



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, D.C. 20410-7000

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

September 27, 1996

Honorable Sheila Doyle Russell
City of Cambridge
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mayor Doyle Russell:

You recently received a letter from Vice President Gore reminding you that as a Champion Community, the City of Cambridge qualifies for a number of benefits under the Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community (EZ/EC) program. As the lead agency for the EZ/EC initiative, the Department of Housing and Urban Development is committed to providing every Champion Community with the support needed to realize its vision for strategic change.

In the next year, we will provide special consideration to Champion Communities in programs such as the Youthbuild Program, Homeless Assistance Program and the Historic Black Colleges and Universities Program. We will also encourage other HUD offices and other Federal agencies to give Champion Communities preference for competitive discretionary funding programs. I have designated each HUD area office CPD Director as the field coordinator for each Champion Community. The local CPD Director will assign a staff person who will help your Champion Community with requests for technical assistance and with requests for waivers of federal regulations. These city representatives will be contacting your staff in the very near future. I am also pleased to announce today that Champion Communities are now eligible to utilize technical assistance funds allocated to each HUD area office.

We have also developed a comprehensive Champion Communities communications strategy that will play an important role in assisting you to implement your strategic plan. We will provide you with information on a wide array of topics such as Federal Notices of Funding Availability (NOFA's), Work Opportunity Tax Credit, best practices and more. This important information will be disseminated through multiple mediums including a Champion Communities HomePage, a Champion Communities Newsletter, periodic mailings, as well as fax broadcasts. The HUD area field office will also host satellite broadcasts aimed at disseminating important information on the EZ/EC initiative to your Champion Community.

The Clinton-Gore Administration is committed to assisting urban Champion Communities and we look forward to working with you to implement your strategic plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to assisting you.

Sincerely,

Andrew Cuomo
Assistant Secretary

CC: Elaine Thorne, Champion Contact

RECEIVED
MAYOR'S OFFICE
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
96 OCT -2 AM 9:42

CHAMPION COMMUNITIES STRATEGY

Communications Strategy

1. Establish Champion Communities HomePage
2. Establish Champion Communities Desk at Community Connections, so Champion Communities can call a toll free "800" number for information
3. Quarterly Newsletter for Champion Communities
4. Periodic Informational Mailings to Champion Communities
5. Six Informational Satellite Broadcasts

Liaison Strategy/Technical Assistance and Waivers

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Planning and Development Field Office (CPD-FO) City Reps will be the single contact point for Champion cities.

Role of CPD-FO City Reps:

1. Act as Liaison to Champion Community
2. Assist in delivery of local HUD TA funds
3. Forward federal waiver requests to EZ/EC task force
4. Assist with information dissemination

Champion Communities will be given preference on HUD CPD discretionary grant program and other HUD field offices and Federal agencies will be encouraged to do the same.

Communications and Reports from City
Officers #1

5-570

Regarding the Cambridge's position as
a Champion Community which qualifies for
a number of benefits under the
Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community
(EZ/EC) Program.

In City Council October 21, 1996

Placed on file.