

KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND

NEW YORK  
SENATOR

RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
SUITE 478  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205  
202-224-4451

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS  
AGRICULTURE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

May 11, 2016

The Honorable Julián Castro  
Secretary of Housing & Urban Development  
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development  
451 7<sup>th</sup> Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Castro,

I write in support of the application submitted by Onondaga County for funding from the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes through the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development. This funding will enable the County to work in partnership with the City of Syracuse to help keep children safe from lead based paint and other home health hazards.

Onondaga County and the City of Syracuse are both located in Central New York. The County of Onondaga has population just shy of half a million and the City of Syracuse has a population of 145,170. Both municipalities have found success in addressing the dangers of lead-based paint and other household hazards, but there is much work still to be done. A large number of housing units within Onondaga County still contain lead-based paint, endangering the welfare of families and children. The City of Syracuse has one of the highest rates of children with elevated blood levels containing lead in New York State. This health related issue is being magnified by high levels of extreme poverty in both Syracuse and Onondaga County.

The requested funding will be used to combat the health hazards of lead-based paint and other dangers affecting children and families in Onondaga County and the City of Syracuse. If granted, this funding would support the County and City's efforts in identifying households that have significant lead containment and then programming to help remediate the problem, therefore reducing exposure to this dangerous substance. This funding will help expand their ability to collectively remove lead based paints and other health hazards from homes within Onondaga County and in the City of Syracuse.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member Laura Driscoll at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator