



MEMORANDUM

January 9, 2009

To: Dimple Desai, Richard Van Ausdall, David LeVasseur, OPM

From: David Fink, Partnership for Strong Communities

Re: Update on Municipal Interest in HOMEConnecticut program

For purposes of our meeting Jan. 13, I have tried contact the towns I have previously visited or exchanged information with in regard to the HOMEConnecticut program. My purpose has been to determine how many towns, which have not yet applied for planning/TA grants under the program, (1) might be preparing applications for definite submittal this month, and (2) are not quite as far along but are still actively considering applications. As you can see below, the group of “definites” is quite significant: if all apply, as I suspect they will, the total number of applications would exceed 60, more than a third of all municipalities in the state. At the outset, I could not have predicted that level of popularity.

I think it's fair to say much of the credit goes to OPM. Unlike their previous experiences with state agencies and programs, the towns have made quite plain to me that OPM has been clear and prompt in its responses to their requests, both for information and the grants themselves. Individual town experiences have gotten around, leading more towns to consider the program.

While it would be wrong to expect all towns seeking grants to ultimately establish Incentive Housing Zones and create new mixed-income housing, it is fair to predict that the majority *will* proceed. That is testament to good administration but also to a good program: voluntary, incentive-based, low-cost to the state, with the preservation of local control. More to the point, the wide interest presents a significant opportunity for the state to incentivize creation of thousands of units of workforce housing sorely needed for economic growth, with many projected units along existing or proposed mass transit lines.

In addition to the **municipalities whose grant applications have already been approved...**

Beacon Falls	East Hartford	Old Saybrook	Thomaston
Bridgeport	East Lyme	Oxford	Tolland
Canaan	Goshen	Plainville	Wallingford
Colchester	Ledyard	Plymouth	Westbrook
Cornwall	New Britain	Salisbury	Windham
Darien	New London	Simsbury	
East Hampton	Norfolk	Sharon	

...and the **towns that have applied and are awaiting a decision –**

Branford	Essex	New Haven	Torrington
Canterbury	Hamden	Newtown	West Haven
Coventry	New Canaan	Portland	

I have been in contact with officials of the following towns, who have told me they are preparing applications after municipal approvals or, secondarily, are still weighing whether to apply.

Towns Readying Applications (23)

Thompson	Preston	East Windsor	Winchester
Derby	Cromwell	Stonington	Brooklyn
Ansonia	N. Stonington	Ellington	Ashford
Seymour	Bloomfield	Bolton	Hebron
Shelton	Redding	Windsor Locks	Bristol
Clinton	Berlin	Watertown	

Towns At Various Stages of Weighing Applications (13)

Enfield	Stratford	North Haven	Middletown
Madison	Cheshire	Stamford	Norwalk
Killingly	Woodbury	Meriden	Durham
Marlborough			