

The Partnership for New Communities

Civic Leadership for Chicago's Neighborhoods

MEDIA ADVISORY

Contacts: Maria Hibbs	Adaku Onyeka
Executive Director	Communications
P: 312-565-2936	P: 312-565-2986

THE PARTNERSHIP FOR NEW COMMUNITIES AWARDS \$1.3 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR TRANSITIONAL JOBS PROGRAMS

More than 500 CHA Residents to Receive Intensive Employment Preparation and Placement Support

CHICAGO (August 31, 2007) – The Partnership for New Communities is awarding a total of \$1.3 million in grants to Harborquest, Inc., Heartland Human Care Services (Heartland) and North Lawndale Employment Network (NLEN) to expand their transitional jobs programs as part of Opportunity Chicago, a \$23 million workforce development collaborative with the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development, the Chicago Housing Authority and other partners.

Transitional jobs programs place participants (in this case, all residents of public housing) in time-limited employment, where they receive wages and supportive services from the program provider. These "starter jobs" help workers with limited experience establish a work record and gain the customer service skills, references and job-readiness training needed to move into regular full-time employment shortly after their period of subsidized pay ends.

Harborquest was awarded \$500,000 to provide orientation, basic skills training and temporary, subsidized job opportunities to 264 residents in developments in Douglas and Grand Boulevard, placing at least 100 workers in full-time unsubsidized jobs.

Heartland was awarded \$500,000 to enroll 180 South Side public-housing residents in transitional jobs, provide employment services and place 144 enrollees in full-time unsubsidized jobs.

NLEN will provide outreach and skills training to at least 100 residents of scattered-site public housing or Housing Choice Voucher holders in North Lawndale with its \$300,000 award. At least 40 participants are expected to be employed full time at the program's conclusion in 2008.

"Opportunity Chicago is designed to help public-housing tenants overcome some of the many barriers they face, such as low literacy levels and little or no work experience," says Maria Hibbs, Executive Director at The Partnership for New Communities. "These transitional jobs programs equip the residents with the skills they need to move into full-time employment and lead to pathways of self-sufficiency."

For more information on The Partnership for New Communities or Opportunity Chicago, visit our Website at www.thepartnershipfornewcommunities.org.

The Partnership for New Communities is a funders collaborative bringing together business, civic and philanthropic leaders to invest in strategic economic development, community building and employment related initiatives to promote large-scale improvements to the neighborhoods most affected by public-housing transformation in Chicago.

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