

CORTLAND HOUSING

ASSISTANCE COUNCIL INC.

February 10, 2026

Dr. Anna Kelles
NYS Assembly
Legislative Office Building
Room 538
Albany, NY 12248

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request

Dear Senator Webb:

Your support of the following State Budget "Asks", which directly impact your District is respectfully requested, inclusive of notification to the Senate Housing Committee Chair, Brian Kavanagh, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

- **Rural Preservation Program Funding:** A 10% increase to \$8,830,000, i.e. \$780,000, is requested to secure and maintain the capacity of your District's Rural Preservation Program(s). The increase will reflect the skillset of the existing staff who deal with financing, contracts, qualifying, federal, state and local funding on a daily basis. It also reflects the State's increase to the minimum wage and the corresponding increase to all wages as well as related administrative costs.

Rural Preservation Programs, created by New York State in the mid-1980s, have developed and rehabilitated tens of thousands of units for both rental and homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate income households, as well as for Elderly and Special Needs households.

The work Rural Preservation Programs generates hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars into communities throughout NYS annually and creates hundreds of job opportunities! It is important to know that the Rural Preservation Program is proposed to be and has been funded from the Mortgage Insurance Fund, a fund that Rural Preservation Programs have capitalized with their work using State of New York Mortgage Agency insurance!

There are **60 existing Rural Preservation Programs/Companies** that are presently funded at \$130,000.00 annually. The requested 10% increase will raise the annual contract amount to \$143,000.00, a welcomed and needed increase!

Assemblymember Kelles

February 10, 2026

Page 2

Your support of two capital programs is also requested:

- **The Small Rental Development Initiative Program** which provides capital funding for projects that do not exceed a total of 20 units. This is a program that is targeted to rural and suburban areas and has been zeroed out in the proposed Executive Budget. Your support of a \$10 Million Dollar allocation from the budget is sought, as is the codification of said program, so that it may continue to assist New York's small communities to address its housing needs.
- **ACCESS TO HOME Program**, a small program that provides funding to make accommodations to homes to allow continued occupancy and aging in-place. This project has been reduced to \$1 Million Dollars in the proposed Executive Budget, and your support of a \$6 Million Dollar allocation is requested.

Assemblymember, your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your District.

Please know that Cortland Housing Assistance Council, Inc. stands ready to provide any and all documentation to your office to secure your affirmative response to this request for support!

With greatly appreciate your consideration!

Sincerely,

Cortland Housing Assistance Council, Inc.

Shayna Grinnell
Executive Director



February 10, 2026

Assemblywoman Woerner

112 Spring Street, Suite 205
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request

Dear Senator(Assemblymember) Woerner:

Your support of the following State Budget “Asks”, which directly impact your District is respectfully requested, inclusive of notification to the Senate Housing Committee Chair, Brian Kavanagh, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

· Rural Preservation Program Funding: A 10% increase to \$8,830,000, i.e. \$780,000, is requested to secure and maintain the capacity of your District’s Rural Preservation Program(s). The increase will reflect the skillset of the existing staff who deal with financing, contracts, qualifying, federal, state and local funding on a daily basis. It also reflects the State’s increase to the minimum wage and the corresponding increase to all wages as well as related administrative costs.

Rural Preservation Programs, created by New York State in the mid-1980s, have developed and rehabilitated tens of thousands of units for both rental and homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate income households, as well as for Elderly and Special Needs households.

The work Rural Preservation Programs generates hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars into communities throughout NYS annually and creates hundreds of job opportunities!

It is important to know that the Rural Preservation Program is proposed to be and has been funded from the Mortgage Insurance Fund, a fund that Rural Preservation Programs have capitalized with their work using State of New York Mortgage Agency insurance!

There are 60 existing Rural Preservation Programs/Companies that are presently funded at \$130,000.00 annually. The requested 10% increase will raise the annual contract amount to \$143,000.00, a welcomed and needed increase!



Assemblywoman Woerner

February 10, 2026

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- The Small Rental Development Initiative Program which provides capital funding for projects that do not exceed a total of 20 units. This is a program that is targeted to rural and suburban areas and has been zeroed out in the proposed Executive Budget. Your support of a \$10 Million Dollar allocation from the budget is sought, as is the codification of said program, so that it may continue to assist New York's small communities to address its housing needs.
- ACCESS TO HOME Program, a small program that provides funding to make accommodations to homes to allow continued occupancy and aging in-place. This project has been reduced to \$1 Million Dollars in the proposed Executive Budget, and your support of a \$6 Million Dollar allocation is requested.

Senator, your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your District.

Please know that Veterans and Community Housing Coalition stands ready to provide any and all documentation to your office to secure your affirmative response to this request for support!

With greatly appreciate your consideration!

Sincerely,

Veteran's and Community Housing Coalition

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Diane Nazzaro".

Diane Nazzaro

Executive Director



February 10, 2026

Assemblywoman Walsh

199 Milton Avenue
Suite 2
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request

Dear Assemblywoman Walsh:

Your support of the following State Budget “Asks”, which directly impact your District is respectfully requested, inclusive of notification to the Senate Housing Committee Chair, Brian Kavanagh, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

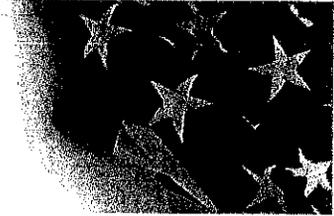
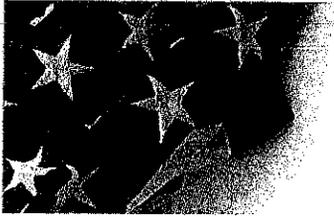
· Rural Preservation Program Funding: A 10% increase to \$8,830,000, i.e. \$780,000, is requested to secure and maintain the capacity of your District’s Rural Preservation Program(s). The increase will reflect the skillset of the existing staff who deal with financing, contracts, qualifying, federal, state and local funding on a daily basis. It also reflects the State’s increase to the minimum wage and the corresponding increase to all wages as well as related administrative costs.

Rural Preservation Programs, created by New York State in the mid-1980s, have developed and rehabilitated tens of thousands of units for both rental and homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate income households, as well as for Elderly and Special Needs households.

The work Rural Preservation Programs generates hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars into communities throughout NYS annually and creates hundreds of job opportunities!

It is important to know that the Rural Preservation Program is proposed to be and has been funded from the Mortgage Insurance Fund, a fund that Rural Preservation Programs have capitalized with their work using State of New York Mortgage Agency insurance!

There are 60 existing Rural Preservation Programs/Companies that are presently funded at \$130,000.00 annually. The requested 10% increase will raise the annual contract amount to \$143,000.00, a welcomed and needed increase!



Assemblywoman Walsh

February 10, 2026

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- ACCESS TO HOME Program, a small program that provides funding to make accommodations to homes to allow continued occupancy and aging in-place. This project has been reduced to \$1 Million Dollars in the proposed Executive Budget, and your support of a \$6 Million Dollar allocation is requested.

Senator, your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your District.

Please know that Veterans and Community Housing Coalition stands ready to provide any and all documentation to your office to secure your affirmative response to this request for support!

With greatly appreciate your consideration!

Sincerely,

Veteran's and Community Housing Coalition

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Nazzaro".

Diane Nazzaro

Executive Director

COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS, INC.

5 Givans Avenue, Wappingers Falls, New York 12590 (845) 297-2004 Fax: (845) 297-2080, TDD#711

February 10, 2026

Jonathan G. Jacobson, Assemblymember
New York State Assembly
District Assembly Office
436 Robinson Avenue, Suite B
Newburgh, New York 12550

**RE: NYS Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request
& Related Programs**

Dear Assemblymember Jacobson:

Your support of the following State Budget "Asks", which directly impact your District is respectfully requested, inclusive of notification to the Senate Housing Committee Chair, Brian Kavanagh, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

- **Rural Preservation Program Funding:** A 10% increase to \$8,830,000, i.e. \$780,000, is requested to secure and maintain the capacity of your District's Rural Preservation Program(s). The increase will reflect the skillset of the existing staff who deal with financing, contracts, qualifying, federal, state and local funding on a daily basis. It also reflects the State's increase to the minimum wage and the corresponding increase to all wages as well as related administrative costs.

Rural Preservation Programs, created by the New York State Legislature in the mid-1980s, have developed and rehabilitated tens of thousands of units for both rental and homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate income households, as well as for Elderly and Special Needs households. The work Rural Preservation Programs generates hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars into communities throughout New York State annually and creates hundreds of job opportunities!

Also, Rural Preservation Programs are proposed to be and have been funded from the Mortgage Insurance Fund, a fund that Rural Preservation Programs have capitalized with their work using State of New York Mortgage Agency insurance!

There are **60 existing Rural Preservation Programs/Companies** that are presently funded at \$130,000.00 annually. The requested 10% increase will raise the annual contract amount to \$143,000.00, a welcomed and needed increase!



Community Services Programs, Inc. does not discriminate against any person because of race, creed, age, color, disability, national origin, sex, marital status or familial status.



Jonathan G. Jacobson, Assemblymember

February 10, 2026

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Your support of two capital programs is also requested:

- **The Small Rental Development Initiative Program** which provides capital funding for projects that do not exceed a total of 20 units. This is a program that is targeted to rural and suburban areas and has been zeroed out in the proposed Executive Budget. Your support of a \$10 Million Dollar allocation from the budget is sought, as is the codification of said program, so that it may continue to assist New York's small communities to address its housing needs.
- **ACCESS TO HOME Program**, a small program that provides funding to make accommodations to homes to allow continued occupancy and aging in-place. This project has been reduced to \$1 Million Dollars in the proposed Executive Budget, and your support of a \$6 Million Dollar allocation is requested.

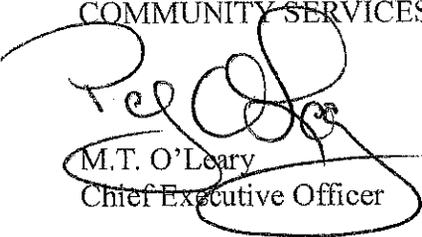
Senator, your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your District.

Please know that Community Services Programs, Inc.'s stands ready to provide any and all documentation to your office to secure your affirmative response to this request for support!

With greatly appreciate your consideration!

Sincerely,

COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS, INC.



M.T. O'Leary
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Jonathan G. Jacobson, Assemblymember
New York State Assembly
Albany Assembly Office
Legislative Office Building, Room 650
Albany, New York 12247



LIVINGADK™

P.O. Box 642
Old Forge, New York 13420
Phone: 315.369.3353
Website: www.LIVINGADK.org

February 24, 2026

Mr. Robert J. Smullen
NYS Assemblymember
District Office
5659 State Route 5, Suite 1-3
Herkimer, NY 13350

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request

Dear Assemblyman Smullen:

Your support of the following State Budget "Asks", which directly impact your District is respectfully requested, inclusive of notification to the Senate Housing Committee Chair, Brian Kavanagh, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

- **Rural Preservation Program Funding:** A 10% increase to \$8,830,000, i.e. \$780,000, is requested to secure and maintain the capacity of your District's Rural Preservation Program(s). The increase will reflect the skillset of the existing staff who deal with financing, contracts, qualifying, federal, state and local funding on a daily basis. It also reflects the State's increase to the minimum wage and the corresponding increase to all wages as well as related administrative costs.

Rural Preservation Programs, created by New York State in the mid-1980s, have developed and rehabilitated tens of thousands of units for both rental and homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate income households, as well as for Elderly and Special Needs households.

The work Rural Preservation Programs generates hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars into communities throughout NYS annually and creates hundreds of job opportunities! It is important to know that the Rural Preservation Program is proposed to be and has been funded from the Mortgage Insurance Fund, a fund that Rural Preservation Programs have capitalized with their work using State of New York Mortgage Agency insurance!

There are **60 existing Rural Preservation Programs/Companies** that are presently funded at \$130,000.00 annually. The requested 10% increase will raise the annual contract amount to \$143,000.00, a welcomed and needed increase!

Assemblyman Robert J. Smullen
February 24, 2026
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Your support of two capital programs is also requested:

- **The Small Rental Development Initiative Program** which provides capital funding for projects that do not exceed a total of 20 units. This is a program that is targeted to rural and suburban areas and has been zeroed out in the proposed Executive Budget. Your support of a \$10 Million Dollar allocation from the budget is sought, as is the codification of said program, so that it may continue to assist New York's small communities to address its housing needs.
- **ACCESS TO HOME Program**, a small program that provides funding to make accommodations to homes to allow continued occupancy and aging in-place. This project has been reduced to \$1 Million Dollars in the proposed Executive Budget, and your support of a \$6 Million Dollar allocation is requested.

Assemblyman Smullen, your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your District.

Please know that Central Adirondack Partnership for the 21st Century Inc. (LivingADK) stands ready to provide any and all documentation to your office to secure your affirmative response to this request for support!

With greatly appreciate your consideration!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robin Hill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robin Hill
Executive Director
Central Adirondack Partnership for the 21st Century Inc. (LivingADK)

cc: Albany Assembly Office



February 10, 2026

The Honorable John T. McDonald III
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 625
Albany, NY 12248

RE: New York State Budget – Rural Preservation Program – \$8,830,000 Request

Dear Assemblymember McDonald:

Your support of the following State Budget “Asks,” which directly impact your District, is respectfully requested. We also ask that you kindly notify Assembly Housing Committee leadership so that these requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

• **Rural Preservation Program Funding:** A 10% increase to \$8,830,000 (an increase of \$780,000) is requested to secure and maintain the capacity of your District’s Rural Preservation Program(s). This increase reflects the expertise of existing staff who manage financing, contracts, eligibility determinations, and federal, state, and local funding on a daily basis. It also accounts for the State’s minimum wage increases, corresponding wage adjustments, and related administrative costs.

Rural Preservation Programs, created by New York State in the mid-1980s, have developed and rehabilitated tens of thousands of units for both rental and homeownership opportunities serving low-to-moderate income households, as well as elderly and special needs households.

The work of Rural Preservation Programs generates hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars into communities throughout New York State annually and creates hundreds of job opportunities.

It is important to note that the Rural Preservation Program has historically been funded through the Mortgage Insurance Fund — a fund capitalized in part through the work of Rural Preservation Programs utilizing State of New York Mortgage Agency insurance.

There are currently 60 Rural Preservation Programs funded at \$130,000 annually. The requested 10% increase would raise the annual contract amount to \$143,000 — a necessary and welcomed adjustment.



Assemblymember John T. McDonald III
February 10, 2026
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Your support of the following capital programs is also respectfully requested:

- **Small Rental Development Initiative Program:** This program provides capital funding for projects not exceeding 20 units and is specifically targeted to rural and suburban areas. The program has been zeroed out in the proposed Executive Budget. Your support of a \$10 million allocation and codification of the program is sought so it may continue assisting small communities in addressing housing needs.
- **Access to Home Program:** This program provides funding for home modifications that allow continued occupancy and aging in place. The proposed Executive Budget has reduced funding to \$1 million. Your support of a \$6 million allocation is respectfully requested.

Assemblymember, your support is critical to securing these funding priorities that directly address the housing needs of the communities within your District.

Please know that **ROUSE, RPC** stands ready to provide any documentation or additional information your office may require to support this request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Crystal Turner", is enclosed within a blue oval shape.

ROUSE, RPC

Crystal Turner
Executive Director

cc: Albany Assembly Office



February 13, 2026

Christopher S. Friend, Assemblyman
NYS Assembly
District Office
1250 Schweizer Rd.
Horseheads, NY 14845

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,598,700.00

Dear Assemblyman Friend:

As you may recall, I am a proud constituent of yours and have been serving as the Executive Director of a non-profit housing, Community Progress, Inc., for the past 35 years in your District. I am a prominent member of the NYS Rural Advocates, an organization that I Co-Chair and have been a member of for 35 years.

Community Progress, Inc. has served the Southern Tier Region for 56 years and has (developed, rehabbed, provided rental assistance, homeownership housing, etc.) to thousands of working families, homeowners and senior citizens. CPI has also assisted other entities with our community to pair with additional needs inclusive of childcare facilities, industrial park expansions, brown field clean ups, food banks and historic preservation, among other efforts. All totaled, over \$ 42 million of federal, state and private investment in our communities has resulted due to our agency's work, multiple jobs created and millions of revenues generated by keeping homes on the tax rolls from the work that we do.

The key to being the feet on-the-ground provider for Community Progress, Inc. and our ability to respond to the housing and community development needs throughout the communities in which we work, is the provision of funding from the Office of Community Renewal: Rural Preservation Program (RPP), **which is reflected in the Executive Budget under "Mortgage Insurance Fund"**. Administrative funds from the programs that we administer do not cover the costs of our agency's overhead expenses, especially because of the vast areas throughout the rural areas of New York State that we travel to do so.

The NYS Rural Advocates, a non-profit membership entity with the majority of the Rural Preservation Program Participants as members, supports the ask of **\$8,598,700 for the 60 Rural Preservation Companies** already funded under the Rural Preservation Program. This sum of **\$8,598,700** will provide parity with our Neighborhood Preservation Program colleagues, provide for a 10% increase and support existing housing programs at the levels needed to serve eligible homeowners.

Assemblyman Friend, may I please ask if you would consider advising Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal, Chair of the Assembly Housing Committee, of your support for the **\$8,598,700** for Rural Preservation Programs, so that our Agency may continue to serve the residents of your District?

The requested funding will permit for the continued development, rehabilitation and management of hundreds, if not thousands, of units of housing for low-income and special needs households and people.

Your support is sincerely appreciated and most welcomed!

Very truly yours,
Community Progress, Inc.



Julie Chevalier
Executive Director

Cc: Friend, Assembly
Albany Office



Rural Preservation Company of Clinton County

February 13, 2026

Michael Cashman, Assemblyman
551 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request

Dear Assemblyman Cashman:

Your support of the following State Budget "Asks", which directly impact your District is respectfully requested, inclusive of notification to the Senate Housing Committee Chair, Brian Kavanagh, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

- **Rural Preservation Program Funding:** A 10% increase to \$8,830,000, i.e. \$780,000, is requested to secure and maintain the capacity of your District's Rural Preservation Program(s). The increase will reflect the skillset of the existing staff who deal with financing, contracts, qualifying, federal, state and local funding on a daily basis. It also reflects the State's increase to the minimum wage and the corresponding increase to all wages as well as related administrative costs.

Rural Preservation Programs, created by New York State in the mid-1980s, have developed and rehabilitated tens of thousands of units for both rental and homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate income households, as well as for Elderly and Special Needs households.

The work Rural Preservation Programs generates hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars into communities throughout NYS annually and creates hundreds of job opportunities! It is important to know that the Rural Preservation Program is proposed to be and has been funded from the Mortgage Insurance Fund, a fund that Rural Preservation Programs have capitalized with their work using State of New York Mortgage Agency insurance!

There are **60 existing Rural Preservation Programs/Companies** that are presently funded at \$130,000.00 annually. The requested 10% increase will raise the annual contract amount to \$143,000.00, a welcomed and needed increase!

Assemblyman Cashman
February 13, 2026
Page 2

Your support of two capital programs is also requested:

- **The Small Rental Development Initiative Program** which provides capital funding for projects that do not exceed a total of 20 units. This is a program that is targeted to rural and suburban areas and has been zeroed out in the proposed Executive Budget. Your support of a \$10 Million Dollar allocation from the budget is sought, as is the codification of said program, so that it may continue to assist New York's small communities to address its housing needs.
- **ACCESS TO HOME Program**, a small program that provides funding to make accommodations to homes to allow continued occupancy and aging in-place. This project has been reduced to \$1 Million Dollars in the proposed Executive Budget, and your support of a \$6 Million Dollar allocation is requested.

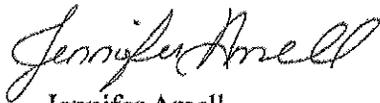
Your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your District.

Please know that Rural Preservation Company of Clinton County, Inc. stands ready to provide any and all documentation to your office to secure your affirmative response to this request for support!

With greatly appreciate your consideration!

Sincerely,

Rural Preservation Company of Clinton County, Inc.



Jennifer Amell
Executive Director



23 North Main Street, Suite 4
Wellesville, New York 14895
Phone: (585) 593-6353
Fax: (585) 593-0871
TDD #711

Alfred Housing Committee, Inc.

February 13, 2026

Assemblyman, Joe Sempolinski
District Office
700 West State St.
Olean, New York 14760

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request

Dear Assemblyman Joe Sempolinski:

Your support of the following State Budget "Asks", which directly impact your District is respectfully requested, inclusive of notification to the Senate Housing Committee Chair, Brian Kavanagh, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

- **Rural Preservation Program Funding:** A 10% increase to \$8,830,000, i.e. \$780,000, is requested to secure and maintain the capacity of your District's Rural Preservation Program(s). The increase will reflect the skillset of the existing staff who deal with financing, contracts, qualifying, federal, state and local funding daily. It also reflects the State's increase in the minimum wage and the corresponding increase to all wages as well as related administrative costs.

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Assemblyman Joe Sempolinski
February 13, 2026
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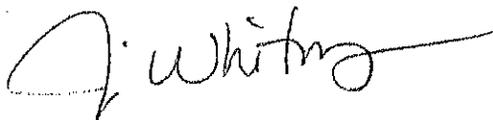
Senator, your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your District.

Please know that Alfred Housing Committee, Inc. stands ready to provide any and all documentation to your office to secure your affirmative response to this request for support!

With greatly appreciate your consideration!

Sincerely,

Alfred Housing Committee, Inc.



Jill Whitney
Executive Director

cc: Albany Senatorial Office

SRPC

SOUTHTOWNS RURAL PRESERVATION CO., INC.
P.O. Box 153, 9441 Boston State Road, Boston, New York 14025-0153
716-941-5787, FAX 716-941-5788
E-MAIL: southtownsrpc@aol.com
WEBSITE: southtownsrpc.com

February 13, 2026

David DiPietro, Assemblymember
NYS Assembly
District Office
411 Main St.
East Aurora, New York 14052

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request

Dear Assemblymember DiPietro:

Your support of the following State Budget "Asks", which directly impact your District is respectfully requested, inclusive of notification to the Senate Housing Committee Chair, Brian Kavanagh, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

- **Rural Preservation Program Funding:** A 10% increase to \$8,830,000, i.e. \$780,000, is requested to secure and maintain the capacity of your District's Rural Preservation Program(s). The increase will reflect the skillset of the existing staff who deal with financing, contracts, qualifying, federal, state and local funding on a daily basis. It also reflects the State's increase to the minimum wage and the corresponding increase to all wages as well as related administrative costs.

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Assemblymember DiPietro

February 13, 2026

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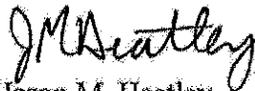
Assemblymember, your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your District.

Please know that Southtowns Rural Preservation Co., Inc. stands ready to provide any and all documentation to your office to secure your affirmative response to this request for support!

With greatly appreciate your consideration!

Sincerely,

Southtowns Rural Preservation Co., Inc.



Jason M. Heatley
Executive Director

RHOC

An Affiliate Corporation of PathStone Corporation

Rural Housing Opportunities Corporation
400 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607
(585) 340-3370 (585) 340-3309 fax
www.pathstone.org
jsankowski@pathstone.org

February 17, 2026

Brian Manktelow, Assemblyman
NYS Assembly
10 Leach Road
Lyons, NY 14489
manktelowb@nyassembly.gov

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request

Dear Assemblyman Manktelow:

Your support of the following State Budget "Asks", which directly impact your District is respectfully requested, inclusive of notification to the Senate Housing Committee Chair, Brian Kavanagh, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

- **Rural Preservation Program Funding:** A 10% increase to \$8,830,000, i.e. \$780,000, is requested to secure and maintain the capacity of your District's Rural Preservation Program(s). The increase will reflect the skillset of the existing staff who deal with financing, contracts, qualifying, federal, state and local funding on a daily basis. It also reflects the State's increase to the minimum wage and the corresponding increase to all wages as well as related administrative costs.

Rural Preservation Programs, created by New York State in the mid-1980s, have developed and rehabilitated tens of thousands of units for both rental and homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate income households, as well as for Elderly and Special Needs households.

The work Rural Preservation Programs generates hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars into communities throughout NYS annually and creates hundreds of job opportunities!

It is important to know that the Rural Preservation Program is proposed to be and has been funded from the Mortgage Insurance Fund, a fund that Rural Preservation Programs have capitalized with their work using State of New York Mortgage Agency insurance!

Rural Housing Opportunities Corporation

A Rural Preservation Company funded by the NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal since 1992



There are **60 existing Rural Preservation Programs/Companies** that are presently funded at \$130,000.00 annually. The requested 10% increase will raise the annual contract amount to \$143,000.00, a welcomed and needed increase!

Your support of two capital programs is also requested:

- **The Small Rental Development Initiative Program** which provides capital funding for projects that do not exceed a total of 20 units. This is a program that is targeted to rural and suburban areas and has been zeroed out in the proposed Executive Budget. Your support of a \$10 Million Dollar allocation from the budget is sought, as is the codification of said program, so that it may continue to assist New York's small communities to address its housing needs.
- **ACCESS TO HOME Program**, a small program that provides funding to make accommodations to homes to allow continued occupancy and aging in-place. This project has been reduced to \$1 Million Dollars in the proposed Executive Budget, and your support of a \$6 Million Dollar allocation is requested.

Senator, your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your District.

Please know that Rural Housing Opportunities Corporation stands ready to provide any and all documentation to your office to secure your affirmative response to this request for support!

With greatly appreciate your consideration!

Sincerely,

Rural Housing Opportunities Corporation



Joshua Sankowski
President and Executive Director

cc: Albany Assembly Office



RHOC

An Affiliate Corporation of PathStone Corporation

Rural Housing Opportunities Corporation
400 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607
(585) 340-3370 (585) 340-3309 fax
www.pathstone.org
jsankowski@pathstone.org

February 17, 2026

Josh Jensen, Assemblyman
NYS Assembly
2496 West Ridge Road
Rochester, NY 14626
jensenj@nyassembly.gov

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request

Dear Assemblyman Jensen:

Your support of the following State Budget "Asks", which directly impact your District is respectfully requested, inclusive of notification to the Senate Housing Committee Chair, Brian Kavanagh, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

- **Rural Preservation Program Funding:** A 10% increase to \$8,830,000, i.e. \$780,000, is requested to secure and maintain the capacity of your District's Rural Preservation Program(s). The increase will reflect the skillset of the existing staff who deal with financing, contracts, qualifying, federal, state and local funding on a daily basis. It also reflects the State's increase to the minimum wage and the corresponding increase to all wages as well as related administrative costs.

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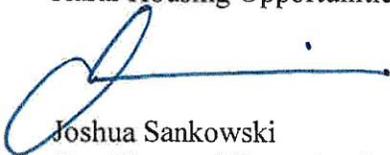
Senator, your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your District.

Please know that Rural Housing Opportunities Corporation stands ready to provide any and all documentation to your office to secure your affirmative response to this request for support!

With greatly appreciate your consideration!

Sincerely,

Rural Housing Opportunities Corporation



Joshua Sankowski
President and Executive Director

cc: Albany Assembly Office

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400 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607
(585) 340-3370 (585) 340-3309 fax
www.pathstone.org
jsankowski@pathstone.org

February 17, 2026

Stephen Hawley, Assemblyman
NYS Assembly
121 N. Main Street
Albion, NY 14411
HawleyS@nyassembly.gov

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request

Dear Assemblyman Hawley:

Your support of the following State Budget "Asks", which directly impact your District is respectfully requested, inclusive of notification to the Senate Housing Committee Chair, Brian Kavanagh, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

- **Rural Preservation Program Funding:** A 10% increase to \$8,830,000, i.e. \$780,000, is requested to secure and maintain the capacity of your District's Rural Preservation Program(s). The increase will reflect the skillset of the existing staff who deal with financing, contracts, qualifying, federal, state and local funding on a daily basis. It also reflects the State's increase to the minimum wage and the corresponding increase to all wages as well as related administrative costs.

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- **The Small Rental Development Initiative Program** which provides capital funding for projects that do not exceed a total of 20 units. This is a program that is targeted to rural and suburban areas and has been zeroed out in the proposed Executive Budget. Your support of a \$10 Million Dollar allocation from the budget is sought, as is the codification of said program, so that it may continue to assist New York's small communities to address its housing needs.
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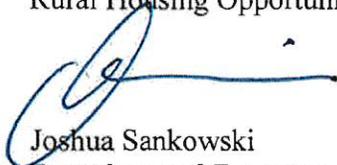
Senator, your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your District.

Please know that Rural Housing Opportunities Corporation stands ready to provide any and all documentation to your office to secure your affirmative response to this request for support!

With greatly appreciate your consideration!

Sincerely,

Rural Housing Opportunities Corporation



Joshua Sankowski
President and Executive Director

cc: Albany Assembly Office

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400 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607
(585) 340-3370 (585) 340-3309 fax
www.pathstone.org
jsankowski@pathstone.org

February 17, 2026

Jeff Gallahan, Assemblyman
NYS Assembly
70 Elizabeth Blackwell Street
Geneva, NY 14456
gallahanj@nyassembly.gov

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request

Dear Assemblyman Gallahan:

Your support of the following State Budget "Asks", which directly impact your District is respectfully requested, inclusive of notification to the Senate Housing Committee Chair, Brian Kavanagh, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

- **Rural Preservation Program Funding:** A 10% increase to \$8,830,000, i.e. \$780,000, is requested to secure and maintain the capacity of your District's Rural Preservation Program(s). The increase will reflect the skillset of the existing staff who deal with financing, contracts, qualifying, federal, state and local funding on a daily basis. It also reflects the State's increase to the minimum wage and the corresponding increase to all wages as well as related administrative costs.

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- **The Small Rental Development Initiative Program** which provides capital funding for projects that do not exceed a total of 20 units. This is a program that is targeted to rural and suburban areas and has been zeroed out in the proposed Executive Budget. Your support of a \$10 Million Dollar allocation from the budget is sought, as is the codification of said program, so that it may continue to assist New York's small communities to address its housing needs.
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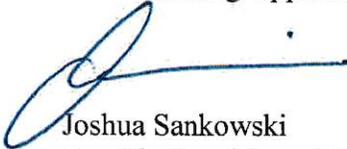
Senator, your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your District.

Please know that Rural Housing Opportunities Corporation stands ready to provide any and all documentation to your office to secure your affirmative response to this request for support!

With greatly appreciate your consideration!

Sincerely,

Rural Housing Opportunities Corporation



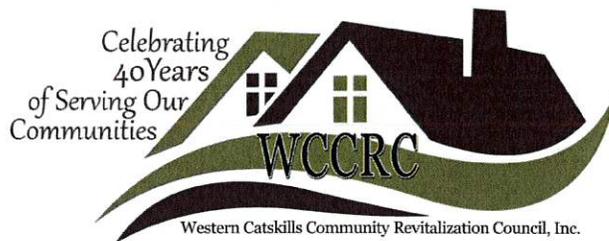
Joshua Sankowski
President and Executive Director

cc: Albany Assembly Office

Rural Housing Opportunities Corporation

A Rural Preservation Company funded by the NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal since 1992





www.westerncatskills.org

info@westerncatskills.org

February 17, 2026

Honorable Chris Tague
New York State Senate
District Office
113 Park Place, Suite 6 Schoharie NY 12157

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request

Dear Assemblymember Tague,

On behalf of Western Catskills Community Revitalization Council Inc, a not-for-profit Rural Preservation Company, we ask for your continued support of programs addressing critical housing needs in rural communities. Your support of the following State Budget "Asks", which directly impact your District is respectfully requested, inclusive of notification to the Senate Housing Committee Chair, Brian Kavanaugh, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

- **Rural Preservation Program Funding:** A 10% increase to \$8,830,000, i.e. \$780,000, is requested to secure and maintain the capacity of your District's Rural Preservation Program(s). The increase will reflect the skillset of the existing staff who deal with financing, contracts, qualifying, federal, state and local funding on a daily basis. It also reflects the State's increase to the minimum wage and the corresponding increase to all wages as well as related administrative costs.

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There are **60 existing Rural Preservation Programs/Companies** that are presently funded at \$130,000.00 annually. The requested 10% increase will raise the annual contract amount to \$143,000.00, a welcomed and needed increase!

Your support of two capital programs is also requested:

125 Main Street, Suite A, Stamford, N.Y. 12167
(607) 652-2823

- **The Small Rental Development Initiative Program** which provides capital funding for projects that do not exceed a total of 20 units. This is a program that is targeted to rural and suburban areas and has been zeroed out in the proposed Executive Budget. Your support of a \$10 Million Dollar allocation from the budget is sought, as is the codification of said program, so that it may continue to assist New York's small communities to address its housing needs.
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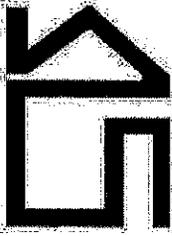
Senator, your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your District.

Please know that Western Catskills Community Revitalization Council is ready to provide any and all documentation to your office to secure your affirmative response to this request for support!

With greatly appreciate your consideration!

Antonia Besculides

Antonia Besculides, Executive Director



ACRHA -Albany County Rural Housing Alliance, Inc.

Main Office/Physical Address: 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, New York 12186

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 407, Voorheesville, New York 12186

518.765.2425 (phone) 518.765.9014 (fax)

www.ACRHA.org

NYS TTY/TDD Relay: 7-1-1

2/17/2026

Assemblymember McDonald III
NYS Assembly LOB Room 625
Albany NY 12248
McDonaldJ@nyassembly.gov

RE: 2026 New York State Budget Request — Rural Preservation Program & Housing Capital Investments

Dear Assemblymember McDonald:

On behalf of Albany County Rural Housing Alliance, Inc., we respectfully request your support for key housing investments that directly benefit Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and the Capital Region as a whole. We also respectfully ask that you share these priorities with Senator Brian Kavanagh to support inclusion in the One-House Budget Bill.

1) Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000 (10% Increase)

We respectfully request a **10% funding increase (\$780,000)** to sustain and strengthen New York's Rural Preservation Program network.

Why this matters:

- Rural Preservation Programs have developed and rehabilitated tens of thousands of housing units across New York State.
- Programs serve low- and moderate-income households, older adults, and residents with special needs.
- Staff manage complex financing, contracts, compliance, and multi-source funding that bring significant investment into communities.
- The program generates substantial economic activity and supports local jobs.
- Funding comes through the Mortgage Insurance Fund, strengthened by the work of these programs.

There are currently 60 funded Rural Preservation organizations receiving \$130,000 annually. The requested increase would raise contracts to \$143,000 — a necessary adjustment to maintain service capacity.

2) Capital Program Support Requested

Small Rental Development Initiative (SRDI) - \$10 Million

- Supports projects of 20 units or fewer in rural and suburban areas.
- Critical for communities that cannot attract larger development resources.
- Currently zeroed out in the Executive Budget.
- We request restoration and codification of this program.

Access to Home Program - \$6 Million

- Funds home modifications that allow residents to age in place safely.
- Supports independent living and reduces institutional costs.
- Proposed Executive Budget reduces funding to \$1 million.
- We respectfully request restoration to \$6 million.

These investments are essential to addressing housing affordability and strengthening community stability throughout Communities throughout Albany County.

Albany County Rural Housing Alliance, Inc. stands ready to provide any additional information your office may require.

Thank you for your consideration and continued leadership.

Sincerely,



Tracy Gibeau
Executive Director
Albany County Rural Housing Alliance, Inc.

cc: Albany Senatorial Office



ACRHA - Albany County Rural Housing Alliance, Inc.

Main Office/Physical Address: 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, New York 12186

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 407, Voorheesville, New York 12186

518.765.2425 (phone) 518.765.9014 (fax)

www.ACRHA.org

NYS TTY/TDD Relay: 7-1-1

2/17/2026

Assemblymember Romero
NYS Assembly LOB Room 704
Albany NY 12248
romerog@nyassembly.gov

RE: 2026 New York State Budget Request — Rural Preservation Program & Housing Capital Investments

Dear Assemblymember Romero:

On behalf of Albany County Rural Housing Alliance, Inc., we respectfully request your support for key housing investments that directly benefit Albany, The Town of New Scotland, Guilderland and other communities throughout Albany County. We also respectfully ask that you share these priorities with Senator Brian Kavanagh to support inclusion in the One-House Budget Bill.

1) Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000 (10% Increase)

We respectfully request a **10% funding increase (\$780,000)** to sustain and strengthen New York's Rural Preservation Program network.

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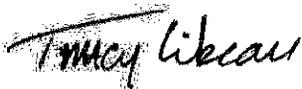
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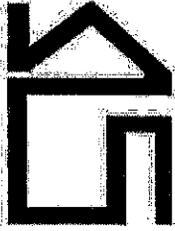
Thank you for your consideration and continued leadership.

Sincerely,



Tracy Gibeau
Executive Director
Albany County Rural Housing Alliance, Inc.

cc: Albany Senatorial Office



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NYS TTY/TDD Relay: 7-1-1

2/17/2026

Assemblymember Steck
NYS Assembly LOB Room 627
Albany NY 12248
SteckP@nyassembly.gov

RE: 2026 New York State Budget Request — Rural Preservation Program & Housing Capital Investments

Dear Assemblymember Steck:

On behalf of Albany County Rural Housing Alliance, Inc., we respectfully request your support for key housing investments that directly benefit Schenectady, Colonie and other communities throughout the Capital Region. We also respectfully ask that you share these priorities with Senator Brian Kavanagh to support inclusion in the One-House Budget Bill.

1) Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000 (10% Increase)

We respectfully request a **10% funding increase (\$780,000)** to sustain and strengthen New York's Rural Preservation Program network.

Why this matters:

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Thank you for your consideration and continued leadership.

Sincerely,



Tracy Gibeau
Executive Director
Albany County Rural Housing Alliance, Inc.

cc: Albany Senatorial Office



9 Sheldon Guile Blvd. • Owego, NY 13827 • Tiogaopp.org



Tel: 607-687-4120 • Toll Free: 866-352-3680 • Fax: 607-687-4147 • TDD: 607-687-5905

February 18, 2026

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request

Dear Assemblymember Friend:

Your support of the following State Budget “Asks,” which directly impact your District, is respectfully requested, inclusive of notification to the Senate Housing Committee Chair, Brian Kavanagh, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

- **Rural Preservation Program Funding:** A 10% increase to \$8,830,000, i.e. \$780,000, is requested to secure and maintain the capacity of your District’s Rural Preservation Program(s). The increase will reflect the skillset of the existing staff who deal with financing, contracts, and qualifying federal, state and local funding on a daily basis. It also reflects the State’s increase to the minimum wage and the corresponding increase to all wages as well as related administrative costs.

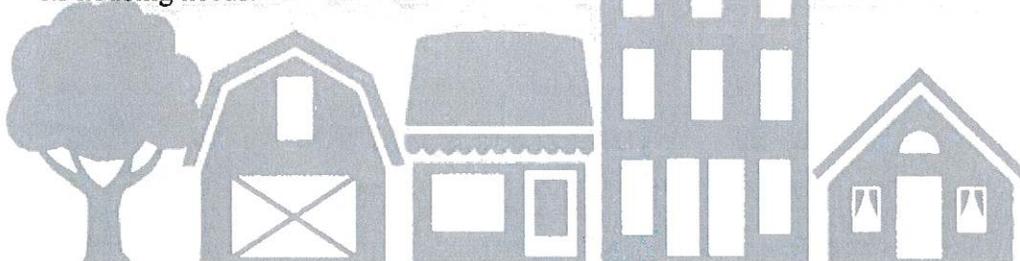
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There are **60 existing Rural Preservation Programs/Companies** that are presently funded at \$130,000.00 annually. The requested 10% increase will raise the annual contract amount to \$143,000.00, a welcomed and needed increase.

Your support of two capital programs is also requested:

- **The Small Rental Development Initiative Program** which provides capital funding for projects that do not exceed a total of 20 units. This is a program that is targeted to rural and suburban areas and has been zeroed out in the proposed Executive Budget. Your support of a \$10 million allocation from the budget is sought, as is the codification of said program, so that it may continue to assist New York’s small communities to address its housing needs.





9 Sheldon Guile Blvd. • Owego, NY 13827 • Tiogaopp.org



Tel: 607-687-4120 • Toll Free: 866-352-3680 • Fax: 607-687-4147 • TDD: 607-687-5905

- **ACCESS TO HOME Program**, a small program that provides funding to make accommodations to homes to allow continued occupancy and aging in-place. This project has been reduced to \$1 million in the proposed Executive Budget, and your support of a \$6 million allocation is requested.

Assemblyman Friend, your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your District.

Please know that Tioga Opportunities, Inc. stands ready to provide any and all documentation to your office to secure your affirmative response to this request for support.

We greatly appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christine Shaver".

Christine Shaver
Executive Director, Tioga Opportunities, Inc.





Herkimer CAAP
310 John Ave.
Herkimer, NY 13350

Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc.

9882 River Rd., Utica, New York 13502
315-624-9930 (p) 315-624-9931 (f)
www.mvcaa.com

Rome CAAP
203 W. Liberty St.
Rome, NY 13440

Utica CAAP
287 Genesee St.
Utica, NY 13501

February 19, 2026
Robert Smullen, Member of Assembly
5659 State Route 5
Suites 1-3
Herkimer, NY 13350

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request

Dear Assemblymember Smullen:

Your support of the following State Budget "Asks", which directly impact your District is respectfully requested, inclusive of notification to the Senate Housing Committee Chair, Brian Kavanagh, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

- **Rural Preservation Program Funding:** A 10% increase to \$8,830,000, i.e. \$780,000, is requested to secure and maintain the capacity of your District's Rural Preservation Program(s). The increase will reflect the skillset of the existing staff who deal with financing, contracts, qualifying, federal, state and local funding on a daily basis. It also reflects the State's increase to the minimum wage and the corresponding increase to all wages as well as related administrative costs.

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There are **60 existing Rural Preservation Programs/Companies** that are presently funded at \$130,000.00 annually. The requested 10% increase will raise the annual contract amount to \$143,000.00, a welcomed and needed increase!

Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency has annually received this funding for over 30 years. It has enabled us over the years to assist rural communities in creating opportunities for their community that has enhanced housing, support community development initiatives and offers outreach to access additional services.

Your support of two capital programs is also requested:

- **The Small Rental Development Initiative Program** which provides capital funding for projects that do not exceed a total of 20 units. This is a program that is targeted to rural and suburban areas and has been zeroed out in the proposed Executive Budget. Your support of a \$10 Million Dollar allocation from the budget is sought, as is the codification of said program, so that it may continue to assist New York's small communities to address its housing needs.
- **ACCESS TO HOME Program**, a small program that provides funding to make accommodations to homes to allow continued occupancy and aging in-place. This project has been reduced to \$1 Million Dollars in the proposed Executive Budget, and your support of a \$6 Million Dollar allocation is requested.

Senator, your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your District.

Please know that our agency is ready to provide any and all documentation to your office to secure your affirmative response to this request for support!

We greatly appreciate your support!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Turner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy Turner, Executive Director



Herkimer CAAP

310 John Ave.
Herkimer, NY 13350

Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc.

9882 River Rd., Utica, New York 13502
315-624-9930 (p) 315-624-9931 (f)
www.mvcaa.com

Rome CAAP

203 W. Liberty St.
Rome, NY 13440

Utica CAAP

287 Genesee St.
Utica, NY 13501

February 19, 2026

Mariann Buttenschon, Member of Assembly

207 Genesee Street

Rm 401

Utica, NY 13501

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request

Dear Assemblymember Buttenschon:

Your support of the following State Budget "Asks", which directly impact your District is respectfully requested, inclusive of notification to the Senate Housing Committee Chair, Brian Kavanagh, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

- **Rural Preservation Program Funding:** A 10% increase to \$8,830,000, i.e. \$780,000, is requested to secure and maintain the capacity of your District's Rural Preservation Program(s). The increase will reflect the skillset of the existing staff who deal with financing, contracts, qualifying, federal, state and local funding on a daily basis. It also reflects the State's increase to the minimum wage and the corresponding increase to all wages as well as related administrative costs.

Rural Preservation Programs, created by New York State in the mid-1980s, have developed and rehabilitated tens of thousands of units for both rental and homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate income households, as well as for Elderly and Special Needs households.

The work Rural Preservation Programs generates hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars into communities throughout NYS annually and creates hundreds of job opportunities! It is important to know that the Rural Preservation Program is proposed to be and has been funded from the Mortgage Insurance Fund, a fund that Rural Preservation Programs have capitalized with their work using State of New York Mortgage Agency insurance!

There are **60 existing Rural Preservation Programs/Companies** that are presently funded at \$130,000.00 annually. The requested 10% increase will raise the annual contract amount to \$143,000.00, a welcomed and needed increase!

Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency has annually received this funding for over 30 years. It has enabled us over the years to assist rural communities in creating opportunities for their community that has enhanced housing, support community development initiatives and offers outreach to access additional services.

Your support of two capital programs is also requested:

- **The Small Rental Development Initiative Program** which provides capital funding for projects that do not exceed a total of 20 units. This is a program that is targeted to rural and suburban areas and has been zeroed out in the proposed Executive Budget. Your support of a \$10 Million Dollar allocation from the budget is sought, as is the codification of said program, so that it may continue to assist New York's small communities to address its housing needs.
- **ACCESS TO HOME Program**, a small program that provides funding to make accommodations to homes to allow continued occupancy and aging in-place. This project has been reduced to \$1 Million Dollars in the proposed Executive Budget, and your support of a \$6 Million Dollar allocation is requested.

Senator, your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your District.

Please know that our agency is ready to provide any and all documentation to your office to secure your affirmative response to this request for support!

We greatly appreciate your support!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Turner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy Turner, Executive Director



February 10, 2026

Ken Blankenbush, Assemblyman
District Office
40 Franklin St Suite 2
Carthage, NY 13619

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request

Dear Assemblyman Blakenbush:

Your support of the following State Budget "Asks", which directly impact your District is respectfully requested, inclusive of notification to the Senate Housing Committee Chair, Brian Kavanagh, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

- **Rural Preservation Program Funding:** A 10% increase to \$8,830,000, i.e. \$780,000, is requested to secure and maintain the capacity of your District's Rural Preservation Program(s). The increase will reflect the skillset of the existing staff who deal with financing, contracts, qualifying, federal, state and local funding on a daily basis. It also reflects the State's increase to the minimum wage and the corresponding increase to all wages as well as related administrative costs.

Rural Preservation Programs, created by New York State in the mid-1980s, have developed and rehabilitated tens of thousands of units for both rental and homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate income households, as well as for Elderly and Special Needs households.

The work Rural Preservation Programs generates hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars into communities throughout NYS annually and creates hundreds of job opportunities!

It is important to know that the Rural Preservation Program is proposed to be and has been funded from the Mortgage Insurance Fund, a fund that Rural Preservation Programs have capitalized with their work using State of New York Mortgage Agency insurance!

There are **60 existing Rural Preservation Programs/Companies** that are presently funded at \$130,000.00 annually. The requested 10% increase will raise the annual contract amount to \$143,000.00, a welcomed and needed increase!

www.snowbelt.org

7500 SOUTH STATE STREET, LOWVILLE, NY 13367

[E] information@snowbelt.org [P] (315) 376-2639





Assemblyman Blankenbush
February 10, 2026
Page 2

Your support of two capital programs is also requested:

- **The Small Rental Development Initiative Program** which provides capital funding for projects that do not exceed a total of 20 units. This is a program that is targeted to rural and suburban areas and has been zeroed out in the proposed Executive Budget. Your support of a \$10 Million Dollar allocation from the budget is sought, as is the codification of said program, so that it may continue to assist New York's small communities to address its housing needs.
- **ACCESS TO HOME Program**, a small program that provides funding to make accommodations to homes to allow continued occupancy and aging in-place. This project has been reduced to \$1 Million Dollars in the proposed Executive Budget, and your support of a \$6 Million Dollar allocation is requested.

Senator, your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your District.

Please know that Snow Belt Housing Company, Inc. is ready to provide any and all documentation to your office to secure your affirmative response to this request for support!

With greatly appreciate your consideration!

Sincerely,

Snow Belt Housing Company, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Grunert-Loud", written over a horizontal line.

Robert Grunert-Loud
Executive Director

cc: Albany Senatorial Office

www.snowbelt.org

7500 SOUTH STATE STREET, LOWVILLE, NY 13367

[E] information@snowbelt.org [P] (315) 376-2639





SOUTHERN HILLS
PRESERVATION CORPORATION

2383 US Route 11, LaFayette, NY 13084
Ph: (315) 677-3863 Fax: (315) 677-3864
www.southernhillspc.org

February 18, 2026

The Honorable John Lemondes
New York State Assembly
69 South Street
Auburn, NY 13021

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request

Dear Assemblyman Lemondes:

Your support of the following State Budget "Asks", which directly impact your District is respectfully requested, inclusive of notification to the Senate Housing Committee Chair, Brian Kavanagh, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

- **Rural Preservation Program Funding:** A 10% increase to \$8,830,000, i.e. \$780,000, is requested to secure and maintain the capacity of your District's Rural Preservation Program(s). The increase will reflect the skillset of the existing staff who deal with financing, contracts, qualifying, federal, state and local funding on a daily basis. It also reflects the State's increase to the minimum wage and the corresponding increase to all wages as well as related administrative costs.

Rural Preservation Programs, created by New York State in the mid-1980s, have developed and rehabilitated tens of thousands of units for both rental and homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate income households, as well as for Elderly and Special Needs households.

The work Rural Preservation Programs generates hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars into communities throughout NYS annually and creates hundreds of job opportunities! It is important to know that the Rural Preservation Program is proposed to be and has been funded from the Mortgage Insurance Fund, a fund that Rural Preservation Programs have capitalized with their work using State of New York Mortgage Agency insurance!

There are **60 existing Rural Preservation Programs/Companies** that are presently funded at \$130,000.00 annually. The requested 10% increase will raise the annual contract amount to \$143,000.00, a welcomed and needed increase!

Your support of two capital programs is also requested:

- **The Small Rental Development Initiative Program** which provides capital funding for projects that do not exceed a total of 20 units. This is a program that is targeted to rural and suburban areas and has been zeroed out in the proposed Executive Budget. Your support of a \$10 Million Dollar allocation from the budget is sought, as is the codification of said program, so that it may continue to assist New York's small communities to address its housing needs.



- **ACCESS TO HOME Program**, a small program that provides funding to make accommodations to homes to allow continued occupancy and aging in-place. This project has been reduced to \$1 Million Dollar\$ in the proposed Executive Budget, and your support of a \$6 Million Dollar allocation is requested.

Assemblyman Lemondes, your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your District.

Please know that Southern Hills Preservation Corporation stands ready to provide any and all documentation to your office to secure your affirmative response to this request for support!

With greatly appreciate your consideration!

Sincerely,

Natalie Dimovski

Natalie Dimovski
Executive Director
Southern Hills Preservation Corporation

cc: Albany Assembly Office





Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation & Improvement Corporation (CHRIC)

2 Academy St, Mayville, NY 14757

(716) 753-4650 fax – (716) 753-4508 TDD – (800) 662-1220

www.chric.org

chric@fairpoint.net

Improving Chautauqua County's Housing Since 1978

48 Years of Excellence 1978-2026

February 10, 2026

Andrew Molitor, Assemblyman 150th District
Fenton Building
2 E. 2nd Street, Suite 320
Jamestown, NY 14701

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000

Dear Assemblyman Molitor:

Your support of the following State Budget "Asks", which directly impact your District is respectfully requested, inclusive of notification to the Senate Housing Committee Chair, Brian Kavanagh, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

- **Rural Preservation Program Funding:** A 10% increase to \$8,830,000, i.e. \$780,000, is requested to secure and maintain the capacity of your District's Rural Preservation Program(s). The increase will reflect the skillset of the existing staff who deal with financing, contracts, qualifying, federal, state and local funding on a daily basis. It also reflects the State's increase to the minimum wage and the corresponding increase to all wages as well as related administrative costs.

Rural Preservation Programs, created by New York State in the mid-1980s, have developed and rehabilitated tens of thousands of units for both rental and homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate income households, as well as for Elderly and Special Needs households. Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation and Improvement Corporation (CHRIC) is one of the first Rural Preservation Companies in the State.

The work Rural Preservation Programs generates hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars into communities throughout NYS annually and creates hundreds of job opportunities! It is important to know that the Rural Preservation Program is proposed to be and has been funded from the Mortgage Insurance Fund, a fund that Rural Preservation Programs have capitalized with their work using State of New York Mortgage Agency insurance!

There are **60 existing Rural Preservation Programs/Companies** that are presently funded at \$130,000.00 annually. The requested 10% increase will raise the annual contract amount to \$143,000.00, a welcomed and needed increase!



"Promoting neighborhood stabilization, community revitalization, and economic development through projects and partnerships that positively impact Chautauqua County and its residents."





Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation & Improvement Corporation (CHRIC)

2 Academy St, Mayville, NY 14757

(716) 753-4650 fax – (716)753-4508 TDD – (800)662-1220

www.chric.org

chric@fairpoint.net

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48 Years of Excellence 1978-2026

Your support of two capital programs is also requested:

- **The Small Rental Development Initiative Program** which provides capital funding for projects that do not exceed a total of 20 units. This is a program that is targeted to rural and suburban areas and has been zeroed out in the proposed Executive Budget. Your support of a \$10 Million Dollar allocation from the budget is sought, as is the codification of said program, so that it may continue to assist New York's small communities to address its housing needs.
- **ACCESS TO HOME Program**, a small program that provides funding to make accommodations to homes to allow continued occupancy and aging in-place. This project has been reduced to \$1 Million Dollars in the proposed Executive Budget, and your support of a \$6 Million Dollar allocation is requested.

Assemblyman Molitor, your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your District.

Please know that CHRIC stands ready to provide any and all documentation to your office to secure your affirmative response to this request for support!

We greatly appreciate your support on these critically important programs!

Sincerely,

Joshua Freifeld
Executive Director
CHRIC



"Promoting neighborhood stabilization, community revitalization, and economic development through projects and partnerships that positively impact Chautauqua County and its residents."





PO BOX 189 | MILFORD, NY 13807 | 607-286-7244

www.otsegoruralhousing.org

February 19, 2026

Chris Tague, Assemblyman
113 Park Place
Suite 6
Schoharie, NY 12157

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request

Dear Assemblyman Tague:

I am writing to you today to respectfully request that you support a 10% increase to Rural Preservation Program funding, to a total of \$8,830,000, which directly impacts your district. I hope you will also communicate your support to the Assembly Housing Committee Chair, Linda B. Rosenthal, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

The Rural Preservation Program funds Rural Preservation Companies, organizations like Otsego Rural Housing Assistance, Inc. (ORHA), so that we have the administrative funding necessary to allow us to operate housing assistance programs in our rural communities. The requested 10% increase reflects the skills of Rural Preservation Companies' staff across the state who navigate the complex worlds of housing development, home rehabilitation grant programs, and tenant assistance programs, all with the added complication of doing so in small, rural communities. It reflects the increasing costs of doing business, from the rising minimum wage (and corresponding increase to all wages), ever-ballooning health insurance costs, and all the other administrative costs necessary to keep our organization running well.

For ORHA specifically, this 10% increase will also help us soften the impacts of the New York Statewide Section 8 program's "enrollment pause," which has been in effect since 2024 and has resulted in a significant decrease in our Section 8 administrative fees as we lose participants to attrition. Compared to this time in our 2023-2024 fiscal year, which was just before the pause first came into effect, ORHA's Section 8 revenues have decreased by about 15%. The financial strain of this kind of decrease is currently limiting ORHA's capacity at a moment when housing is one of the biggest challenges and hottest topics in the county. This increase would translate to an additional \$13,000 annually for ORHA, which could help us weather this "pause" and continue making meaningful change on the housing front in Otsego County.

Each year, ORHA's work brings in hundreds of thousands of dollars to Otsego County, including rent payments made to county property owners and payments to home rehabilitation contractors

doing business in Otsego County. And with only four full-time staff, too! There are 59 other Rural Preservation Companies across the state, doing the same kind of work and bringing the same benefits to our fellow rural communities. Since the mid-1980s, we Rural Preservation Companies have developed and rehabilitated tens of thousands of units for both rental and homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate-income households, elderly households, and disabled households. I have attached a flyer prepared by the New York State Rural Advocates that describes the impact of Rural Preservation Companies in a single year.

It is also important to note that the Rural Preservation Program is proposed to be and has been funded from the Mortgage Insurance Fund, a fund that Rural Preservation Companies have capitalized with their work using State of New York Mortgage Agency insurance.

In addition to the highly needed 10% increase to the Rural Preservation Program, your support of two capital programs is also requested:

- **The Small Rental Development Initiative Program**, which provides capital funding for projects that do not exceed a total of 20 units. This is a program that is targeted to rural and suburban areas and has been zeroed out in the proposed Executive Budget. The Alden Park Apartments in Cherry Valley, which ORHA helped to develop, is a Small Rental Development Initiative project. Your support of a \$10 million allocation from the budget is sought, as is the codification of said program, so that it may continue to assist New York's small communities to address its housing needs.
- **Access to Home Program**, a small program that provides funding to make accommodations to homes to allow continued occupancy and aging in-place. ORHA currently administers this program in Otsego County, and demand is consistently high for accommodations like ramps and walk-in showers. This project has been reduced to \$1 million in the proposed Executive Budget, and your support of a \$6 million allocation is requested.

Your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your district.

Please know that ORHA would gladly provide any and all documentation to your office to help you gain insight into Otsego County's housing challenges and to secure your affirmative response to this request for support. ORHA greatly appreciates your consideration and your advocacy for rural communities in Albany.

Sincerely,



Bridget Stith
Executive Director



PO BOX 189 | MILFORD, NY 13807 | 607-286-7244

www.otsegoruralhousing.org

February 19, 2026

Robert Smullen, Assemblyman
5659 State Route 5
Suites 1-3
Herkimer, NY 13350

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request

Dear Assemblyman Smullen:

I am writing to you today to respectfully request that you support a 10% increase to Rural Preservation Program funding, to a total of \$8,830,000, which directly impacts your district. I hope you will also communicate your support to the Assembly Housing Committee Chair, Linda B. Rosenthal, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

The Rural Preservation Program funds Rural Preservation Companies, organizations like Otsego Rural Housing Assistance, Inc. (ORHA), so that we have the administrative funding necessary to allow us to operate housing assistance programs in our rural communities. The requested 10% increase reflects the skills of Rural Preservation Companies' staff across the state who navigate the complex worlds of housing development, home rehabilitation grant programs, and tenant assistance programs, all with the added complication of doing so in small, rural communities. It reflects the increasing costs of doing business, from the rising minimum wage (and corresponding increase to all wages), ever-ballooning health insurance costs, and all the other administrative costs necessary to keep our organization running well.

For ORHA specifically, this 10% increase will also help us soften the impacts of the New York Statewide Section 8 program's "enrollment pause," which has been in effect since 2024 and has resulted in a significant decrease in our Section 8 administrative fees as we lose participants to attrition. Compared to this time in our 2023-2024 fiscal year, which was just before the pause first came into effect, ORHA's Section 8 revenues have decreased by about 15%. The financial strain of this kind of decrease is currently limiting ORHA's capacity at a moment when housing is one of the biggest challenges and hottest topics in the county. This increase would translate to an additional \$13,000 annually for ORHA, which could help us weather this "pause" and continue making meaningful change on the housing front in Otsego County.

Each year, ORHA's work brings in hundreds of thousands of dollars to Otsego County, including rent payments made to county property owners and payments to home rehabilitation contractors

doing business in Otsego County. And with only four full-time staff, too! There are 59 other Rural Preservation Companies across the state, doing the same kind of work and bringing the same benefits to our fellow rural communities. Since the mid-1980s, we Rural Preservation Companies have developed and rehabilitated tens of thousands of units for both rental and homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate-income households, elderly households, and disabled households. I have attached a flyer prepared by the New York State Rural Advocates that describes the impact of Rural Preservation Companies in a single year.

It is also important to note that the Rural Preservation Program is proposed to be and has been funded from the Mortgage Insurance Fund, a fund that Rural Preservation Companies have capitalized with their work using State of New York Mortgage Agency insurance.

In addition to the highly needed 10% increase to the Rural Preservation Program, your support of two capital programs is also requested:

- **The Small Rental Development Initiative Program**, which provides capital funding for projects that do not exceed a total of 20 units. This is a program that is targeted to rural and suburban areas and has been zeroed out in the proposed Executive Budget. The Alden Park Apartments in Cherry Valley, which ORHA helped to develop, is a Small Rental Development Initiative project. Your support of a \$10 million allocation from the budget is sought, as is the codification of said program, so that it may continue to assist New York's small communities to address its housing needs.
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Your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your district.

Please know that ORHA would gladly provide any and all documentation to your office to help you gain insight into Otsego County's housing challenges and to secure your affirmative response to this request for support. ORHA greatly appreciates your consideration and your advocacy for rural communities in Albany.

Sincerely,



Bridget Stith
Executive Director



PO BOX 189 | MILFORD, NY 13807 | 607-286-7244

www.otsegoruralhousing.org

February 19, 2026

Joe Angelino, Assemblyman
1 Kattelville Road
Suite 1
Binghamton, NY 13901

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request

Dear Assemblyman Angelino:

I am writing to you today to respectfully request that you support a 10% increase to Rural Preservation Program funding, to a total of \$8,830,000, which directly impacts your district. I hope you will also communicate your support to the Assembly Housing Committee Chair, Linda B. Rosenthal, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

The Rural Preservation Program funds Rural Preservation Companies, organizations like Otsego Rural Housing Assistance, Inc. (ORHA), so that we have the administrative funding necessary to allow us to operate housing assistance programs in our rural communities. The requested 10% increase reflects the skills of Rural Preservation Companies' staff across the state who navigate the complex worlds of housing development, home rehabilitation grant programs, and tenant assistance programs, all with the added complication of doing so in small, rural communities. It reflects the increasing costs of doing business, from the rising minimum wage (and corresponding increase to all wages), ever-ballooning health insurance costs, and all the other administrative costs necessary to keep our organization running well.

For ORHA specifically, this 10% increase will also help us soften the impacts of the New York Statewide Section 8 program's "enrollment pause," which has been in effect since 2024 and has resulted in a significant decrease in our Section 8 administrative fees as we lose participants to attrition. Compared to this time in our 2023-2024 fiscal year, which was just before the pause first came into effect, ORHA's Section 8 revenues have decreased by about 15%. The financial strain of this kind of decrease is currently limiting ORHA's capacity at a moment when housing is one of the biggest challenges and hottest topics in the county. This increase would translate to an additional \$13,000 annually for ORHA, which could help us weather this "pause" and continue making meaningful change on the housing front in Otsego County.

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It is also important to note that the Rural Preservation Program is proposed to be and has been funded from the Mortgage Insurance Fund, a fund that Rural Preservation Companies have capitalized with their work using State of New York Mortgage Agency insurance.

In addition to the highly needed 10% increase to the Rural Preservation Program, your support of two capital programs is also requested:

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Your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your district.

Please know that ORHA would gladly provide any and all documentation to your office to help you gain insight into Otsego County's housing challenges and to secure your affirmative response to this request for support. ORHA greatly appreciates your consideration and your advocacy for rural communities in Albany.

Sincerely,



Bridget Stith
Executive Director



PO BOX 189 | MILFORD, NY 13807 | 607-286-7244

www.otsegoruralhousing.org

February 19, 2026

Brian D. Miller, Assemblyman
48 Genesee Street
New Hartford, NY 13413

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request

Dear Assemblyman Miller:

I am writing to you today to respectfully request that you support a 10% increase to Rural Preservation Program funding, to a total of \$8,830,000, which directly impacts your district. I hope you will also communicate your support to the Assembly Housing Committee Chair, Linda B. Rosenthal, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

The Rural Preservation Program funds Rural Preservation Companies, organizations like Otsego Rural Housing Assistance, Inc. (ORHA), so that we have the administrative funding necessary to allow us to operate housing assistance programs in our rural communities. The requested 10% increase reflects the skills of Rural Preservation Companies' staff across the state who navigate the complex worlds of housing development, home rehabilitation grant programs, and tenant assistance programs, all with the added complication of doing so in small, rural communities. It reflects the increasing costs of doing business, from the rising minimum wage (and corresponding increase to all wages), ever-ballooning health insurance costs, and all the other administrative costs necessary to keep our organization running well.

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Each year, ORHA's work brings in hundreds of thousands of dollars to Otsego County, including rent payments made to county property owners and payments to home rehabilitation contractors doing business in Otsego County. And with only four full-time staff, too! There are 59 other

Rural Preservation Companies across the state, doing the same kind of work and bringing the same benefits to our fellow rural communities. Since the mid-1980s, we Rural Preservation Companies have developed and rehabilitated tens of thousands of units for both rental and homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate-income households, elderly households, and disabled households. I have attached a flyer prepared by the New York State Rural Advocates that describes the impact of Rural Preservation Companies in a single year.

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Your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your district.

Please know that ORHA would gladly provide any and all documentation to your office to help you gain insight into Otsego County's housing challenges and to secure your affirmative response to this request for support. ORHA greatly appreciates your consideration and your advocacy for rural communities in Albany.

Sincerely,



Bridget Stith
Executive Director

BARBARA L LAMPHERE
33 EASTERLY AVENUE
AUBURN, NY 13021

Assemblyman John Lemondes
NYS Assembly
69 South Street
Auburn, NY 13021

RE: New York State Budget Rural Preservation Program Funding Request of \$8,830,000.

Dear Assemblyman Lemondes:

I am respectfully requesting your support of this 10% (\$780,000) increase in funding for the Rural Preservation Program, which serves rural communities throughout the State including your District. Cayuga County Homsite Development Corporation serves your District. This increase is necessary to secure and maintain the capacity of these organizations. The skillsets of the staff of these organizations in comp which provides capital funding for funding for programs and then running these often-complex programs must be preserved. I'm sure you are aware of the increase in the minimum wage, increased utility costs and all kinds of insurance increases.

The RPC Program was created in the mid-1980s resulting in tens of thousands of units built and rehabilitated, rental and homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income households, as well as Elderly and Special Needs households.

The work of the RPCs generates hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars in rural communities and creating hundreds of jobs and economic stimulus.

The RPC Program has been funded from the Mortgage Insurance Fund, which the RPCs have helped capitalize with their work using the State Mortgage Insurance Agency insurance.

There are currently 60 existing RPCs, which are currently funded at \$130,000 annually. The requested increase would mean \$143,000 per group, a much-needed increase.

Your support is also requested for **The Small Rental Development Initiative Program** which provides capital funding for projects that do not exceed 20 units. This is targeted to rural and suburban areas. This program, which is consistently oversubscribed, has been zeroed out in the proposed Executive Budget. Your support for a \$10 million dollar allocation in the Legislative Budget and its codification of this program would enable groups to continue to develop size-appropriate projects in rural areas.

Also, your support of **Access to HOME Program**, a small program providing funds to make accommodations to homes addressing accessibility enabling people to remain in dollars. This is another oversubscribed program. We are requesting **six million** for this program.

Assemblyman, your support is key to securing these necessary funds so that the RPCs can continue working to meet the housing needs of rural communities in your District and around the State.

Finally, I would request you **share your support with Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal, Assembly Housing Chair.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Barbara Lamphere

Board Member of New York Rural Advocates



Stoneleigh Housing, Inc.
120 East Center Street
Canastota, New York 13032

February 10, 2026

Honorable Brian Miller, Assemblyman
NYS Assembly
48 Genesee Street
New Hartford, NY 13413

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request

Dear Assemblyman Miller:

Your support of the following State Budget "Asks", which directly impact your District, is respectfully requested, inclusive of notification to the Assembly Housing Committee Chair, Linda Rosenthal, so that the following requests may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

- **Rural Preservation Program Funding:** A 10% increase to \$8,830,000, i.e. \$780,000, is requested to secure and maintain the capacity of your District's Rural Preservation Program(s). The increase will reflect the skillset of the existing staff who deal with financing, contracts, qualifying, federal, state and local funding on a daily basis. It also reflects the State's increase to the minimum wage and the corresponding increase to all wages as well as related administrative costs.

Rural Preservation Programs, created by New York State in the mid-1980s, have developed and rehabilitated tens of thousands of units for both rental and homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate income households, as well as for Elderly and Special Needs households.

The work Rural Preservation Programs generates hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars into communities throughout NYS annually and creates hundreds of job opportunities! It is important to know that the Rural Preservation Program is proposed to be and has been funded from the Mortgage Insurance Fund, a fund that Rural Preservation Programs have capitalized with their work using State of New York Mortgage Agency insurance!

There are **60 existing Rural Preservation Programs/Companies** that are presently funded at \$130,000.00 annually. The requested 10% increase will raise the annual contract amount to \$143,000.00, a welcomed and needed increase!

Assemblyman Miller

February 10, 2026

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Your support of two capital programs is also requested:

- **The Small Rental Development Initiative Program** which provides capital funding for projects that do not exceed a total of 20 units. This is a program that is targeted to rural and suburban areas and has been zeroed out in the proposed Executive Budget. Your support of a \$10 Million Dollar allocation from the budget is sought, as is the codification of said program, so that it may continue to assist New York's small communities to address its housing needs.
- **ACCESS TO HOME Program**, a small program that provides funding to make accommodations to homes to allow continued occupancy and aging in-place. This project has been reduced to \$1 Million Dollars in the proposed Executive Budget, and your support of a \$6 Million Dollar allocation is requested.

Senator, your support is key to securing the above-mentioned funding essentials that will directly address the housing needs of the communities within your District.

Please know that Stoneleigh Housing stands ready to provide any and all documentation to your office to secure your affirmative response to this request for support!

With greatly appreciate your consideration!

Sincerely,



Theresa Davis, MPA
Executive Director

cc: Albany Assembly Office

David W. Merte, P.E.
9 Gold Road
Wappingers Falls, New York 12590
February 19, 2026

Anil Beephan, Jr., Assemblymember
New York State Assembly
District Office
North Hopewell Plaza, Suite #1
1076 Route 82
Hopewell Junction, New York 12533

beephana@nyassembly.gov

RE: New York State Budget: Rural Preservation Program - \$8,830,000.00 Request

Dear Assemblymember Beephan:

Your support of the following State Budget "Ask", which directly impact your District is respectfully requested, inclusive of notification to the Assembly Housing Committee Chair, Linda Rosenthal, so that the following request may be incorporated into the pending One House Bill.

- **Rural Preservation Program Funding:** A 10% increase to \$8,830,000, i.e. \$780,000, is requested to secure and maintain the capacity of your District's Rural Preservation Program(s). The increase will reflect the skillset of the existing staff who deal with financing, contracts, qualifying, federal, state and local funding on a daily basis. It also reflects the State's increase to the minimum wage and the corresponding increase to all wages as well as related administrative costs.

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The work Rural Preservation Programs generates hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars into communities throughout NYS annually and creates hundreds of job opportunities! It is important to know that the Rural Preservation Program is proposed to be and has been funded from the Mortgage Insurance Fund, a fund that Rural Preservation Programs have capitalized with their work using State of New York Mortgage Agency insurance!

There are 60 existing Rural Preservation Programs/Companies that are presently funded at \$130,000.00 annually. The requested 10% increase will raise the annual contract amount to \$143,000.00, a welcomed and needed increase!

Anil Bephan, Jr., Assemblymember
February 19, 2026
Page 2

Community Services Programs, Inc., (CSP) a local non-profit housing development and management agency, has served our community for more than 50 years, and I am proud to serve as Chairman of the organization's Board of Directors. Since 1985, CSP, has received Rural Preservation Program funding and with said funding as a foundation has developed housing and community development projects exceeding 400 units of both rental and homeowner housing. CSP has also assisted numerous Dutchess County non-profits with their capital needs inclusive of Grace Smith House (GSH) (CSP developed Brookhaven on behalf of GSH); St. Simeon's Foundation and its St. Anna Complex; Community Action Partnership of Dutchess County with its new facility in the Village of Wappingers Falls; Grinnell Library with its elevator; Greystone Programs with its afterschool program facility; Wappingers Falls Business and Professional Association's Main Street Façade Program; and, Market Street Industrial Park Bridge and Mill Street Brownfield Parking Lot project.

Most recently, CSP has closed out a \$3.3 million dollar Community Development Block Grant project that upgraded the two DiMarco Place Senior Citizen complexes in the Village of Wappingers Falls. All heating, hot water and HVAC systems were replaced. Roofs were replaced. All lighting was switched over to LED lighting. All common area flooring was replaced, and the buildings' common areas were re-painted after more than a decade.

This past week, CSP closed out a \$598,000 Weatherization Program upgrade to its 52-unit Meadow Ridge II Senior Residence located in the City of Beacon. Presently, a \$250,000 Weatherization Program is nearing completion with CSP's 54-unit family complex, Meadow Ridge Family, also located in the City of Beacon.

The statewide average for Rural Preservation Programs to leverage its funding is \$15 per each \$1. For CSP, \$29,252,054, consisting of investor equity, commercial and public financing and federal grants, has been invested in the City of Beacon and the Village of Wappingers Falls directly due to the work of CSP over the past 10 years. Said amount represents \$2,925,205 annually of non-Rural Preservation Program funding generated.

The Rural Preservation Program is a well-documented leverage for housing, community and economic development and your support is requested to keep this program operating Statewide inclusive of right here in Dutchess County!

With great appreciation for your consideration!

Sincerely,



David Merte, P.E.