



Housing Authority of Champaign County

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"Champaign County Believes in Quality Public Housing"

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Edward Bland
Executive Director
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June 12, 2009

Re: Local Job Training and Employment

Dear Resident,

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the historic American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "Recovery Act" or "Act"). As the President said, "The Act provides a direct fiscal boost to help lift our Nation from the greatest economic crisis in our lifetimes and lays the foundation for future growth." The Secretaries of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) are working hard to ensure that this fiscal boost lays the foundation for future growth for all of our communities and are asking for your cooperation and participation in this effort.

Through the Recovery Act, the Administration is making a substantial investment -- \$13.6 billion in HUD's housing and community development programs and **\$3.9 billion in employment and training programs administered by DOL**. These investments reflect the principal goals of the Act, namely to generate jobs in the near term, lay the foundation for long term economic growth (e.g., through investments in areas like energy efficiency) and mitigate the impact of the economic downturn on distressed communities and the most vulnerable populations in our country.

As the Executive Directors of the Housing Authority of Champaign County (HACC) and the Illinois WorkNet Center – Champaign (IWNC), respectively, we recognize that we must work together to make these goals a reality. That is why we have come together to create a partnership between our two agencies to bolster pathways to training and employment for residents of the HACC as a part of the Recovery Act Programs. As a first step in this partnership, we are working collaboratively to identify opportunities to train and place public housing residents into jobs created by Recovery-funded capital improvement projects. **It is also our hope that such collaboration will especially help residents find training programs and sustainable employment in the green jobs sector that will be created by the Administration's investments in energy efficiency, Labor's workforce training investments and HUD's investment in public housing through the Public Housing Capital Fund.**

Illinois Worknet Center (IWNC) stands ready to assist in this collaboration through its One-Stop Career Center, located at 1307 N. Mattis Avenue, Champaign, Illinois. IWNC offers job training programs and other services that improve the employment prospects of adults, youth, low-income individuals and dislocated workers, and can be a valuable tool in assisting the HACC with meeting the statutory and regulatory requirements of Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968. Section 3 requires PHAs to direct new employment, training and contracting opportunities created during the expenditure of HUD funds to low- and very low-income residents of the community where the funds are spent, particularly to those receiving housing assistance and to certain businesses that substantially employ these persons.

The Secretaries strongly encourage PHAs and WIBs to reach out to each other and engage in a dialogue about how they can work together to create green employment opportunities for residents of HUD housing. At a minimum, HACC and their contractors will list any job openings with the Illinois WorkNet Center and its One Stop System. IWNC and HACC will cooperatively engage in outreach activities to inform public housing residents of these job opportunities and corresponding training offerings in this community. In addition, recognizing that residents of public housing may have significant barriers to employment, the IWNC and HACC will work collaboratively to identify partners to ensure that quality work supports are in place. We are open and receptive to these dialogues.

We share the President's confidence about the promise and potential of the Recovery Act and strongly believe that PHAs and WIBs can play a critical role in economic recovery. We look forward to working together to make the goals of the Recovery Act a reality.

Sincerely,



Edward Bland
Executive Director
Housing Authority of Champaign County



Alfred Anderson
Executive Director
Illinois WorkNet Center - Champaign

For more information about WIBs and One-stop Career Centers in this community, please contact:

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