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2013 OCT 16 AM 11:17

Mr Kevin McGuire
Commissioner of Social Services
The Westchester County Department of Social Services
112 East Post Road
White Plains, NY 10601

TO: SOCIAL SECT
K. McGuire
P. O. Box
0610125113

October 15th, 2013

Dear Commissioner McGuire,

I am writing in reference to a Repayment Agreement (DSS657-12) reached between The County of Westchester and Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc (WestCOP)

This agreement (attached) was signed off by you as well as the County Attorney's Office on May 17, 2013, it stipulates a repayment plan to the County for an overpayment we received back in 2009 in the amount of \$279,015 for our New Rochelle Homeless Shelter WestCOP is obligated and has been making every effort to pay back \$9,300 every month for the 30 month term of the agreement

I am reaching out to you and asking for your assistance and consideration in forgiving this obligation as we have been really struggling financially WestCOP has been serving the Low-Income community in Westchester County for nearly 48 years by providing crucial and vital services to the most needy and vulnerable We serve those who otherwise would not have and at-risk populations not only in terms of the emergency homeless shelter but also through education and training, food pantries, Victims Assistance, Foster Grandparents, Rape Crisis, Weatherization, services to the elderly, Head Start and many more critical needs of the Low-Income Community

Given the government shutdown, all the sequestration and other cuts in both government funding as well as philanthropic giving, we are finding it really difficult to survive in this environment We have reduced our expenditures to a bear minimum and are constantly re-evaluating the most cost effective way to manage our financial affairs We are surviving, albeit barely - basically existing from one drawdown to the next drawdown and from one check to the next check during this unprecedented time in our nation's history Many of our employees are seeking out the very services we provide to the community as we have been unable to give any kind of increase or COLA's for the last four years The situation is dire and we need your assistance to alleviate some of these financial burdens

I am confident that in your over thirty years of work in Social Services you can understand our dilemma and how vital these services we provide are I would greatly appreciate your kind consideration in this matter as it would have a huge impact on our day-to-day operations Thank for your kind consideration

Sincerely,

Tarek A. Aziz, MBA
Chief Financial Officer