

Department of Budget:

Southern Tier Environments for Living, Inc. [STEL, Inc.], is a 501(c)(3) corporation based in Dunkirk. We serve low-income and disabled persons. Our mission would be impossible to complete without capital funding from various state agencies. These agencies include The Division of Housing and Community Renewal [DHCR] and in particular their Housing Trust Fund [HTF] program and Homes for Working Families [HWF] program. The Housing Finance Agency [HFA] and their Private Activity Bonds and their soft subsidy loans. The Office of Temporary Disability Assistance [OTDA] and their Homeless Housing Assistance Program [HHAP]. Finally, the Office of Mental Health [OMH] provides vital operating support funding to the majority of our housing projects as well as capital investment on occasions. OTDA also provides a modest operating support by way of their SRO housing program.

By comparison to other states in which STEL, Inc., has worked, New York is by far the most compassionate state with respect to low income disabled persons. Without funding from OMH, DHCR, HFA and OTDA, STEL, Inc.'s housing projects would not be possible. As you may be aware there is currently a crisis in the Department of Health's Adult Home's across the state. STEL, Inc., has been successful in using a combination of the above sources to alleviate this problem. However, due to competition for these sources of funding, Adult Home projects are the most challenging projects that we undertake. More funding for the above sources would make it possible for us to replace more of the many dilapidated and dangerous Adult Homes with new state of the art facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

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