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News Release

State helps homeless families and individuals with special needs find permanent supportive housing in DuPage County

*Illinois Housing Development Authority awards \$800,000
to help 11 residents begin a life of self sufficiency*

NAPERVILLE – Building on Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich’s commitment to increase affordable housing options for Illinois families, seniors and people with disabilities, the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) announced today that it will award \$800,000 from the State Affordable Housing Trust Fund to allow 11 homeless families and individuals with special needs in DuPage County secure safe and decent homes.

Not-for-profit group DuPage Public Action to Deliver Shelters (PADS) will use the interest-free loan to purchase and renovate an apartment building in Naperville to create Olympus Building. On-site supportive services that include workshops for interviewing skills, employment preparation, health care and assistance with benefits applications will help residents become self sufficient.

“Gov. Blagojevich and IHDA are proud to help low-income families, people with special needs, and homeless individuals and families secure safe and decent homes and bring stability to their lives,” said Kelly King Dibble, IHDA Executive Director. “The Governor recently signed the Comprehensive Housing Planning Bill to ensure that the housing needs of these three populations will continue to be addressed and remain a priority for many more years to come.”

The 38-year-old building is located at 5 Olympus Drive, south of downtown Naperville. It will be converted into 11 affordable housing units for homeless families and individuals, many of whom live with a mental illness. A community room for residents to meet regularly with a case manager assigned by the not-for-profit group will also be built.

“The funding from IHDA allows us to provide a stable home and support system for families and individuals who are homeless, many of whom face complex challenges, but who also have

limited incomes and issues that may include mental illness, substance use, and disabling health conditions. Without this stability and the on-site services to help them address these issues, most people who are homeless go from one emergency system to the next, from streets to public hospitals and institutions and back to the streets – with little hope of ever leading stable and productive lives,” said Carol Simler, executive director of DuPage PADS. “Projects such as the Olympus Building benefit communities by providing cost-effective solutions to breaking the cycle of homelessness.”

The project has also received loans and grants from DuPage County and the Federal Home Loan Bank. DuPage PADS contributed \$2,400 in donations to the project. Approximately \$70,000 in renovations that includes a new roof, windows, cabinets and carpeting will be conducted to the building. Renovations will begin once current residents in the apartment building vacate after their leases expire within the next year.

Eight one-bedroom units that measure 850 square feet and three two-bedroom units that measure 1,100 square feet will be created. Rents range between \$680 and \$769 respectively. However, residents will not have to pay more than 30% of their income to rent. The remaining amount will be subsidized by the DuPage Housing Authority in the form of project based housing vouchers. All utilities, except electricity, are included. Tenants will be selected from DuPage PADS’s existing waiting list for permanent supportive housing. For more information about the DuPage PADS permanent supportive housing program, call 630-682-3846 or visit www.dupagepads.org.

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 Olympus Permanent Supportive Housing project will address the needs of three of the priority populations.

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.

“Besides providing for much-needed rental housing in DuPage, the Olympus Permanent Supportive Housing Project helps us achieve the primary goal of the DuPage Homeless Continuum of Care, which is to eliminate homelessness in DuPage,” said Phil Smith, director of Community Services for DuPage County.

DuPage County aims to create 17 units of affordable rental housing a year, according to its 2005-2009 Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development. Olympus Building will provide 11 units to help meet that goal. The project also complies with the City of Naperville’s Consolidated Plan to bridge the gap between homelessness and self sufficiency for the homeless through the provision of on-site supportive services.

Since 2003, the state has helped more than 1,250 people with special needs in Illinois, including homeless families, find stable homes in IHDA-financed rental accommodation or renovate their homes with more than \$91 million in funds. A further 350 residents received help to become first-time homebuyers or rehabilitate their homes with \$3.9 million in financing.

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.