ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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Illinois Invests $9 Million to Revitalize Vacant and Abandoned Housing

CHICAGO – The Illinois Housing Development Authority Board approved $9.2 million through the Strong Communities Program to help 41 local governments and land bank authorities acquire, maintain, rehabilitate, and demolish abandoned residential properties. The initiative supports community revitalization and encourages investment in areas with limited resources to address vacant and deteriorated properties.

"Abandoned and deteriorated properties not only pose serious safety risks to neighboring residents but limit where new businesses and housing could develop," **said Governor JB Pritzker.** "This $9.2 million investment helps communities convert these vacant properties into useable spaces, producing more housing options and supporting long-term economic growth across Illinois."

A study by the Center for Community Progress found that vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties reduce municipal revenue while increasing maintenance, abatement, and public safety costs. According to the U.S. Census, nearly seven percent of Illinois' housing stock, or more than 369,000 units, remain vacant forcing cities to spend additional money to maintain. IHDA created SCP to provide local governments and land banks with grants to rehabilitate vacant residential properties and return them to productive, taxable use, or demolish properties that are beyond repair and harm neighboring residences. Through this intervention, SCP increases property values, creates jobs, reduces crime, generates additional tax revenue, and attracts further community investment.

"The Strong Communities Program gives local communities the resources they need to address abandoned properties and strengthen their neighborhoods across Illinois," **said IHDA Executive Director Kristin Faust**. "By supporting the acquisition, rehabilitation, maintenance, and demolition of properties that have been left vacant, this investment will help create safer communities, expand housing opportunities, and encourage long-term revitalization from Rockford to Metropolis."

SCP grant funds reimburse applicants for eligible costs associated with the acquisition, rehabilitation, and maintenance of abandoned residential properties. Reimbursable expenses may also include tree, shrub, and debris removal; lot treatment and greening; and other reasonable construction costs necessary to properties to productive use.

Created in 2020, SCP has invested $25 million in revitalizing nearly 2,000 abandoned and deteriorated properties. In this round, IHDA received requests totaling five times the amount of funding available, highlighting the challenges many communities continue to face while recognizing the positive impact the Strong Communities Program is making throughout the state.

To learn more about IHDA's home repair and community revitalization programs, please visit IHDA's website.

Strong Communities Program - Round 3 Awards		
Grantee	**County**	**Grant Award**
Adams County	Adams	$100,000
Central Illinois Land Bank Authority	Clark, Coles, Ford, Livingston, Macon, Montgomery, Vermilion	$300,000
City of Aurora	Kane, DuPage, Kendall, and Will	$ 175,800
City of Bloomington	McLean	$262,500
City of Blue Island	Cook	$169,900
City of Cahokia Heights	St. Clair	$100,000
City of Carlinville	Macoupin	$100,000
City of Champaign	Champaign	$100,000
City of Charleston	Coles	$88,000
City of Chicago Heights	Cook	$563,400
City of Danville	Vermilion	$375,000
City of Decatur	Macon	$150,000
City of Flora	Clay	$151,800
City of Freeport	Stephenson	$375,000
City of Galesburg	Knox	$300,000
City of Harvey	Cook	$300,000
City of Jacksonville	Morgan	$562,500
City of Litchfield	Montgomery	$99,000
City of Macomb	McDonough	$192,000
City of Marion	Williamson	$150,000
City of Mattoon	Coles	$558,600
City of Metropolis	Massac	$210,000
City of Moline	Rock Island	$374,000
City of Newton	Jasper	$121,000
City of Ottawa	LaSalle	$100,000
City of Peoria	Peoria	$300,000
City of Rock Falls	Whiteside	$89,000
City of Rock Island	Rock Island	$300,000
City of Salem	Marion	$100,000
City of Savanna	Carroll	$200,000
City of Sterling	Whiteside	$100,000
City of Streator	LaSalle and Livingston	$50,000

Northern Illinois Land Bank	Boone, Lake, McHenry, Stephenson, Winnebago	$300,000
Peoria County	Peoria	$62,500
South Suburban Land Bank	Cook and Will	$375,000
Village of Clay City	Clay	$100,000
Village of Cypress	Johnson	$70,000
Village of Hazel Crest	Cook	$150,000
Village of Lansing	Cook	$375,000
Village of Park Forest	Cook and Will	$300,000
Winnebago County	Winnebago	$350,000

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About the Illinois Housing Development Authority

IHDA is a self-supporting and mission-driven state agency dedicated to financing the creation and preservation of affordable housing in Illinois. IHDA offers affordable mortgages and down payment assistance for homebuyers, provides financing for the development of affordable rental housing, and manages a variety of assistance programs to create communities where all Illinoisans can live, work, and thrive. Since it was established in 1967, IHDA has delivered more than $30 billion in state, federal, and leveraged financing to make possible the purchase, development, or rehabilitation of 343,475 homes and apartments for low- and middle-income households. For more information on IHDA programs, visit www.ihda.org.