, insulation, and addressing health and safety issue for elders wishing to remain in their homes, and the installation of seven heat pump hot water heaters, two heat pump furnaces, and six tank-less hot water heaters. Collectively, RENEW and its community partners have invested \$600,000.00 into these projects. Of those 40 projects, GRIP was able to assist only four homeowners due to the strict eligibility requirements of our funding.

RENEW analyzes energy use data and measures fuel cost savings and carbon emission reductions. 41% of the 40 projects in Greece have been reviewed and the data is very positive. These low-income homeowners who are mostly elders, have seen an average reduction in fuel costs of 25.17% and this work will keep 275.7 tons of greenhouse gas emissions out of the atmosphere.

RENEW's flexible funding is crucial to removing barriers that allow a far greater intervention and/or any work at all. If not for the funding from RENEW, these Town of Greece residents would have been ineligible to access weatherization funds.

Removing barriers enabled RENEW to facilitate comprehensive energy efficiency and necessary home repair work to help Town of Greece homeowners in need.

The Town of Greece GRIP 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-income homeowners, build economic security for vulnerable citizens, and decrease energy costs and residential greenhouse gas emissions.

We urge you to fund Rochester ENergy Efficiency and Weatherization and thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Scott Copey
Director of Planning & Economic Development

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