

CITY OF NEW HAVEN

Justin Elicker, Mayor

OFFICE OF CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY

165 Church St, 2nd Floor

New Haven, CT 06510

Phone: (203) 946-8582

March 27th, 2023

Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers
President, Board of Alders
City of New Haven
165 Church St
New Haven, CT 06510

RE: ORDER AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT THE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT GRANT AWARD FROM US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO ELECTRIFY THE HOMES OF ENERGY-BURDENED RESIDENTS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE INDOOR AIR QUALITY AND REDUCE ENERGY BILLS.

Dear Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers,

The City of New Haven is requesting authorization to apply for and accept funding from the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program.

The grant would fund an initiative by the City of New Haven and one or more community-based organizations to enroll energy-burdened New Haven residents in a new program aimed at the electrification of aging heating and cooking systems. These systems are often costly, inefficient, and can exacerbate health conditions related to indoor air quality, such as asthma. They are also significant contributors to the air pollution that causes climate change. Replacing these systems with new high efficiency electric appliances such as heat pumps and induction stoves can reduce energy bills, improve public health, and reduce climate pollution.

The Office of Climate and Sustainability (OCS) anticipates working with one or more community-based organizations that have experience connecting residents with utility assistance in order to identify low- and moderate-income residents with aging heating and cooking systems. Special focus will be placed on reaching residents in DEEP-designated environmental justice census tracts in West Rock/West Hills, Newhallville, Dixwell, the Hill, Fair Haven, and the Annex neighborhoods. OCS plans to work with these organizations to inform and engage residents about the benefits of new high efficiency electric appliances and enroll them in the new electrification program. The organization or organizations will be selected through the City's competitive procurement process.

Once enrolled, OCS plans to work with another community-based organization or electrification service provider to design, identify funding and financing for, and implement electrification improvements. This organization will scope out energy efficiency and electrification improvements and work with energy-burdened residents to maximize the benefits available to them, with the objective of shifting residents to a fully-electrified home. Grant funds will be reserved to assist residents with some of the cost of electrification improvements and the removal of remediation barriers to energy efficiency, such as mold and asbestos.

We respectfully request your honorable Board's favorable action on the attached Order authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept funding through the Government-to-Government Program.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (203) 946-8582.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Winter

Executive Director