



Southwestern Regional Housing and Community Development Corporation

March 18, 2024

To: New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
1220 South Street Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

From: Southwestern Regional Housing and Community Development Corporation

Re: Letter of Support for the NM Mortgage Finance Authority Weatherization Program
Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07

Dear NM Energy, Mineral and Natural Resources Department, (EMNRD)

Southwestern Regional Housing and Community Development Corporation (SRHCDC) is pleased to support the Enabling Access to Energy Efficiency, Decarbonization, and Healthy Homes Coalition application by the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department and New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority. Funding to expand and continue New Mexico's Community Energy Efficiency Development Block Grant Program and Weatherization Readiness Program will help overcome barriers that low-income communities face in accessing residential energy efficiency and will support thousands of New Mexicans to reduce their energy burden, live in healthier and more comfortable spaces, lower our state's emissions, and enable them to qualify for access further incentives for weatherization, efficiency, electrification, and renewables.

Southwestern Regional Housing and CDC's involvement with these programs include whole house weatherization of low-income families in 16 southern counties of New Mexico. Recently, due to access of Weatherization Readiness funds, we have been able to assist families that normally would have been deferred services due to major structural and health and safety issues. With these funds we have been able to correct electrical, structural, mold, roofing and other hazardous issues. After correcting such issues, we have been able to perform whole house weatherization measures on these units, making their homes safer, comfortable and lowering their utility bills, making the homes more affordable.

Southwestern Regional Housing and CDC's support will allow the coalition to implement these programs more effectively by using the long waiting list of applicants that need Weatherization Readiness funds. SRHCDC has a long list of low-income residents in our service territory that cannot utilize regular weatherization funds due to the sub-standard housing conditions that the unit is in. We currently have approximately sixty-five (65) applicants that cannot receive weatherization services due to the fact that the deficiencies in their homes are out side the scope of work for normal weatherization services and must be deferred if it were not for the Weatherization Readiness funds. These are applicants that applied this program year, this does not include past applicants that applied prior to July 1 of 2023. The demand is tremendous and it is definitely growing. If awarded, SRHCDC will be able to assist many families by leveraging these funds with other sources.



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EMNRD and MFA are well-positioned to compete for this opportunity, and SRHCDC urges the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to seriously consider this grant application and award the funds to support this crucial work.

Respectfully,

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