From: Shaw, Barbara
To: Weems, Malcolm; Irving, Toni; Ocasio, Billy; Lavin, Jack; Saddler, Michelle
Subject: Problem NRI Lead Agencies
Date: Friday, October 15, 2010 10:10:48 AM
Importance: High

I just wanted you to know that there are at minimum two--and possibly one more--applicant Lead Agencies that have not demonstrated in their proposal or in follow-up information that they have the fiscal or management capacity to handle the large NRI grants and the related subcontracts. The two definite problem sites are from East Garfield Park and West Garfield Park. For example, one site has never had more than a $100K budget and is a one person operation. The other has been incorporated as a non-profit for only 16 months (a spin-off from a church), operates with funds gifted through the parent church and private funders, with 60% of their staff volunteer or pro-bono and only recently registered as Charitable Trust as a requirement of this application. It would be a set-up for failure to have these organizations try to manage $1,225 million in funds and enter into and monitor subcontracts with multiple agencies in the community. They would be good provider partners, but not Lead Agencies.

My plan is to reach out to the aldermen from the target communities this afternoon and explain the situation (we certainly don't want these projects to fail), ask for help identifying Lead Agencies with greater capacity, and recommend that the previously suggested groups be considered as potential subcontracted provider partners. We will also notify the applicant Lead Agencies that their application has not been approved.

I'm reachable at my office (312) 814-1514 or on my cell at (312) [redacted] if you want to talk about this.

Thanks,
Barbara

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