



**F A M I L Y**  
**INTERVENTION**  
**C E N T E R**

*"Promoting wellness through education, intervention and treatment"*

51 Lakeside Blvd. East, Upper Level, Waterbury, CT 06708 (203) 753-2153 Fax (203) 756-6032 e-mail: [jfutschik@famintervention.com](mailto:jfutschik@famintervention.com)

City of New Haven  
Office of Management and Budget  
Attn: Public Content  
165 Church Street  
New Haven CT 06510

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Charito Lugo DOB 5/26/1981 who lives in Waterbury, CT. She receives her rental assistance through Independence Northwest's Housing Opportunities Program. She is strongly opposed to the City of New Haven's proposed 50% cut in funding to Independence Northwest's rental assistance program. The stated reason for this cut being to keep more funds in the city of New Haven that currently retains 76% of HOPWA funding. If this cut is approved an estimated 20 people in the Waterbury area, including Ms. Lugo, would not be able to afford their current monthly rent.

This cut would harm her and would deeply affect her mental health status due to her not being able to afford stable, safe housing which has helped in the decreasing of symptoms and provided a safe haven for her to practice the coping mechanisms implemented during her treatment.

If you have, any questions please feel free to contact me regarding this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Darryl J. Saunders LADC LMSW

Family Intervention Center

51 Lakeside Blvd E. Upper Level

Waterbury, CT 06708

(203) 753-2153 ext. 120

[dsaunders@famintervention.com](mailto:dsaunders@famintervention.com)

**This information has been disclosed to you from records whose confidentiality is protected by Federal Law. Federal regulations prohibit you from making any further disclosure of it without the specific written consent of the person to whom it pertains, or as otherwise permitted by such regulations. A general authorization for the release of medical or other information is NOT sufficient for this purpose.**

City of New Haven  
Office of Management and Budget  
Attn: Public Comment  
165 Church Street  
New Haven, CT 06510

My name is Charito Lugo and I live in Waterbury CT. I receive rental assistance through Independence Northwest's Housing Opportunities Program. I am writing in strong opposition to the City of New Haven's proposed 50% cut to Independence Northwest's rental assistance program. The stated reason for the cut is to keep more funds in New Haven. They are currently retaining 76% of HOPWA funding. If this cut is approved, an estimated 20 people in the Waterbury area won't be able to afford their current monthly rent.

This cut will harm me because:

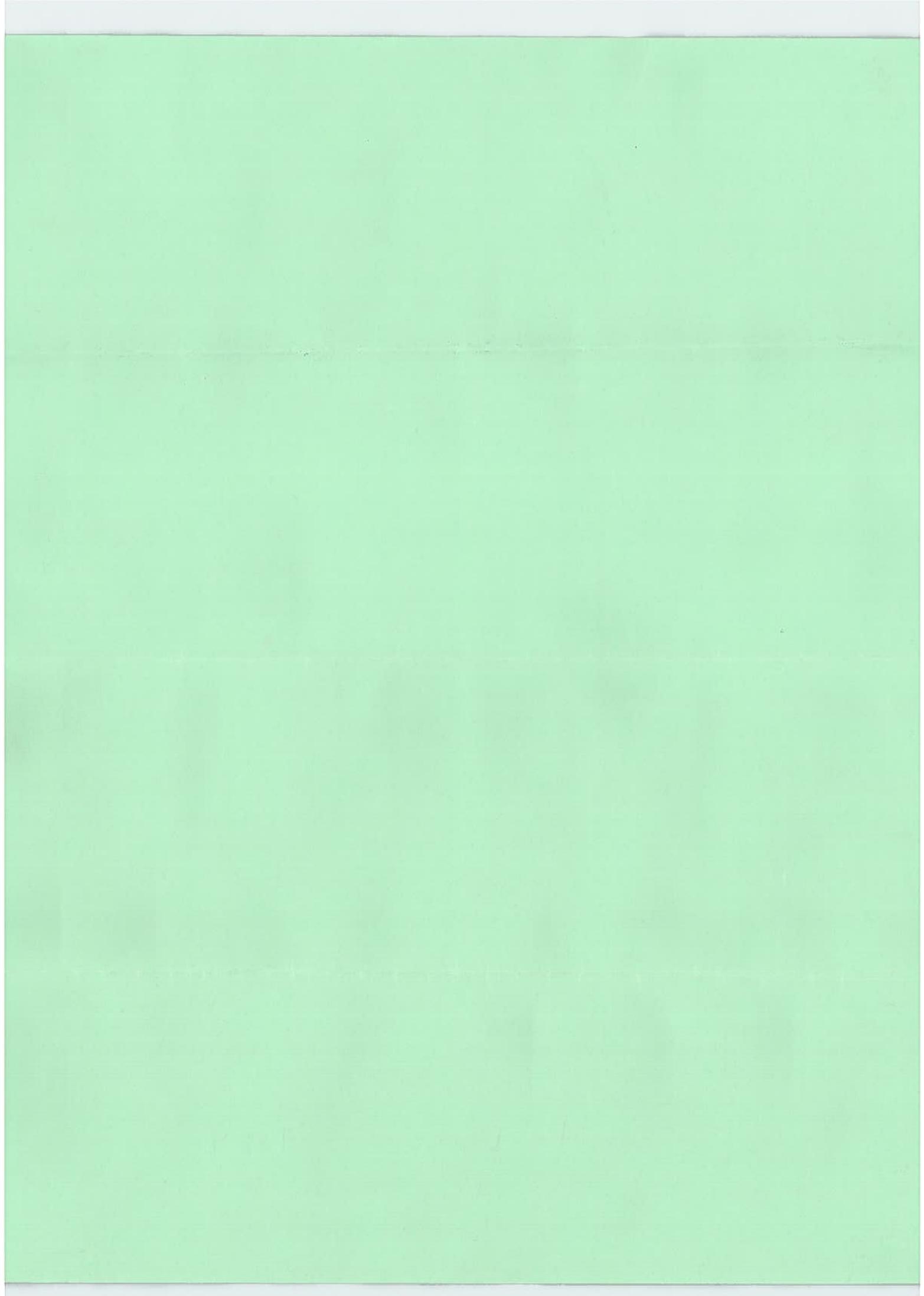
am a single mother with a dead sentence and a son with mental health issues. Having so many diseases it's also bringing me to have a lot more of mental issues myself. Am not able to work now. I have worked all my life since 20 years ago. Now my health doesn't let me work. I had applied for SSI but nothing yet. have no income at all. Please don't take my roof away. Me and my son are really appreciated for this help.

The City of New Haven receives the federal HOPWA funding for housing services on behalf of the **entire** county, which includes the Waterbury area. The harm this cut will cause is made worse since I have had less than 90 days to figure out how or where I am going to live. I urge you to restore \$210,000.00 in funding to Independence Northwest's Housing Opportunities Program so I'm not homeless.

Your Name & Date

Charito Lugo 5-7-24

and we cannot afford it right now. I have already struggle with my other bills. That sometimes I think to give up. but am a mother so I can't  
Thank u  
Charito Lugo



City of New Haven  
Office of Management and Budget  
Attn: Public Comment  
165 Church Street  
New Haven, CT 06510

My name is JOSE ADORNO and I live in 120 Gravel st #1. I receive rental assistance through Independence Northwest's Housing Opportunities Program. I am writing in strong opposition to the City of New Haven's proposed 50% cut to Independence Northwest's rental assistance program. The stated reason for the cut is to keep more funds in New Haven. They are currently retaining 76% of HOPWA funding. If this cut is approved, an estimated 20 people in the Waterbury area won't be able to afford their current monthly rent.

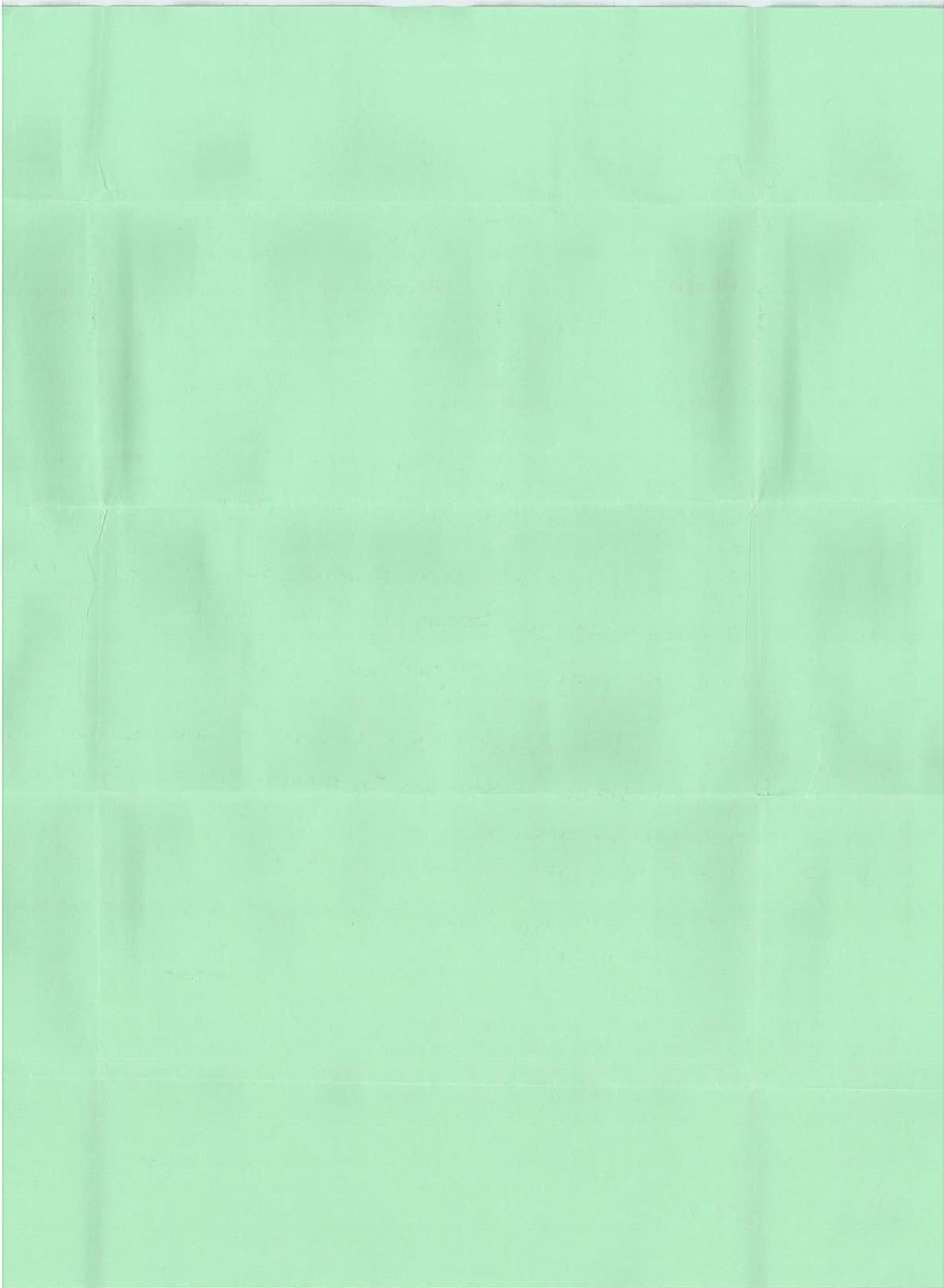
This cut will harm me because: This cut will harm me because the cost of rent has gone up and the program has helped us to remain in our apartment. It has helped us to buy the food that we need as the cost of food has also gone up. We live on a fixed income which is Social Security disability. We continue to apply to other resources for housing and we are on a number of wait lists with Section 8 and Public Housing if these cuts happened before we get into a more secure housing situation. We will have to struggle to remain in our current apartment and make choices between the costs of housing, utilities and food. Thank you for allowing us to share why this Program is important to us and we hope that you reconsider and that the cuts do not happen.

The City of New Haven receives the federal HOPWA funding for housing services on behalf of the **entire** county, which includes the Waterbury area. The harm this cut will cause is made worse since I have had less than 90 days to figure out how or where I am going to live. I urge you to restore \$210,000.00 in funding to Independence Northwest's Housing Opportunities Program so I'm not homeless.

Your Name & Date

JOSE ADORNO

5/2/24  

City of New Haven  
Office of Management and Budget  
Attn: Public Comment  
165 Church Street  
New Haven, CT 06510

My name is Juan Hernandez and I live in 470 South Main St. I receive rental assistance through Independence Northwest's Housing Opportunities Program. I am writing in strong opposition to the City of New Haven's proposed 50% cut to Independence Northwest's rental assistance program. The stated reason for the cut is to keep more funds in New Haven. They are currently retaining 76% of HOPWA funding. If this cut is approved, an estimated 20 people in the Waterbury area won't be able to afford their current monthly rent.

This cut will harm me because:

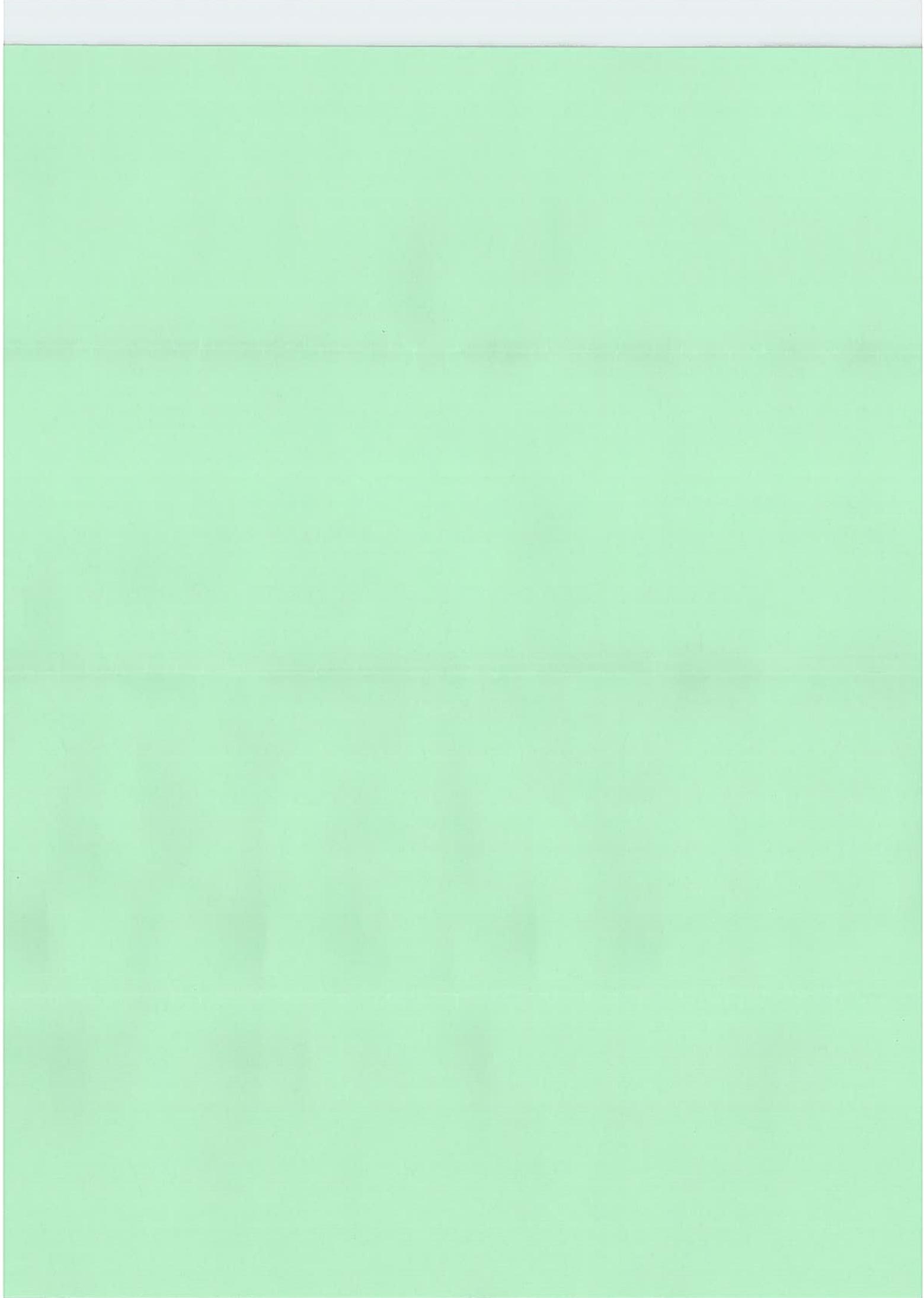
Because now the Rent is too High for us poor people like me who has a 15 year son and being a ~~farmer~~ is my Highest Honor and I don't get too much money from my SSI to pay Rent and my bills Independence Northwest has help a lot of people without them a lot of people will be Homeless with there Kids.

The City of New Haven receives the federal HOPWA funding for housing services on behalf of the **entire** county, which includes the Waterbury area. The harm this cut will cause is made worse since I have had less than 90 days to figure out how or where I am going to live. I urge you to restore \$210,000.00 in funding to Independence Northwest's Housing Opportunities Program so I'm not homeless.

Your Name & Date

Juan Hernandez  
470 South Main St  
Waterbury, CT 06706

5/8/24



City of New Haven  
Office of Management and Budget  
Attn: Public Comment  
165 Church Street  
New Haven, CT 06510

My name is Valerie Paris and I live in Waterbury CT 06705. I receive rental assistance through Independence Northwest's Housing Opportunities Program. I am writing in strong opposition to the City of New Haven's proposed 50% cut to Independence Northwest's rental assistance program. The stated reason for the cut is to keep more funds in New Haven. They are currently retaining 76% of HOPWA funding. If this cut is approved, an estimated 20 people in the Waterbury area won't be able to afford their current monthly rent.

This cut will harm me because:

The City of New Haven receives the federal HOPWA funding for housing services on behalf of the **entire** county, which includes the Waterbury area. The harm this cut will cause is made worse since I have had less than 90 days to figure out how or where I am going to live. I urge you to restore \$210,000.00 in funding to Independence Northwest's Housing Opportunities Program so I'm not homeless.

Your Name & Date

2015-16  
University of Chicago

University of Chicago

City of New Haven  
Office of Management and Budget  
Attn: Public Comment  
165 Church Street  
New Haven, CT 06510

My name is Lynn Owings and I live in Ansonia CT I receive rental assistance through Independence Northwest's Housing Opportunities Program. I am writing in strong opposition to the City of New Haven's proposed 50% cut to Independence Northwest's rental assistance program. The stated reason for the cut is to keep more funds in New Haven. They are currently retaining 76% of HOPWA funding. If this cut is approved, an estimated 20 people in the Waterbury area won't be able to afford their current monthly rent.

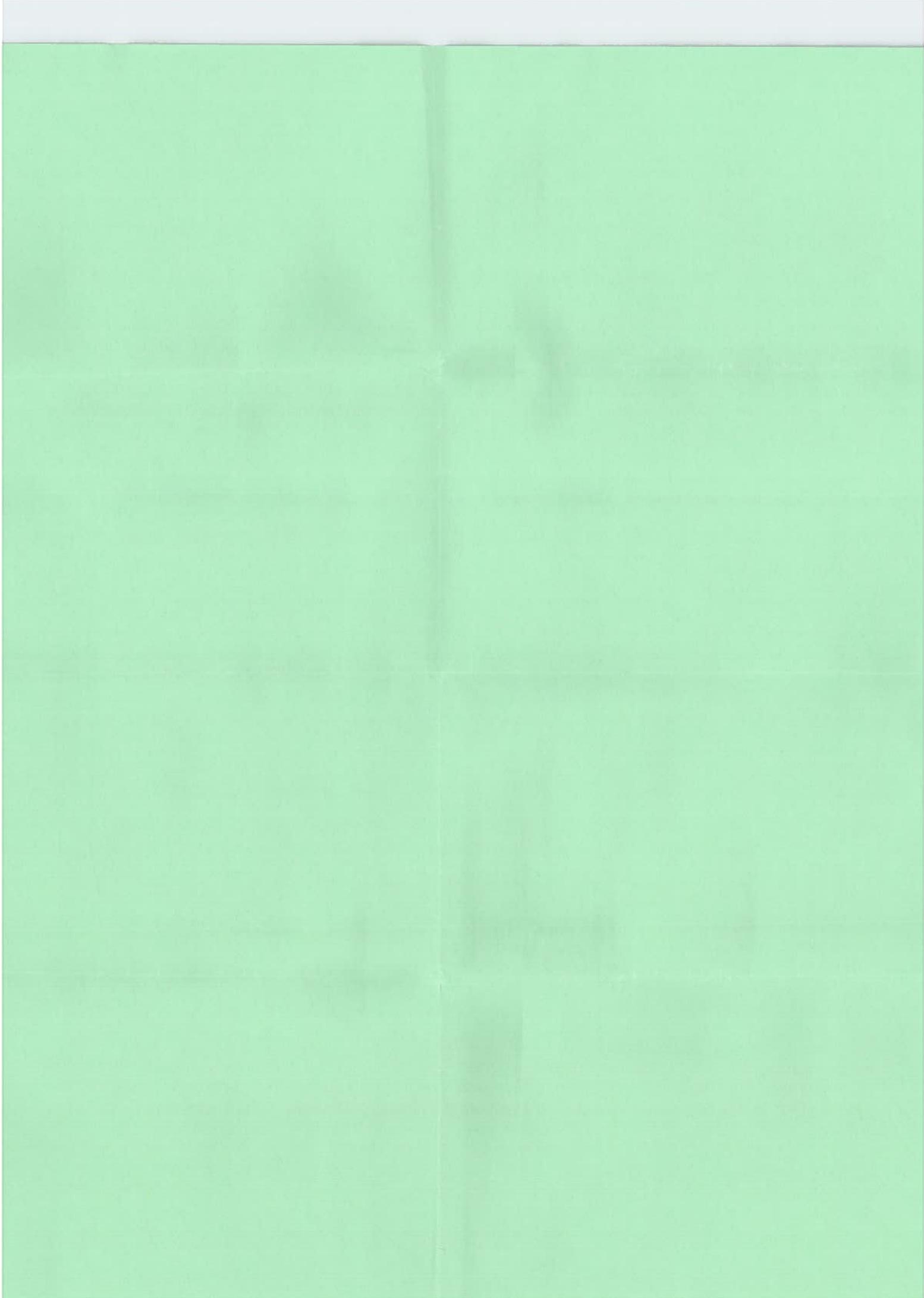
This cut will harm me because: *I am struggling as it is to pay my bills. A cut to my Hopwa would be devastating. I can't find anything at all that I could afford without it. Please help to prevent these cuts. Peoples very lives depend on it!*

*Thank You*

The City of New Haven receives the federal HOPWA funding for housing services on behalf of the **entire** county, which includes the Waterbury area. The harm this cut will cause is made worse since I have had less than 90 days to figure out how or where I am going to live. I urge you to restore \$210,000.00 in funding to Independence Northwest's Housing Opportunities Program so I'm not homeless.

Your Name & Date

*Lynn Owings*  
*May 8<sup>th</sup> 2024*



City of New Haven

Office of Management and Budget

ATT: Public Comment

Cuts to Independence NW's

Housing Program (HOWPA)

MAY 15, 2024

My name is Joseph Mancinone and I live in Waterbury, Connecticut. I receive Rental Assistance from Independence N.W. 's Housing Opportunities Program. (HOWPA) I am writing in strong opposition to the City of New Haven's proposed 50% cut to Independence N.W. Rental Assistance Program. (HOWPA) The stated reason for the cut is to keep more funds in New Haven. They are currently retaining 76% of HOWPA funding. If this cut is approved an estimated 20 people in the Waterbury area won't be able to afford their current monthly rent.

This cut will harm me because as a Senior Citizen living with HIV/AIDS this measure would have a definite negative impact on my life/health. There's a pretty big chance that I will become homeless. Which would definitely have a negative impact not only on my physical health, but also on my mental health as I would lose a major part of my support system along with my housing. This includes people living on the first and third floor of the apartment building that I live in at present. They have been there at some of my worst times with my health. We are more like family than friends. I will lose all of this if I become homeless, which will happen if Independence N.W. loses 50% of its HOWPA Program Funding. I don't understand how reducing the funding to Independence N.W. in hopes of being able to serve people living in the New Haven area at some future time can be seen as a positive choice for this funding. Meanwhile, 20 of the clients, several with families who are established in their lives and their support systems are going to find their lives turned upside down, not at some future time, but NOW. Putting us in a position where we have to go looking for funding from other funding sources to keep us from becoming homeless. As I mentioned at the start of this dialogue, I am 73 years old. I've been positive for 36 years and I've managed to stay healthy by taking care of myself by finding the care that I needed and the support which was vital. I cannot imagine what my life would have become like without the help of Independence N.W.'s HOWPA Housing Program. Although I progressed from HIV to AIDS over 20 years ago, I have managed to maintain my health in regard to living with AIDS. But at present I am living with Diabetes, Fibromyalgia, Chronic back and hip pain that has left me bedridden for weeks at a time. Please understand I am in no way able to find a job or work to keep my housing otherwise I would.



So, I am asking those that have the power to change this decision to cut the funding to Independence N.W.'s HOWPA Housing Program to please reconsider as my life and many others may hang in the balance of your decision.

I would like to mention one more thing regarding the impact of people living with HIV/AIDS and homelessness. At the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, I worked for 20 years helping clients to access needed services. What was noticed was that for whatever reason a person became homeless, their health rapidly deteriorated often leading to hospitalization or death. That has not changed over the years.

In closing I'd like to say the city of New Haven receives the federal HOWPA funding for housing services on behalf of the entire county, which includes the Waterbury area. The harm this cut will cause is made worse since I have less than 90 days to figure out how or where I am going to live. I urge you to restore \$210,000 in funding to Independence N.W. Housing Opportunities Program so I'm not homeless.

So please think about how important this decision is for so many of us receiving HOWPA services from Independence N.W.

Thank you,

  
Rev J Mancinone

City of Waterbury, Connecticut

