



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

Brian F. Curran
Assemblyman, 21st District

COMMITTEES
Ethics, *Ranking Member*
Insurance
Labor
Veterans

November 25, 2013

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

As Long Islanders fight to put their lives back together after Superstorm Sandy, their fight is being made that much harder by their inability to receive adequate funding through New York Rising's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) loan program.

Many Long Islanders who received Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster loans to help cover the difference between their homeowners insurance and repair or rebuilding costs are now unable to receive further government assistance due to a duplication of funds provision currently being used to deny benefits to Long Islanders' CDBG grant funds. As you are aware, these New Yorkers were forced to fill out SBA paperwork before they could even be considered for a FEMA grant. These residents continue to be victimized for following the procedures put in place by the federal government.

This denial is not coming from the federal government; it is coming from your State Division of Housing and Community Renewal, under the direction of Matthew Nelson. Your administration is denying New Yorkers the ability to get back home after three hundred and ninety plus days of displacement, pain and suffering.

Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan has explained publicly that it is up to local governments to set rules and provisions for the allocation of CDBG funds, and that there is no legal restriction on awarding grant money to individuals that have received SBA loans. Additionally, SBA loans are loans that these struggling New Yorkers must repay, whereas CDBG funds are grants which are not to be repaid. This inequity is veiled in a legal grey area and is being used to unfairly deny additional assistance to New Yorkers in need.

Clearly we must use our grant money frugally in order to help as many families as possible, but we must also ensure that we are balancing that priority with the aim of providing adequate assistance to those in need. Our constituents are running out of FEMA rental assistance, and with no extension coming they are on the verge of becoming homeless yet again.



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

Brian F. Curran
Assemblyman, 21st District

COMMITTEES
Ethics, *Ranking Member*
Insurance
Labor
Veterans

It is hard to imagine that we, in the year 2013, cannot provide adequate relief for our neighbors in need. We must act now to restore the lives of our neighbors. Every minute that passes without additional aid for these victims is one minute closer to continued homelessness and that is unacceptable.

I am reaching out to you to ask for your assistance in addressing the needs of our fellow New Yorkers. In times of crisis, New Yorkers come together to help one another and right now from the coast of Montauk to the residents of the 21st Assembly District, families are hurting and they need our help . It is time for the state government to stand together to serve the people of New York and eliminate this egregious duplication of funds provision.

Sincerely,

Brian Curran
Member of Assembly, 21st AD