The Lower North Philadelphia CDC is looking for a partner for the development of 2125 Ridge Avenue. The LNPCDC seeks to provide tax credits to the project in addition to the Historic Tax Credits which could be available. The CDC will seek to provide $500,000 in Special Program Priorities tax credits to any developer willing to partner with the LNPCDC. The credits are part of a Commonwealth Tax Credit Program.

Section VI – Special Program Priorities (SPP)

A. Introduction

The Special Program Priorities (SPP) component of NAP focuses on specific needs in distressed communities. These projects are based on detailed criteria that support collaborations, partnerships, and goals. SPP offers up to a 75 percent tax credit for approved one (1) year projects.

B. Program Requirements

To meet the requirements for an SPP application, all requirements in Sections I through III must be met as well as one or more of the following:

1. **Disaster or Economic Recovery:** Needs related to disaster recovery efforts for federally-declared disasters such as floods, or any other form of natural disaster. Projects are limited to areas within counties and locations that received a disaster declaration by the President, or any future declared disaster. Economic recovery relates to the sudden impact to a community based on an unanticipated economic hardship. This could include a plant closing, mass lay-offs, or other forms of impact that cause a community to suddenly become economically distressed. The projects may include dislocated worker programs, social service needs, case management, or any such services that assist the affected population in its recovery.

2. **Integrating Weatherization and Housing Rehab:** Housing improvements that integrate weatherization and energy conservation efforts with housing rehabilitation and repair programs. The coordination of these funding streams must include DCED’s Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and funding from either Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) or the HOME Investment Partnerships Program
(HOME). The neighborhood or locale must be limited to where the actual projects are located. This may be a block or several streets. The housing improvements can be undertaken for either rental or owner-occupied homes.

3. **Diversity Initiatives:** These initiatives should promote the integration of diverse populations to strengthen the quality of life for all residents of the commonwealth. Applicants are responsible for providing information and documentation about how the targeted population meets the concept of diversity. This documentation must include any research, data, or statistics that substantiate the necessity of assistance for a unique population. This initiative also includes refugee, immigrant, and other vulnerable populations.

4. **Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention:** Projects and activities aimed at preventing mortgage foreclosures. This can include, but is not limited to, resource hotlines, counseling, legal assistance, fraud prevention, education, diversion programs, and lending/restructuring initiatives provided to a specific targeted area in need.

5. **Blight Elimination:** Projects in an area that successfully form partnerships within the community to remediate or prevent the area from falling into disrepair and decrepitude. The partnership must include a neighborhood-based agency such as the Applicant, a private sector business that does not solely include the Contributor, and the local government. Together, the partnership must collaborate to reduce blight in a specific geographically-defined distressed area.

6. **Veteran Initiatives:** Projects or programs that support veterans and their families. The Applicant must demonstrate the need for a veteran-specific program using data, research, or any other means of documentation. All eligible services under the general NAP are eligible for this designation.

7. **Rural Transportation Initiatives:** These initiatives should strive to reduce the burden placed on low-income residents of rural areas in accessing transportation. Too often it is difficult or impossible for low-income residents of rural areas to gain access to efficient and reliable transportation that would allow them to obtain and maintain employment, attend health-related appointments, attend education or training to better themselves, etc. Projects that assist low-income individuals with obtaining transportation, providing free or low cost transportation, or providing public transportation to rural areas would be eligible for this designation.

8. **Affordable Housing and Supportive Services for At-Risk Populations:** Renovation, repair, rehabilitation, construction, or preservation of housing and related supportive services for at-risk populations where there is a lack of affordable housing. At-risk populations are low-income households who require assistance to obtain housing, adequate food, health and medical care, job training, or services that facilitate living outside of an institutional setting such as a shelter, nursing home, or on the street. At-risk populations include households in which one or more adults are homeless, have physical or mental disabilities, chronic illnesses, or are elderly or frail.