

**For Immediate Release**

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## Housing and Community Development Excellence Awards Recognize Outstanding Projects

**Columbus** – Today, Ohio Department of Development Director James Leftwich presented three Ohio communities and one organization with the Director's Award for Excellence in Housing and Community Development for effectively implementing programs that benefit Ohio's communities and low- to moderate-income citizens. The awardees were honored today at the Ohio Conference of Community Development Annual Meeting luncheon at the Crown Plaza North in Columbus.

"The projects being recognized today each made a significant difference in lives of Ohioans and their communities," said Director James A. Leftwich. "I am pleased to recognize the outstanding results that come from our investments. These efforts represent dollars very well spent and are good examples of the types of projects that benefit from the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships, and Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing funding."

The awards are presented to organizations that demonstrate outstanding housing and community development efforts. The award winners were selected by the Ohio Department of Development's Office of Housing and Community Partnerships.

The 2011 Director's Awards for Excellence in Housing and Community Development were presented to the following recipients:

**Mercer County** was recognized for its use of a \$300,000 Neighborhood Revitalization grant from fiscal year 2008. With the funds, the County made important infrastructure improvements in the Village of Rockford. The project included reconstructing 2,250 linear feet of streets, 4,355 linear feet of curbs, 7,048 linear feet of sidewalks, 1,350 linear feet of water main, 3,050 linear feet of storm sewers, and 270 linear feet of sanitary sewers. In addition, two structures were demolished, utility poles relocated, fire hydrants installed, and improvements were made to the baseball field. The grant, made possible through the Community Development Block Grant Program, leveraged more than \$1.5 million in other public and private funds.

**Village of Russells Point** (Logan County) was recognized for its use of a \$500,000 Water and Sewer grant from fiscal year 2009. With the funds, the community added granular activated carbon to the sewer treatment facility, aiding disinfection efforts. The \$1.7 million project, made possible through Community Development Block Grant American Stimulus dollars, assisted 991 households, of which 53 percent were considered low- and moderate-income.

**City of Hillsboro** (Highland County) was recognized for its use of a \$248,000 HOME Investment Partnerships Program grant through the Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) from fiscal year 2009. With the funds, the City provided rehabilitation assistance to seven low- and moderate-income households. In addition, home repairs were made to 11 low- and moderate-income households. The funds also provided emergency payments to 27 households as a means of preventing homelessness. The CHIP grants leveraged a total of \$95,000 of other funds.

**The Cincinnati/Hamilton County Continuum of Care for the Homeless, Inc.** was recognized for its use of an \$809,900 Homeless Prevention Rapid Re-Housing grant from fiscal year 2009. With the

funds, the organization provided rapid re-housing services through financial assistance and housing relocation services to up to 160 households. The organization partnered with Bethany House Services, Inc. to serve those Hamilton County residents who are at or below 50 percent of the area median income.

*The **Office of Housing and Community Partnerships** provides financial and technical assistance to units of local government and nonprofit organizations in Ohio for project activities which benefit low- and moderate-income citizens.*

*Working with our partners across business, state and local governments, academia, and the nonprofit sector, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to attract, create, grow, and retain businesses through competitive incentives and targeted investments. Engaged every day in marketing, innovating, investing, and collaborating, the **Ohio Department of Development** works at the speed of business to accelerate and support the teamwork that is necessary for success by providing financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio's future.*

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