

**TEXT OF STATEMENT FROM OBAMA CAMPAIGN ON CHICAGO BETTER HOUSING ASSOCIATION GRANT:**

"Senator Obama worked with Englewood residents to secure \$100,000 in funding to lay the groundwork for a community garden that would replace a duntrodden area. Two state agencies signed off on the grant, which was provided to the Chicago Better Housing Association – a non-profit that received funding from diverse sources including HUD, Fannie Mae, the Wells Fargo Foundation and the Citigroup Foundation."

"In December 2004, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity certified that grant money had been spent appropriately after CBHA submitted a series of expense reports and documentation showing progress at the site."

"Senator Obama's work for the Englewood community was not limited working to securing funds to lay the groundwork for a garden – he also secured funding to assist low income patients at the Englewood Health Center and to provide a safe space to work and play for young community residents at the Southwest Youth Collaborative."

"While the state certified that the grant money was spent appropriately, it is clear that Englewood residents have not been able to benefit from a completed community garden that could have provided much needed green space and work opportunities for local residents. Senator Obama will work with city and state officials and do everything he can to ensure that the Englewood community gets the resources it needs to provide its residents with a livable neighborhood that provides opportunities, and that the site is developed in a way that benefits the Englewood community."

**TEXT OF STATEMENT FROM ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY:**

"In 2000, the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (now DCEO) awarded a \$100,000 grant to the Chicago Better Housing Association for site preparation for development of a botanic garden in the Englewood neighborhood. DCEO monitored the grant in accordance with established procedures -- including the review of an audit prepared by an outside Certified Public Accountant, and before and after photos -- and believed that the grant funds were used as outlined in the grant agreement. Based on recent questions raised about this grant, DCEO has contacted the grantee to verify that the funds were used appropriately. If the questions are not adequately answered, DCEO will follow a standard process to review the grant and will pursue grant recovery if warranted."