

Dear Committee,

I am writing to plead that you *do NOT* cut or transfer the Community Investment Funds that directly fund and benefit land protection, affordable housing and historic preservation. Please seek elsewhere the funding you need for school lunches. Otherwise, you will hurt the recipient you seek to help by taking from these Community Investment Funds.

Community Investment Funds permit INVESTMENT in the COMMUNITY that we live in: the environment, the buildings *and* the people.

These Community Investment Funds support many non-profits staffed with volunteers who are committed to community improvement to create a better natural and built environment that enhance and benefit a diverse socio-economic demographic.

No one wants to deny children in need of school lunches; however, reducing "Community Investment Funds" will negatively impact the resources that fund many nonprofit community-based projects and programs that too enhance children's lives, as well as all citizens of all backgrounds.

Programs in land protection and historic preservation are essential!

These programs have many positive results:

- 1. they stabilize and revitalize "at-risk" neighborhoods;**
- 2. they teach citizens grassroots techniques to improve their own communities by using ordinances and public funding;**
- 3. they target funds to improve a historic building used for essential activities in the community where new money and new build will not invest;**
- 4. they teach locals to care about their existing community and resources and learn about its potential for investment;**
- 5. they emphasize that our communities and resources are not disposable; and**
- 6. they highlight the importance of the cultural and ethnic trends that are our history.**

It is programs like these that are funded through the Community Investment Funds.

It is essential to our well-being to have protected natural environments and well-maintained buildings in our communities to create a beneficial quality of life. All structures, historic or new, require maintenance and rehabilitation.

Many municipalities, nonprofits, churches, owners and tenants *cannot afford* to pay for these costs. Without appropriate funding, you hurt not only the immediate person responsible for the land and/or structure, but you will negatively impact the community at-large as well.

I urge you not to cut or transfer the Community Investment Funds that are so vital to these programs.

**Passionately,
Amy Weber Reid
Citizen of New Canaan, Connecticut**