

47

Testimony of Daisy Franklin, Vice President, Publicly-assisted
Housing Resident Network, submitted for the February 10, 2016,
Public Hearing before the Appropriations Committee's
Subcommittee on Conservation and Development

My name is Daisy Franklin. I live at 82 South Main Street, Norwalk, Connecticut. Thank you to the Co-Chairs and members of the Appropriations Committee for providing time for the public to address you about our funding concerns regarding the Fiscal Year 2017 budget.

I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Publicly-assisted Housing Resident Network (PHRN). I am also a board member of the Connecticut Housing Coalition (CHC), a member of the board of the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), and I served as a resident member of the Inter-Agency Council on Affordable Housing in the recent past. All of these organizations work to improve, preserve, and increase the amount of affordable housing available to low and extremely low income residents of our state. I am here speaking on behalf of PHRN tonight.

In 2011, Section 8-64c of the Connecticut General Statutes was enacted into law. It set forth the important process of resident participation in the revitalization of public housing. One year later, Governor Malloy announced a \$300 million 10-year program to revitalize the entire state public housing portfolio, approximately 13,000 housing units. Thousands of residents living in the soon to-be-revitalized housing communities had no idea that they had statutory rights to participate in the process. PHRN immediately set out to educate, train, and activate those residents to proudly add their voice and their ideas about the future of their communities to the revitalization process. We have been at it for the past four years.

Our education and training is unique. We offer peer-to-peer learning - residents who have been through the process travel to other communities to assist in the training of residents who are new to the process. We have developed slide shows, fact sheets, roleplaying exercises, and panel discussions, all designed to develop residents' knowledge and ability to participate confidently in the revitalization process.

I come before you this evening to respectfully request that you continue funding for PHRN's Section 8-64c training of public housing residents in the Fiscal Year 2017 state budget. Thank you for your time and consideration.