



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Cambridge Housing Authority Closing Family Public Housing Waiting Lists to Facilitate Major Public Housing Replacement & Modernization Project

(Cambridge, MA – September 18, 2009) On September 4, 2009 CHA was notified that it was awarded a \$10 million competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The \$10 million award provides CHA the funding necessary to move ahead with plans to replace Lincoln Way Apartments in West Cambridge and comprehensively modernize Jackson Gardens in the Mid-Cambridge neighborhood. The Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) is closing its waiting list for apartments in family public housing effective October 16, 2009. The waitlist is being closed to make apartments available for residents being relocated during construction at the two sites.

The project is expected to last up to two years, during which time the waitlist will remain closed. “We understand that it is hard for families searching for affordable housing to learn that they cannot apply in Cambridge, but we did not feel it was fair to let them apply when we know there is no prospect for housing them anytime soon,” said CHA Executive Director Gregory P. Russ.

The \$54 million project is the first phase of CHA’s ten year, \$226 million Cambridge Public Housing Preservation Program (CHPP) to rehabilitate the Agency’s entire state and federal public housing stock. “We are very excited to be able to move forward with construction,” said Terry Dumas, CHA’s Director of Planning and Development. “Our portfolio is suffering from years of underfunding and we are grateful to receive this significant grant,” she said.

The project will require CHA to relocate over one hundred families during construction. The relocation of residents at the two sites is expected to account for all of CHA’s family public housing vacancies until the work at Lincoln Way and Jackson Gardens is complete. CHA does not foresee

any family public housing being available for waitlisted households until after the project is finished and Lincoln Way and Jackson Gardens are reoccupied.

CHA will make an announcement in local newspapers and on its website, www.cambridge-housing when it plans to reopen the waitlist. (END)

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ABOUT CHA

The Cambridge Housing Authority is nationally recognized for its innovative approach to creating and promoting affordable housing in one of the nation's most competitive real estate markets. The CHA has an annual budget of over \$65 million and a staff of 160. CHA provides housing assistance to roughly one in ten Cantabrigians. The CHA's portfolio includes over 2600 federally and state funded public housing units, over 2800 state and federal housing choice vouchers and 380 units of non-profit housing.