

# Calling Your Legislator – Talking Points to Save the Neighborhood Opportunities Program

Call your legislator and urge them to restore funding for the Neighborhood Opportunities Program.

Key points to remember when calling your legislator:

- If you are not able to directly reach your legislator leave a simple message at their work or home with why you are calling and what you are calling about. Don't forget to leave a number so your legislator can return your call.
- Keep the conversation short and simple.
  - **First Point:** You are a constituent. Give your name, address and phone number. Let your legislator know you are a voter.
  - **Second Point:** You're part of a larger network of people in the district and throughout the state who are following this issue – give the name of your organization, faith community or group.
  - **Third Point:** You are calling to ask that your legislator speak to leadership about restoring funding for the Neighborhood Opportunities Program in the FY2011 budget
  - **Fourth Point:** You support NOP because:
    - NOP is everywhere – 28 cities and towns have NOP projects. NOP has created 1,188 units of affordable housing in 173 developments.
    - NOP helps the economy – NOP projects create jobs and help local communities.
    - NOP is a good investment – for every \$1 spent, \$10 in economic activity is leveraged.
    - NOP is needed – Federal stimulus monies cannot do what NOP does, and NOP is needed to complement the federal dollars.
  - **Fifth Point:** Try to get an answer. If the answer is “yes,” thank them for their support. If the answer is undecided ask if they need any additional information. If the answer is “no,” ask if there is any factual information missing that might change the legislator’s mind. If the conversation is with an aide, ask the aide’s name.
  - **Finally,** be sure and follow up! If you don't hear back from the legislator or his/her aide within a week or two, call back. Keeping in constant touch with our legislators is a way to keep them accountable.

**Thank you for helping to save NOP!**