

CITY OF BALTIMORE

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For Immediate Release

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Baltimore City Receives \$17 million to Support Local Programs on Homelessness

Baltimore, MD (February 23rd, 2007)- Earlier this week, Baltimore City received \$17,842,361 in funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to support housing and supportive services activities programs. The application was submitted to HUD by Baltimore Homeless Services (BHS) under the auspices of the Baltimore City Health Department.

The funding represents a \$1,079,730 increase over the previous fiscal year. It will support 71 local projects to help those experiencing homelessness run by 32 separate agencies. Baltimore's allocation is 47% of the total awarded to the State of Maryland.

"Congratulations to Baltimore for winning record resources this year from the awards announced by HUD Secretary Jackson this week," said Philip Mangano, Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on the Homeless. "We look forward to the continuing partnership with the new leadership in Baltimore City in reducing and ultimately ending the homelessness of our poorest neighbors."

"This funding is a key ingredient of our efforts to end homelessness in Baltimore within 10 years," said Mayor Sheila Dixon. "Securing this funding speaks to the level of dedication and the quality of work being done by Baltimore Homeless Services and our city Health Department. We will use this funding creatively to help people find homes."

Among the projects funded is the Housing First Initiative project operated by Baltimore Homeless Services. The \$1,188,763 two-year grant will complement BHS's Housing First project initiated in December 2005 by providing funding for real property leasing, supportive services and operations to serve 47 chronically homeless persons in scattered site units throughout the city.

Research indicates that approximately 20% of all homeless persons experience long term or chronic homelessness. This population utilizes more than half of all emergency shelter resources designed to assist homeless individuals and families.

"By shifting the emphasis toward meeting the needs of the most vulnerable homeless persons, more resources become available for those who experience situations of homelessness," said Diane Glauber, President of Baltimore Homeless Services.

For more information about Baltimore Homeless Services and the Baltimore City Health Department, visit us at www.BaltimoreHealth.org

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