

May 28, 2009 Press Event

Saint Paul Public Housing Agency (PHA) hosts press event to announce contract awards of over \$11 Million in Recovery Act and other capital funding.

"We are pleased to announce that the Saint Paul PHA has awarded 100% of the federal Recovery Act funding made available to it on March 17, 2009 ... just over 9 weeks ago!

--Jon Gutzmann, Saint Paul PHA Executive Director, May 28, 2009

On Wednesday, May 27, 2009 the PHA's Board of Commissioners approved three construction contracts that fully committed the agency's Recovery Act funding of \$10,065,782. A fourth contract was awarded at the April 22, 2009 Board meeting. The total cost of these four construction contracts was \$11,498,548. The PHA is paying for the contracts using its Recovery Act grant of \$10,065,782, supplemented by \$1,432,766 from other HUD Capital Fund Program grants.

On May 28, 2009, the PHA hosted a press event at the McDonough Homes Community Center to announce that it had obligated over \$11 million in Recovery Act and other Capital Funding. The funds enable the PHA to complete major modernization work in public housing that was already underway, and to improve life-safety systems in PHA properties. Recovery funds also created jobs (an estimated 170 jobs with contractors, including resident owned businesses, and minority- and women-owned businesses) and very importantly, an additional 21 temporary PHA jobs at living wages—16 of which have gone to residents of public housing. (Many of the residents hired for these positions speak a second language, such as Spanish, Hmong, Somali, Karen, etc.)

At the press event federal, state and local officials, PHA Commissioners, housing industry representatives and Resident Council representatives praised the PHA for planning ahead and moving quickly to award the contracts after the stimulus funds became available. Their remarks included the following statements:

Senator Amy Klobuchar: "The Recovery Act was intended to create jobs and jumpstart the economy, and that's what's happening here."

Congresswoman Betty McCollum: "This is a one-time project with a long-term benefit. Jon Gutzmann and PHA staff had the vision to be ready to move forward as soon as the Recovery Act passed, and we see the proof right here at McDonough."

Mayor Chris Coleman: "We take such pride in our public housing in Saint Paul..."

Saint Paul Fire Chief Timothy Butler: "The PHA truly believes in public safety as an enduring core value. The fire alarm systems and sprinklers the PHA is installing protect residents and firefighters."

PHA staff believe this agency is one of the first large housing authorities in the country to obligate their entire grant from the Recovery Act this quickly.

[Click here](http://www.recovery.gov) to go to www.recovery.gov.