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TIM RYAN
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
13TH DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

April 8, 2015

Ms. Katrina Morgan
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Grants Management
OCS Grants Operation Center
9701 Apollo Drive
Largo, MD 20774-4783

Dear Administrator Morgan:

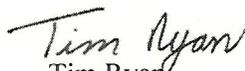
I would like to take this opportunity to request consideration on behalf of the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (YNDC), located at 820 Canfield Road, Youngstown OH 44511 (D&B# 004939681), as they pursue funding through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Community Economic Development Opportunity (CFDA# 93.570) for the YNDC REVITALIZE project.

My district consists of several older industrial cities that struggle from a lack of economic opportunity as a result of long term disinvestment and severe vacant and abandoned property issues caused by population loss. In order to change the trajectory of decline faced by older industrial cities across the nation, it is imperative that we support community-based initiatives that have demonstrated success at improving neighborhoods amid the vacant property crisis and creating jobs in regions struggling from high rates of chronic unemployment.

The REVITALIZE project uses effective strategies developed by YNDC and its partners that brings these strategies to a scale that will reduce vacancy, improve quality of life, and strengthen housing markets in neighborhoods across the City of Youngstown. Over the past 5 years since its inception, YNDC's comprehensive model of neighborhood stabilization through strategic reinvestment, repurposing vacant property, and engaging and employing residents in the process have created dozens of jobs and have turned formerly distressed neighborhoods into communities where opportunity and choice now exists.

If funded, it is my firm belief that the REVITALIZE project will serve as a model that communities across the nation can use to transform vacant property into economic opportunity. I urge the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to give the project strong consideration for support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my District Director, Rick Leonard, at 330-373-0074.

Sincerely,


Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

TR:pw

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