Mr. Bart Mitchell  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
The Community Builders  
95 Berkeley Street, Suite 500  
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

The Department received The Community Builders’ (TCB) NSP2 substantial amendment request dated February 3, 2015. TCB was originally awarded a Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP2) grant of $78,617,631 from the Department to address foreclosed and abandoned properties.

TCB has requested the following amendment:

To change the composition of TCB’s NSP2 area of greatest need by adding nine additional census tracts.

The following census tracts are to be added: 25025082000; 24510140200; 26163522400; 36093020900; 51710004400; 51760020200; 51760020300; 51760020700; 51760020900.

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program, authorized by the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA), provided $3.92 billion (NSP1) in emergency assistance for the redevelopment of abandoned and foreclosed homes allocated on a formula basis to all states and 255 local governments. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) authorized an additional $1.93 billion (NSP2), which the Department allocated through a competitive process among states, units of general local government, nonprofit entities, and consortia of nonprofit entities.

NSP2 is regulated by the above statutes as well as the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for NSP2 which states that: “No amendment to an approved application may be made unless HUD rates the approved application as amended and it scores high enough to have been selected for funding under the NSP2 competition.” HUD convened an NSP2 Amendment Panel and reviewed TCB’s NSP2 amendment request and justification. The Panel discussed each of the six NSP2 rating factors and examined how a change in the composition of the area of greatest need targeted by TCB would affect each rating factor.
The NSP2 Amendment Panel found that the proposed amendment to TCB’s target geography would allow the grantee to implement its NSP2 program more effectively. The panel determined that this substantial amendment would not affect the application’s score, and thus HUD has approved the substantial amendment.

Please contact Stanley Gimont, Director, Office of Block Grant Assistance, at (202) 708 – 3587 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Marion Mollegen McFadden
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Grant Programs