



RRHA NEWS www.rrha.org

BUILDING VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

901 Chamberlayne Parkway
Richmond, Virginia 23220
(804) 780-4200

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Contact:

Felicia McLemore
Community Relations and Marketing Office
(804) 780-4936
ffmclemo@rrha.state.va.us

Otesa Middleton-Miles
Community Relations and Marketing Office
(804) 780-4138
ommiles@rrha.state.va.us

RRHA awarded more than \$700,000 in Stimulus Funding to Update Kitchens and Baths in Elderly and Disabled Housing Units

Richmond, VA – The Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) was recently awarded a \$706,020 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to update accessibility at several RRHA properties that provide low-income housing for elderly and/or disabled residents.

The grant comes to RRHA through competitive grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, popularly known as the “stimulus bill.” The following RRHA buildings will receive the accessible upgrades: Melvin C. Fox Manor, 700 Lombardy Street and 1200 Decatur Street.

“We are pleased to receive this grant to help improve the quality of life for our seniors,” said Anthony Scott, RRHA’s Chief Executive Officer. “The grant will permit RRHA to make an additional 54 units fully handicap accessible. And, for the Decatur Street property a new elevator will make each floor accessible and the reconnection of an audible security feature will allow the Decatur residents to provide remote building access to guests.”

The more than \$700,000 injection of federal stimulus money will help the Authority maximize compliance with the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS). UFAS requires uniform standards for the design, construction, and alteration of buildings so that physically handicapped persons will have ready access to and use of them in accordance with the Architectural Barriers Act. While Fox Manor, Decatur and 700 S. Lombardy Street properties is in compliance with UFAS, additional units meeting UFAS are required to provide suitable housing to families needing accessible units.

Description of Funding Use

Melvin C. Fox Manor:

Located at 18-A West 27th Street in the heart of Richmond's Bainbridge community, Fox Manor is a 50-unit senior housing facility built in 1985. Through this grant, RRHA will rehabilitate five additional units to make them UFAS compliant. The modifications required to meet these standards include the replacement and lowering of kitchen cabinets, the removal of kitchen islands to ensure a minimum 32" clear width to the kitchen area and wheelchair turning space, the lowering of closet brackets and poles, the installation of handheld shower sprayers, the installation of lever type faucets, wrapping of exposed pipes, the installation of metal plates on entry doors, the installation of new handicap accessible commodes as well as the installation of railings on walkways leading to each unit and installation of sprinklers.

700 S. Lombardy Street:

This senior/disabled living facility built in 1978 has 75 units. The housing development is located in Randolph. As a result of this funding use, there will be 39 units renovated to meet UFAS requirements. The modifications required to meet these standards include the replacement and lowering of kitchen cabinets, the removal of kitchen islands to ensure a minimum 32" clear width to the kitchen area and wheelchair turning space, the lowering of closet brackets and poles, the installation of handheld shower sprayers, the installation of lever type faucets, wrapping of exposed pipes, the installation of metal plates on entry doors and the installation of new handicap accessible commodes.

1200 Decatur Street:

Built in 1971, this is a 24-unit senior/disable housing facility located in the Richmond's historic Blackwell community. With this funding, RRHA will renovate 10 additional units to comply with UFAS requirements. Specific improvements to the 10 units will include the replacement and lowering of kitchen cabinets, the removal of kitchen islands to ensure a minimum 32" clear width to the kitchen area and wheelchair turning space, the lowering of closet brackets and poles, the installation of handheld shower sprayers, the installation of lever type faucets, wrapping of exposed pipes, the installation of metal plates on entry doors, the installation of new handicap accessible commodes as well as the installation of an elevator to make each floor accessible, reconnection of the phone system to allow residents to buzz in guests from their units and lowering of mailboxes to required accessible height.

Section 3 compliance will be met with the hiring of qualified residents to perform various jobs.

In addition to the \$706, 020 in funding, RRHA has secured a firm commitment from the Richmond City Health District for services valued at \$2,600 annually for *ROCK RICHMOND!* which will provide complimentary weekly senior exercise classes to RRHA residents.

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About RRHA

RRHA plays a key role in assuring the city of Richmond's bright future and has been at the forefront of affordable housing community development for nearly 70 years. RRHA is the largest housing authority in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Authority serves nearly 10,000 residents and manages nearly 4,100 units through its Public Housing Program; and provides subsidized housing assistance to approximately 3,000 families through its Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Program. RRHA also manages neighborhood redevelopment and conservation programs throughout the City of Richmond. For more information, visit www.rrha.org.