



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 8, 2009

CONTACT:
Steve Mikelman
(713) 260-0503 (Office)
(832) 309-0671 (Cell)

\$7.8 million federal stimulus will create affordable housing in Houston

Houston Housing Authority gets grant to help with housing shortage

April 8, 2009 — As thousands of Houstonians struggle to find housing for their families in a credit crisis and a declining economy, the Houston Housing Authority has received \$7.8 million from the federal stimulus package to help improve existing and create new affordable housing in the city.

Houston Housing Authority President and CEO Ernie Etuk announced Wednesday that the Housing Authority has received the \$7.8 million from the stimulus package approved by the Congress and signed into law by President Obama. Etuk said the Housing Authority has begun work immediately to plan for construction of more affordable housing for low-income residents.

Houston has a shortage of subsidized affordable housing. There are 40,000 Houston families now on waiting lists to get help from the Houston Housing Authority in obtaining subsidized housing, and a study four years ago indicated more than 283,000 families in Houston actually qualified for housing assistance.

“The \$7.8 million from the federal stimulus is great news for so many needy families in Houston,” Etuk said. “This money should allow us to build about 100 new units to help families. While there will still be a great need for more housing, this stimulus money will be a great help to our efforts.”

Etuk said he expects the Housing Authority board to make decisions soon on when to start developing the additional units.

“We have no time to waste. People are hurting and they need help,” Etuk said. “This stimulus money comes at just the right time for so many families.”

The Housing Authority also expects to apply for and receive more stimulus money to further increase the availability of affordable housing, Etuk said.

The Housing Authority is a service-oriented business enterprise serving more than 60,000 people throughout Houston. The agency and its affiliates own and operate 25 housing communities encompassing more than 6,500 units, and the agency assists nearly 17,000 households pay rent to private landlords through rental vouchers.

###