

Dear Committee,

I encourage you *not* to cut or transfer the Community Investment Funds that directly fund and benefit land protection, affordable housing and historic preservation. This funding permits INVESTMENT in the COMMUNITY that we live in: the environment, the buildings *and* the people.

These Community Investment Funds are further supported by innumerable nonprofits staffed with volunteers who commit to community improvement to create a better natural and built environment that enhance and benefit a diverse socio-economic demographic. No one would speak against feeding lunches to children in need. 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, and of all backgrounds.

Programs in land protection and historic preservation are essential: to stabilize and revitalize at risk neighborhoods; teaching citizens grassroots techniques to improve their own communities using ordinances and public funding; targeting funds to improve a historic buildings used for essential activities where new money and new build will not invest; teaching locals to care about their existing community and resources and learn about its potential for investment; that our communities and resources are not disposable; research, teaching and programs to learn about the cultural and ethnic trends that are our history; etc. 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. 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.

Most sincerely,
Rebecca Stedman
New Canaan, Connecticut