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**CHA RECEIVES \$1.5 MILLION FOR 200 HOUSING CHOICE
VOUCHERS FROM HUD**

Gives non-elderly disabled new housing options
November 4, 2002

The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) has awarded 200 housing choice vouchers to the Chicago Housing Authority for distribution to non-elderly disabled people currently on CHA's senior waiting list, the authority announced Monday.

In 2000, all CHA senior buildings were designated "senior only." Previously, young disabled residents were allowed to reside in these buildings. Now, through this program, the younger, disabled individuals currently on the waiting list for CHA senior housing have the option to utilize a housing choice voucher for use in the private rental market.

"We want to give younger disabled people the opportunity to find housing that is both accessible and affordable, where they feel comfortable," said CHA CEO Terry Peterson. "These vouchers will give them the financial assistance they need to do just that."

The 200 vouchers, together worth \$1.5 million, will enable recipients to pay no more than 30 percent of their income towards their rental payment. This is especially important for disabled individuals who are on a fixed income.

CHAC, Inc. administers the Housing Choice Voucher program for CHA residents and also provides supportive services to help residents locate available units. The voucher program is a key part of CHA's Plan for Transformation.

Younger, disabled residents currently living in CHA senior buildings also have the opportunity to utilize a housing choice voucher to move to the private market. Allocated directly from the Plan for Transformation, separate from this current HUD award, the existing vouchers for current tenants are voluntary and do not require residents to leave senior housing.

The Plan for Transformation is a 10-year, \$1.6 billion effort, which includes building or rehabbing 25,000 units for CHA's lease-compliant residents, the largest overhaul of public housing in the nation's history.