



**NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES**  
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**UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS**  
1707 H STREET, NORTHWEST, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006



April 25, 1969

TO: Mayors and Managers of Model Cities  
Directors of Model Cities' City Demonstration Agencies

SUBJECT: Proposal for State Administration of Model Cities Program

The State of Connecticut has submitted the attached proposal to Secretary George Romney of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. It proposes that Connecticut be designated to conduct an experiment in administering the Model Cities Program within the state.

This proposal, if approved by HUD, has very significant implications for the entire Model Cities Program, even though the experiment might not prove to be entirely successful or permanently accepted as an operating procedure by HUD. It will obviously result in stimulating a host of applications from other states for similar experiments or for expanded state authority over Model Cities Programs.

The second enclosure, an excerpt from a report of the Advisory Task Force on Community Development and Urban Relations of the National Governors' Conference, dated April 9, 1969, indicates the desire and strategy of states to secure control of the Model Cities Program. This clearly indicates that the Connecticut proposal is not a localized consideration of state control of Model Cities. Note that in both documents the emphasis is on state control and supervision as contrasted with state support of Model Cities efforts.

Neither Secretary Romney nor Assistant Secretary for Model Cities, Floyd Hyde, has at this point indicated support for this proposal. HUD has requested further information from the State of Connecticut concerning the way in which the State would administer the program. The state has also been requested to work out the relationship of its operating procedure with the HUD regional office. This work is currently in process.

We urge that you read these reports carefully. Your views should then be conveyed to Secretary Romney and Assistant Secretary Hyde. Such communications should be prompt. They should also be the subject of any future personal discussions with key personnel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Particular emphasis should be placed upon full consultation with Model Cities' mayors and CDA's prior to a federal decision on such a major restructuring of federal-city relations in this program.

Patrick Healy, Executive Director  
National League of Cities

John Gunther, Executive Director  
United States Conference of Mayors

Enclosure