



## **RENEW (formerly RSEHI) COMMUNITY PARTNER COMMENTS**

*“There have been several studies conducted that demonstrate foundation funding for housing advocacy and health initiatives results in tangible benefits for families and communities across the nation. These strategies enable nonprofits and grant makers to engage complex social and economic challenges and improve millions of lives in underserved communities. The collaborative effort of RENEW and ABC has allowed ABC to not only serve more low-income families, but also retain staff by subsidizing salaries, as well as fulfilling unmet needs through coordinating services. Low-income persons who would not have been eligible for services due to other issues in the property could be served by the weatherization program as a result of RENEW funds addressing disqualifying issue such as plumbing, sewer, electrical, or structural problems. For grant makers seeking to leverage their limited grant dollars for greater results, especially during difficult times, policy engagement offers the opportunities that collaborative such as RSEHI are without question the best use of leveraged funding.”* – Nate Shepard, Director, **Action for a Better Community (ABC)** Energy Conservation Program

*“The funding provided through the RENEW has significantly enhanced the collaborative efforts of our local housing rehab programs. These funds have allowed our community to maximize our efforts in ensuring healthy housing for our low-income residents.”* – Gary Kirkmire, Director of Buildings and Zoning, Neighborhood & Business Development, **City of Rochester**

*“The RENEW program has allowed us to leverage double and triple the normal maximum grant from Empower. We have seen NYSEDA approvals that have allowed us to make a difference not only in low income families utility bills but we are able to deal with serious health and safety issues like collapsed sewer replacement, water line replacement, RG&E red-tagged furnaces, even dangerous Electric Panels have been replaced. This program has been a total success for NeighborWorks Rochester and low income Rochester homeowners.”* – Allan Rayburn, Technical Services Manager, **NeighborWorks® Rochester**

*“After speaking with my colleagues at the City of Rochester, ABC, and NeighborWorks, we are all in agreement that there has been much greater coordination between our companies as a result of RENEW. Through RENEW we have been able to identify our strengths and help direct work to whoever seems the best suited for a particular situation. The increased coordination has been excellent for referrals. For us to take the next step and take outside referrals, we’ll have to have access to more funds, including some to do pre work health assessments so we can better see the reach of our work.”* – Scott Oliver, Deputy for Energy Programs, **PathStone Corporation**

*“The RENEW asset map is the best source for agencies to use when finding resources for low income residents in Monroe County. Elizabeth McDade has done an excellent job. She is the right person for the job. She has developed a team of professionals and established a collaboration with other agencies throughout Monroe County.”* – Perry Brown, Program Monitor, **Monroe County Office for the Aging**