

Save NOP

The Neighborhood Opportunities Program

Date _____

Dear _____

I am writing as a voting resident of your district. I am very concerned about the elimination of funding for the Neighborhood Opportunities Program (NOP) in the Governor's FY2011 proposed budget. NOP is currently Rhode Island's most critical program for ending homelessness and developing affordable housing for low-income families.

The decision to eliminate this crucial program is particularly troubling as it comes at a time when our state has seen an overflow in the emergency shelter system and the erection of Tent Cities in the streets of Providence. Taking away resources from this program while we are in the midst of a foreclosure, employment and economic crisis will only worsen the affordable housing crisis our state faces.

NOP funding has helped many homeless individuals and families move off the street and out of shelters into stable homes; prevented others from becoming homeless in the first place; stretched limited family incomes so that more can be spent on essentials like food and medicine; and helped develop facilities that provide services, like job training, that contribute to productive lives.

I urge you to voice your opposition to these proposed cuts and I ask you to speak to the leadership regarding my concerns. Finally, I ask you to please respond to my letter with your position on this very important issue. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Signed _____

Print Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Add your comments:

Return letter to:

Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless
1070 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860
401-721-5685 www.rihomeless.org