

February 15, 2012

I want to begin by thanking the Appropriations Committee for this opportunity to present briefly an overview of the important work of the OIC's in the State of Connecticut. My name is Rev. Robert Lampkin. I am the Program Manager at The Greater New Haven O.I.C. (Opportunities Industrialization Center). The late Rev. Dr. Leon Sullivan of Philadelphia, P.A. started the first O.I.C. office in 1964. Since that time the organization has grown to sixty (60) offices around the United States and has offices in Africa, Asia, and Europe. Each office provides skill development training and employment guidance.

There are five (5) O.I.C.'s in Connecticut; New Britain, New London, Waterbury, Bridgeport, and New Haven which was first established in 1967 and reconstituted in 1989. All five O.I.C.s in Connecticut (as across the nation) serve the unemployed, underemployed, and disadvantaged citizens of our communities. Each O.I.C. has unique objectives and training programs which best serve the particular needs of their city. The Greater New Haven O.I.C. currently provides Certified Nurse Assistant Training, EKG/Phlebotomy Training, and Employment Placement Services. In that regard please see enclosed **The Greater New Haven O.I.C. Brief Program Highlights for Fiscal Year 2010-2011** completed on November 1, 2011.

Last year alone, with limited funding, TGNHOIC provided CNA training for fifty (50) and EKG/Phlebotomy training for seven (7). About 85% of those graduates are today certified and employed in the health care field, the fastest growing area of employment in Connecticut and the United States. In addition, fifty two (52) clients at TGNHOIC were placed into various employment positions. Moreover, Evette Gonzalez, one of our CNA graduates four years ago, started her own agency "Beyond Home Health Care" two years ago. Ms. Gonzalez has hired twenty (20) of our CNA graduates the last two years.

For more information on the work, goals, and objectives of the OIC's in Connecticut, please see enclosed our "White Paper", entitled "**Connecticut Opportunities Industrialization Centers The Key to Success- Developing a Work-Ready Workforce for Connecticut: A Work Readiness Project.**"