MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 22, 2012

TO: The Honorable Pat Quinn
Governor, State of Illinois

FROM: Lead Agencies, Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Initiative*

RE: FY13 Funding for Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Initiative

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On June 1, 2012, it was announced that the Illinois House Public Safety Appropriations Committee (PSAC) voted to remove the Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Initiative (NRI) and Safety Networks Program (SNW) from IVPA's FY13 appropriations and appropriate $15 million to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA). PSAC's legislation does not specifically name either program in the appropriation to ICJIA. The language states that the $15 million is for "grants to community-based organizations for violence prevention programs."

While the 23 NRI Lead Agencies are thankful that funding was appropriated for community-based violence prevention programs, we are gravely concerned that this unexpected shift in program funding will unfairly dismantle a dynamic infrastructure that has engaged nearly 200 community based organizations to deliver a targeted range of critical, community-based supports – i.e., Mentoring Plus Jobs, School Based Counseling, Parent Leadership Action Network, and Re-Entry - that ensure safer, healthier, and more resilient communities. With the significant up-tick in wanton violence plaguing a majority of the 23 communities being served through NRI, this shift could not have come at a worse time.

During the first year of NRI, we achieved significant progress with the following:

- **A diverse cross-section of 23 community and faith-based organizations** are trained and empowered to build and lead local partnerships that **engage over 190 community agencies and faith-based groups** in providing critical, community-based supports that reduce violence.
- **Over 3,300 full and part-time jobs have been created**, which employ youth, parents, and professional social workers to implement NRI community-based supports.
- **Over 18,000 children, youth and parents have been reached and served** in NRI's first year through key, interconnected program components that offer job experience, mentoring, counseling, case management, youth development and organizing, parent leadership and reentry services.
- **Funding mechanisms have been implemented that promote accountability** to NRI community partnerships in addition to accountability to the State for responsible use of resources. NRI Local Advisory Committees (LACs) and Lead Agencies work together to

select partners, enter into and monitor sub-contracts, and oversee the implementation of NRI community-based supports.

- **An on-line NRI Database** allows local agencies to capture participant, service, and outcome data. **An evaluation team from the UIC Institute for Juvenile Research** assists in data analysis and outcome reporting for NRI.
- **Grants management, program development, training and technical assistance, and data and evaluation measures** allow for rapid deployment of the program models while building the capacity of community partnerships to implement effective and mutually accountable services.
- **A broad network community leaders and policy-makers committed to sustaining NRI have been established.**

Given these significant achievements, we want to ensure that the $15 million appropriated to ICJIA for FY13 is invested in NRI and SNW. To that end, we are kindly requesting a meeting with your office to discuss our concerns and identify a process for ensuring a commitment of these funds to the current NRI and SNW infrastructures with as little disruption of services as possible.

CC: File
NRI Lead Agencies
NRI Partner Agencies
SNW Agencies
J. Stermer, Office of the Governor
M. Weems, Central Management Services, State of Illinois
T. Irving, Office of the Governor
B. Shaw, Illinois Violence Prevention Authority
J. Cutrone, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

*Albany Park Community Center (Albany Park); Alliance of Local Service Organizations (Logan Square); Better Boys Foundation (North Lawndale); Black United Fund of Illinois (South Shore); Chicago Area Project (Grand Boulevard/West Garfield Park); Chicago Commons (Humboldt Park); Children's Home & Aid (Englewood); Circle Family Healthcare Network (Austin); Community Assistance Programs (Roseland); Corazon Community Services (Cicero, IL); Enlace Chicago (Pilsen/Little Village); Grand Prarie Services (Bremen and Bloom Township); Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation (Greater Grand Crossing); Healthcare Consortium of Illinois (Thornton Township); Illinois African American Coalition for Prevention (NRI Network Wide); Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church (East Garfield Park); Organization of the North East (Rogers Park); Pilsen Wellness Center (Brighton Park); Southland Healthcare Forum (Rich and Bloom Townships); Southwest Youth Collaborative (Gage Park/Chicago Lawn); St. Sabina Catholic Church (Auburn-Gresham); and Village of Maywood (Maywood, IL).

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