

# Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit

Suite 1020 • 220 Bagley • Detroit, Michigan 48226  
(313) 963-1274 • FAX (313) 963-4817 • fhcdet@mail.com

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Carolyn Cunningham  
Relocation/Federal Compliance Specialist  
Michigan State Housing Development Authority  
735 E. Michigan Avenue  
P.O.Box 30044  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Ms. Cunningham:

I suspect that, with the various "stimulus" programs coming to Michigan from Washington, you are busier than ever. I am writing to add one more item, that we think is very important, to your schedule.

Maryellen Lewis E-mailed to me a copy of the American Recovery & Redevelopment Act: Preliminary Implementation Plan, dated March 25, 2009. The announcement noted Chris Lagrand, Director of Legal Affairs for MSHDA as the contact person for comments about the Plan (copy enclosed). In her E-mail to me, Ms. Lewis stated that there was no reference to "fair housing" in the plan. She suggested that we bring that omission to your attention - I fully agree.

Given the recommendations in the recently completed Analysis of Impediments to "embed" fair housing into both State and local housing related laws, regulations, policies and programs, it would seem that plans for use of the Federal funds by the State would clearly include references to the Fair Housing Act and MSHDA's commitments to affirmatively further fair housing. Even more to the point, I am enclosing a copy of a memo from Loretta King, Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Justice, reminding various Agency officials of the need to ensure that recipients of Recovery Act funds, "must ensure that their recipients and subrecipients" comply with a variety of civil rights laws, including the Fair Housing Act.

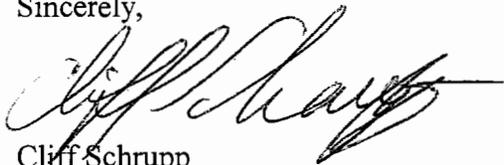


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At a minimum, it would seem that the Preliminary Plan should include specific references to the need to comply with provisions of the Fair Housing Act on page 3, the first bullet point under 9% Tax Assistance Program, where a number of other federal acts, but not the Fair Housing Act, are noted. The same list of federal acts, minus the Fair Housing Act, are included on page 6 under the 9% Tax Credit Exchange Program. Given the State's signed assurances that it will "affirmatively further fair housing" it would seem that additional language reminding Recovery Fund recipients of the State's commitment to "affirmatively further fair housing" is appropriate.

I am forwarding copies of this letter and the enclosed materials to Vernon Shadd, Keith Molin, Mr. Lagrand and Ms. Lewis. That may make it easier for you to follow-up with our suggestions. Please let me know if we can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,



Cliff Schrupp  
Executive Director

Enc.

cc: Shadd  
Molin  
Lagrand  
Lewis

