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**BOARD APPROVES POOL OF PRE-QUALIFIED DEVELOPERS TO INCREASE UNITS AVAILABLE TO CHA FAMILIES**

**Expanded services to residents key part of agenda  
July 16, 2003**

As a compliment to the onsite revitalization efforts currently underway as part of the Plan for Transformation, the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Board of Commissioners has approved the establishment of a pool of pre-qualified development teams that could expand the number of locations available to CHA families when choosing replacement housing.

The program offers smaller companies - those that typically lack the capacity to build large numbers of units at once - an opportunity to join in the Plan for Transformation, while affording residents a potentially broader selection of homes. Developers and/or property owners would receive financial assistance in return for holding no more than 30% of units at a particular property for eligible CHA families.

"The CHA must be willing to explore every opportunity possible to provide the best living conditions possible for our families, seniors and children," said CHA CEO Terry Peterson. "There are more businesses, community groups and individuals out there who want to be part of history and we welcome their involvement."

In an effort to ensure that families are ready to take advantage of the new and rehabbed units as they are completed, the Board has approved two contracts aimed at helping them make steady progress.

A Community and Supportive Services Agreement will focus on assisting families that have chosen to return to the Madden/Wells mixed-income community. While employment is at the center of the Agreement, other services include outreach, assessment, case management and referrals. Services would continue even after families have successfully moved into their new units. Supportive services are part of the developer agreement with Oakwood Boulevard Associates, the team responsible for Phase 1 of the Madden/Wells redevelopment.

Also, the Board has approved a contract with the Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities, Inc. to provide an opportunity counseling program that offers more comprehensive service and encourages families to move to low poverty areas. Families opting for vouchers will benefit from a

holistic approach which combines housing counseling with social services. The Leadership Council has a proven track record, having placed hundreds of CHA families in racially and economically diverse neighborhoods. The new contract commits to placement of 250 families.

In keeping with the progress already made through the Plan, the Board has also approved a contract for general renovation work at several senior buildings, including electrical repairs, new floor tile and modifications to ADA units.