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MAY - 6 2015

Mr. Héctor Colón, Director Milwaukee County Department of Health and **Human Services** 1220 W Vliet St, Suite 301 Milwaukee, WI 53205

RE: Notice of Intent to Award Energy Assistance Contract

Dear Mr. Colón:

We submit this letter on behalf of our client, Community Relations - Social Development Commission, in response to the April 29, 2015, letter from Mr. Dennis Buesing to Mr. George Hinton advising SDC of Milwaukee County's intent to award the above referenced contract to two providers other than SDC. This letter is intended to comply with Milwaukee County Ordinances section 110.05 as a notice of appeal. To date, SDC has not been provided with any information pertaining to the reasons for the determination. Therefore, it is not possible to provide definitive grounds for the appeal, other than to state, generally, that there is no rational basis for the determination.

In connection with this appeal, we submit the following factors for your consideration:

- 1. SDC has served as an Energy Assistance provider with this program since it commenced in 1978. SDC's history and track record with the program is strong as it has provided quality service to clients, data analysis and outreach. It has also provided wrap-around services and partnered with community agencies to better connect clients to services.
- 2. This is currently the extended fourth year of a three-year contract under which SDC and Community Advocates are the providers. Under this contract, SDC has actually been performing a substantial share of the work (handling more than 70% of Milwaukee county Energy Assistance applications while receiving only 58% of funds, as reflected on attached Exhibit A).
- 3. Under the current contract, SDC has handled the vast majority of the furnace repair and replacement referrals. Although the other provider, Community Advocates, was to perform this service as well since the commencement of the contract in 2011, it only started providing this service in December 2014.

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- Prior to the commencement of the current contract, SDC was sole administrator under the contract, since Milwaukee County discontinued providing this service in approximately 2007 or 2008.
- 5. SDC's performance under the contract has met contract requirements and there have not been significant negative findings and outcomes or failures to provide service.
- 6. SDC's bid pertained to each of the six zones delineated for the new contract; the bid was timely and we believe it was strongly competitive with respect to scope and quality of services to be provided as well as cost.

As a long-term provider under this program, SDC hereby requests a review of the determination. We submit that a fair and objective review that takes into account these and related factors should dictate a different outcome. We believe such a review should result in a determination that, as a result of SDC's performance and track-record with the program, along with its current bid, it merits consideration for continued participation in the program.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions regarding this appeal, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

Gerard Randall Board Chairman

George P. Hinton Chief Executive Office