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## **State-funded supportive housing for people who are homeless or with disabilities opens in Springfield**

*Reconstruction of former abandoned motel brings housing  
and crucial services to 19 local residents*

**SPRINGFIELD** – Illinois’ chief affordable housing official today marked the grand opening of a supportive housing development in Springfield that will help build homes and futures for 19 people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and persons with disabilities. The Cook Street Renaissance development has also helped the City of Springfield give the formerly neglected building a positive community purpose.

“Cook Street Renaissance means much more than just providing a place to live for its tenants,” said DeShana L. Forney, executive director of the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA), the State’s affordable housing finance agency. “It creates a safe environment where residents have the stability to focus on overcoming their issues and acquire the skills to become self-sufficient, community-minded citizens.”

It cost Springfield-based non-profit Fifth Street Renaissance and the Windsor Development Group approximately \$1.25 million to acquire, reconstruct and rehabilitate the development. As the project’s primary lender, IHDA provided more than \$1.2 million in interest free loans from the State Affordable Housing Trust Fund and federal HOME funds to create the development’s three residential buildings. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity also contributed a \$25,000 energy efficiency grant.

The supportive housing development is located at 2224 East Cook Street and consists of 19 furnished studio apartments that include a bathroom and kitchen. All the units are fully accessible for persons with physical disabilities.

Under a separate financing plan, the City of Springfield committed \$180,000 and the Illinois Department of Public Health contributed \$150,000 to fund the development and management of an adjoining social services center housed in a fourth building. Fifth Street Renaissance will provide tenants with valuable supportive services such as case management, life skills training, job development, medical screenings and health management to help them rebuild their lives.

The Springfield Housing Authority has also committed 19 project based vouchers to assist tenants with the \$431 monthly rent for each unit.

To qualify as a tenant, applicants must be able to prove that they are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless or have a mobility impairment. Interested applicants should contact Fifth Street Renaissance at (217) 544-5040.

“IHDA’s financial support has allowed us to help get some of the city’s homeless people off the streets and on the road to rebuilding their lives. The more people we can help become independent, the less we need to depend on costly institutions and burden the community,” said Penny Harris, executive director of Fifth Street Renaissance.

#### About the Illinois Housing Development Authority

IHDA ([www.ihda.org](http://www.ihda.org)) is a self-supporting state agency that finances the creation and the preservation of affordable housing across Illinois. Since its creation in 1967, IHDA has allocated more than \$9.67 billion and financed more than 204,000 affordable units across the state. IHDA accomplishes its mission through a number of federal and state funding sources including the Illinois Affordable Housing Trust Fund, the Illinois Affordable Housing Tax Credits Fund, the allocation of federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits, and HOME Investment Partnership funds. IHDA is also a bonding authority, and independently sells bonds, based on its own good credit, to finance affordable housing in Illinois.