

For Immediate Release
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Contact: Man Yee Lee
(312) 836-5234
manyeel@ihda.org



401 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60611

312-836-5200 Main
312-836-5222 TDD

www.ihda.org

News Release

Illinois Housing Development Authority allocates \$63,000 to help six low-income families fulfill their homeownership dreams in Henry, Stark and Bureau counties

*Funding is part of IHDA's \$683,000 statewide allocation
under the American Dream Downpayment Initiative*

KEWANEE, IL – The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) announced today that it will allocate \$63,000 from the American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI) to help at least six low-income families buy their first homes in Henry, Stark and Bureau counties. The funds come from IHDA's latest round of ADDI grant allocations that total \$683,000 for the whole state. ADDI is a program under the HOME Investment Partnership run by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to help first-time homebuyers meet downpayment and closing costs.

“So far, the ADDI program has allowed IHDA to assist 40 low-income families across Illinois to buy their first homes since we started allocating funds under the program in October, 2005,” said Kelly King Dibble, executive director of IHDA. “Under Governor Rod R. Blagojevich’s leadership, IHDA is proud to be able to help more Illinois families achieve their dream of owning a safe, affordable home and to gain from the social and financial benefits of homeownership.”

IHDA will award the \$63,000 grant to the Housing Authority of Henry County (HAHC) to launch its Homebuyer Program. The HAHC will administer the funds as forgivable loans to low-income public housing residents. Each eligible homebuyer can receive up to \$14,999 to put towards their downpayment or closing costs and will not be required to repay the loan provided they live in the purchased home for five years.

To be eligible for a grant through HAHC, applicants must be a first-time homebuyer or have not owned a home within the past 3 years, be a current public housing resident, contribute at least \$1,000 of their own money towards the purchase, agree to complete intensive pre and post

purchase counseling, and earn less than 80% of the area median income for their county. For a family of four in Henry, the limit is set at \$48,100, while income levels for families of the same size in Bureau County should not exceed \$46,900; and \$49,900 in Stark County.

Grant recipients will be selected from the participants of the HAHC's Family Self Sufficiency Program, Project Uplift, which assists residents to repair their credit, manage their family budget, increase job skills and gain financial independence. The number of families to be helped in each county will depend on demand. For more information about the ADDI program contact Angela Heise, the housing authority's special projects coordinator at 309-852-2801.

"The ADDI funding from IHDA will allow us to start providing homeownership opportunities for first-time homebuyers in the three-county area. Many of the targeted families have overcome serious bad credit issues and this assistance represents a chance of a lifetime for them to fulfill their homeownership dreams. Our goal is to help six families in the first year of the program," said Kate Barton, executive director of HAHC.

Since 2003, IHDA has helped almost 2,850 low-income first-time homebuyers across Illinois meet their downpayment and closing costs with more than \$33.5 million in financing from the State Affordable Housing Trust Fund and various federal HOME funds that include the ADDI program.

The Governor's 2005 *Building for Success: Illinois Comprehensive Housing Plan* allowed for spending earmarked for affordable housing at several state agencies to be strategically targeted to the following priority populations: very low income families; low income seniors; low income people with disabilities; homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless; low and moderate income families and people unable to find affordable housing near jobs or transportation; and low income families and people living in existing affordable housing in danger of becoming unaffordable.

The 2005 Housing Plan was developed by the Governor's Housing Task Force. The 35 members of the Task Force include advocates, developers, lenders, and state agency representatives, including eight Illinois state agency directors. Under the Governor's direction, the Task Force recently developed "*On the Road to Success: Illinois Comprehensive Housing Plan 2006*" which continues to build on the coordinated success of the 2005 Comprehensive Housing Plan.

About the Illinois Housing Development Authority

IHDA (www.ihda.org) is a self-supporting state agency that finances the creation and the preservation of affordable housing across Illinois. Since its creation by an act of the Illinois legislature in 1967, IHDA has allocated more than \$7.27 billion and financed more than 174,000 units of affordable housing 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, HOME Investment Partnership funds and others. IHDA is also a bonding authority, and independently sells bonds, based on its own good credit, to finance affordable housing across the state.