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**September 8, 2005**

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**CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY STATEMENT REGARDING  
ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA**

Over the past several days, the Chicago Housing Authority has, along with the rest of the nation, seen the debilitating impact of Hurricane Katrina on thousands of lives. From the beginning of this national tragedy, the CHA has been in constant contact with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the City of Chicago, working to craft a unified response.

Through an incredible outpouring of generosity from all sectors, the City has been able to find enough units to house more than 1,500 people, and has identified temporary shelter for some 2,500 more. In addition, the CHA is offering 500 newly rehabbed units for seniors who were displaced by the storm. These units can house up to 1,000 senior citizens in very comfortable, safe places to stay with access to places of worship, transportation and so many other amenities that contribute to a sense of serenity.

Some have suggested that the CHA should open units that are slated for demolition. CHA feels that it would be disrespectful to families who have suffered so much loss, to place them into dilapidated public housing units that are slated for demolition because of their serious disrepair. Given all that the hurricane evacuees have been through, placing them in units that HUD has deemed uninhabitable, and that continue to be challenged by the presence of gangs and drugs, is not an option.

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*Do you have a vision for CHANGE?*