

Hopewell Redevelopment & Housing Authority



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For Immediate Release

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The Hopewell Redevelopment and Housing Authority (HRHA) receives grant funding to begin the redevelopment of Piper Square and continue assisting public housing residents achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Hopewell, Virginia (March 5, 2019) - HRHA has received grant awards from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta (FHLB) of Atlanta of \$500,000 each. DHCD makes competitive awards annually to fund affordable housing projects throughout the state of Virginia. FHLB of Atlanta makes awards annually to affordable housing projects throughout its Southeastern footprint on a competitive basis. Each agency's funding will be used toward the Piper Square redevelopment efforts.

The Piper Square redevelopment effort includes the conversion of 103 units of public housing into a fully renovated, energy efficient affordable housing property under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD). RAD allows Public Housing Authorities to convert their current funding into new project-based subsidy for the purpose of attracting private funding. Construction for Piper Square is expected to begin Fall 2019.

The agency has also received a Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) grant in the amount of \$72,000 from HUD. The agency has successfully been awarded the grant since 2013. FSS grants are awarded to housing authorities nationwide and are used to employ FSS Coordinators to work directly with individuals desiring to achieve economic self-sufficiency in the public housing and housing choice voucher programs.

Participants are required to be the head of household or age 18 and above if a household member is on the lease. The FSS Coordinator develops an individualized service plan for all participants that can include credit repair, workforce training and development, education, homeownership and more. Participants execute a five-year contract with the authority and begin working on goal completions. Contracts may be extended up to an additional two years if needed. The HRHA FSS program currently has 34 participants and has graduated three participants into homeownership. There have also been several participants to successfully complete workforce training programs and obtain Associate degrees.

HRHA welcomes partnerships with agencies and organizations that provide workforce, credit counseling and financial management, education and homeownership services. The agency also provides internship opportunities for local college students in social work or similar degree programs.

HRHA provides affordable housing for the citizens of Hopewell. Our mission is to promote adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity and a suitable living environment free from discrimination. If you would like more information about HRHA's redevelopment efforts and programs, please contact us at 804.458.5160.