

From the Desk of Kim C. Harris

March 3, 2021

To Representative Walker, Senator Osten and member of the Appropriations committee.

My name is Kim Harris a lifelong Resident of Newhallville, a Neighborhood of needs in New Haven.

In 1968 my mom Pat Harris and my auntie Margret Tucker, because of the plight of racial inequalities and disparities, they created The Harris and Tucker School. Fast forward 45 years later, as I stand on their shoulders, I founded Inspired Communities Inc. The Door to community Building Possibilities for underserved communities. With the goal of Eradicating Barriers so that all can live better lives.

In Newhallville, we have had many success stories and partnerships that our community has benefited from.

Youth Services in New Haven and Hamden

The Diaper Bank

Newhallville United

Food Distributions of over 200,000 meals in 2020 & 2021

And work with The Cercle, just to name a few.

All of these things were done and created with dignity and respect, in a community with a 30% Poverty Rate and an almost 50% Poverty rate for children 5 and under.

Today I'd like to talk about the DCF System. And I want to apologize to them because my paperwork is always late. Because for me and others who are not tech savvy, what we have to do to get paid for services rendered is so time consuming and not mistake proofed. For us it sometimes requires us to bring in a tech savvy staff and or volunteers to help us get through the paperwork.

I mentioned our success stories because when funds are not available the community relies on Harris and Tucker and ICI's Funds to help our community survive until needed funds become available. Straining efforts, yes, but necessary for livelihood.

Appropriations Committee for my last min. I'd like for you to come with me for just on moment in time, and imagine. Imagine a place where the barriers are removed and we are able to Point and click and the DCF paperwork is done.

Imagine A DCF system that is non judgmental.

Imagine A DCF system that is 99.9% mistake proof for providers.

A DCF system that tilts towards taking away all barriers.

A system that, together we will all build trust, dignity and respect for one another that will allow everyone no matter your ability, color or race... it will always tilt towards growing the people.

Appropriations Committee, thank you very much for your time and May God continue to bless the work that you all do.

Good evening.