



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Joshua Meehan P • 617-520-6408 E • jmeehan@cambridge-housing.org F • 617-520-6420

For Immediate Release

HUD Awards Cambridge Housing Authority \$1.7 Million for Energy Improvements at Truman Apartments

(Cambridge, MA – September 24, 2009) The Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) learned yesterday that it is the recipient of a \$1.7 million U.S. Housing and Urban Development competitive grant for rehabilitation of the Harry S. Truman Apartments. Truman is an eight story, sixty unit elderly/disabled development in the East Cambridge neighborhood. The grant is the third competitive grant awarded to CHA through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). With the announcement of this most recent award, CHA has received \$21.7 million in competitive grants since September 4th.

“Once again our staff’s hard work has resulted in the award of significant capital funds for our ailing public housing stock. In less than one month we have been awarded seven times the funding we receive in a typical year,” said CHA’s executive director Gregory P. Russ. “The Recovery Act is helping us address years of underfunding of our City’s ageing public housing portfolio.”

The grant will go towards the \$2.2 million energy upgrade project at the thirty nine year old development. The project will include replacing the building’s all electric heating system with a gas-fired hydronic system, replacing electric water heaters with a central system, installation of a 25 KW co-generation unit, improvements to the building’s ventilation system, the replacement of existing toilets with low-flush models and the replacement of lavatory sink and shower fixtures with lower flow models.

When the work at Truman is complete CHA anticipates a 39% reduction in source energy consumption, at least 25% reduction in water consumption, carbon emission reductions in excess of

882,000 pounds per year and annual operating cost savings in excess of \$67,000, or 35% of current costs.

Since ARRA's passage, CHA has received over \$26 million dollars for desperately needed redevelopment and renovation projects at four of its public housing developments. These funds are helping CHA leverage an additional \$56.3 million towards the Agency's \$226 million Cambridge Public Housing Preservation Program (CHPP). The Preservation Program is CHA's ambitious campaign to modernize or redevelop its entire state and federal public housing portfolio over the next decade. (END)

####

ABOUT CHA

The Cambridge Housing Authority is a participant in HUD's groundbreaking Moving to Work Demonstration (MTW) and 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.