

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 25, 2016

The Honorable Julian Castro
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Castro:

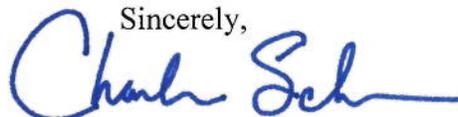
I am pleased to write in support of the Onondaga County Community Development Division's (OCCD) application for funding under the Department of Housing and Urban Development's *Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant* program. Such funding will enable the OCCD to continue to address and remove lead based paint hazards in homes throughout the county.

The Onondaga County Community Development Division has administered a variety of housing rehabilitation programs since 1979, helping nearly 6,000 low-income households with a wide variety of housing issues. OCCD has received six Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control grants and one Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration grant since 2001, which have produced over 1,460 lead safe units throughout Onondaga County. Their work has been essential in identifying and addressing the presence of lead based paints, which pose a serious threat to public health in the county, particularly to children and economically disadvantaged residents.

With funding, the OCCD will be able to continue its program to reduce lead paint hazards in homes in every town and village in the county, including in the City of Syracuse. OCCD will commit at least \$750,000 in matching funds, construction financing, and staff time towards the administration of the program. The prevalence of lead based paints poses a serious risk to the health and wellbeing of individuals and families throughout Onondaga County, and disproportionately affects low-income families. This funding will enable OCCD to help reduce the danger posed by lead poisoning, and work to ensure that citizens across the county are able to lead safer, healthier lives. I applaud the Onondaga County Community Development Division for its foresight and sincerely hope the application meets with your approval.

Thank you for your consideration. For additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Grants Director, Marissa Emanuel, in my Washington office at 202-224-6542.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator