



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
KANSAS/MISSOURI STATE OFFICE
REGION VII**

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November 8, 2005

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**CITY MANAGERS OFFICE
LAWRENCE, KS**

Honorable Dennis Highberger
Mayor of Lawrence
6 East 6th Street
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Mayor Highberger:

SUBJECT: Annual Community Assessment (ACA)
August 1, 2004 through July 31, 2005

The purpose of this correspondence is to transmit the results of the Annual Community Assessment conducted by this office of the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) covered by the City of Lawrence's Consolidated Plan. This review examines information provided by the City through the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) and the Integrated Disbursement Information System (IDIS). Through this performance review we are able to combine the statutory and regulatory requirements for evaluation program progress, reviewing program management and determining whether the City has the continued capacity to effectively implement and administer the program for which assistance is received.

In conducting the ACA we examine the activities the City is undertaking for consistency with the priorities and objectives outlined in the Consolidated Plan. The scope of the review includes the data supplied in the CAPER for this and past program years as well as the City's management of program funds. The information that is supplied on program performance is examined for accuracy and compliance with contractual agreements and applicable laws. We also utilize this review to measure the level of progress that is being made toward the City's stated goals and the statutory goals of its CDBG program.

The Fair Housing activities appear to be consistent with the City's approach to addressing the identified impediments to Fair Housing Choice. The City took the initiative in July 2004 to update its Analysis of Impediments (AI) to insure its continued high performance of affirmatively furthering fair housing. The City is also committed to long-term funding for the Lawrence Human Relations/Human Resources Department to provide education and resources on fair housing, along with a forum for citizen support in cases of housing discrimination. The Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity has

commended the City of Lawrence in its efforts to further fair housing choice for all persons.

During the most recent program year the City of Lawrence's "Step Up to Better Housing" strategy has focused on increasing the availability of affordable housing for families in poverty, funding essential services of its low-income residents, and on improving the quality of its neighborhoods. The City has demonstrated its effectiveness in program management and oversight and quality control. Moreover, based upon our analysis of the CAPER and other relevant data, we were able to make the following determinations:

1. The City has carried out its program substantially as described in its Consolidated Plan submission;
2. The Consolidated Plan submission as implemented complies with the requirements of the Housing and Community Development Act and other applicable laws and regulations;
3. The City has the continuing capacity to carry out the approved program in a timely manner; and
4. The City has met its annual report requirements.

Please note that we are providing the City thirty days, upon receipt of this letter, to comment on this report. Any comments or request for changes to this report will be taken into consideration by this office and a written response will be provided. If comments are not received within the period allowed, this report will be considered to be in final form. The final letter will then be made available to the public upon request.

We appreciate the efforts put forth by you and your staff to improve the quality of life within the City of Lawrence and to administer this grant. We look forward to assisting you during the current program year. Please feel free to contact Agatha Trujillo, Community Planning and Development Representative, at 913-551-6803 if you have any questions or concerns regarding this correspondence or the CDBG Program.

Sincerely,



William B. Rotert
Director
Office of Community Planning
and Development

cc: Margene Swarts
FHEO