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By

KRISTINA GOODNOUGH

GLASTONBURY — The town's application for \$592,000 in federal community development block grant funds has been rejected because of lack of progress in providing low-cost housing.

Town Council Chairman Henry A. Kinne said he will recommend that the town appeal the decision.

The town was notified Friday that it would not get the fourth year grant "because the town has not evidenced adequate housing assistance plan performance in the first three program years."

A review showed "that the town failed to make substantial progress in achieving the housing goals, . . . failed to approve a site for the new

construction of 70 units of Section 8 family housing, and failed to give evidence of undertaking other actions appropriate for implementation of the housing assistance plan," said the telegram from Robert C. Embry Jr., assistant secretary for community planning and development in HUD's Washington office.

The town planned to use \$172,070 of the grant money for renovations to Welles Village, the 199-unit family housing project; \$25,000 for housing rehabilitation loans; \$200,000 for acquisition of a low-cost housing site; and \$12,000 for renovations to the day care center at Welles Village, among other things.

In April, HUD froze the

town's third year block grant after the Town Council rejected a proposal to build 71 units of low-cost family housing. The plan had been approved by the other local boards and commissions.

In July, HUD said it would release the frozen funds on a project-by-project basis for activities directly related to the town's housing assistance plan. At the same time, however, HUD officials said they would recommend the town's fourth year grant request be rejected.

In its housing assistance plan, which is part of the application for the federal funds, the town said it would build 340 units of housing for the elderly and for low and moderate income families.

So far, 50 units of housing

for the elderly have been built, another 110 have been approved, but there has been no construction of housing for low and moderate income families.

A proposal to build 60 units of family housing on Nye Road, is in the very early stages of the approval process.

Kinne said Friday, "I think we have made some progress. I thought they wouldn't be quite as abrupt."

The town was also told in the telegram from HUD that, "In order to receive block grant funds for any future year, the town . . . must first evidence adequate progress on its previously approved housing assistance plan."