

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 2, 2004

The Honorable Alphonso Jackson  
Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Jackson:

I am writing to reiterate my support of the Niagara Falls Housing Authority's (NFHA) application for funding under the HOPE VI grant program. Such funding will enable the Niagara Falls Housing Authority to revitalize Center Court and the surrounding neighborhood.

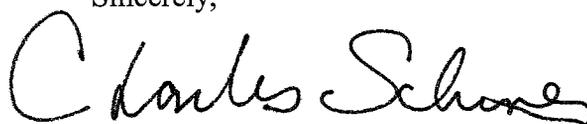
As I noted in the winter, Center Court consists of 134 public housing units. The Center is surrounded by a neighborhood that is severely distressed and in need of a comprehensive revitalization effort. Currently units are under-insulated and experience significant drainage problems. The unit designs are too small and are functionally obsolete. The site needs significant improvements, which includes upgrading infrastructure.

The NFHA has embarked on an aggressive and comprehensive plan for the revitalization of Center Court. Not only does NFHA anticipate constructing approximately 280 new housing units on and around Center Court, but it will also extend already successful comprehensive social services programs and case management services to residents. Residents will have the opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency, move from welfare to work and purchase new homes.

With funding NFHA, working in conjunction with the City of Niagara Falls, area businesses, universities, local churches and the faith community, will transform and revitalize the entire neighborhood surrounding Center Court, attracting working class families and creating new economic opportunities. The availability of housing and the stabilization of the neighborhood will lead to commercial investment in the form of retail and services which will in turn create jobs and provide amenities for residents. The revitalization of Center Court will also provide single-family home ownership and market-quality rental housing in an area with significant need for quality affordable housing. I applaud the Niagara Falls Housing Authority in its foresight and hope its application for funding meets with your approval.

Thank you for your consideration. For additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator