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NEWS RELEASE

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CMHA WARNS AGAINST MISLEADING WEB SITE

Cleveland, January 21, 2010 – The Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) is alerting Cuyahoga County residents seeking affordable rental housing to a Web site that encourages individuals to apply for “Section 8” or housing choice voucher for a fee. The Web site “section8programs.com” is not affiliated with CMHA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or any other housing authority.

“CMHA is not working with this Web site and will never charge a fee for housing voucher/section 8 application,” said Priscilla Pointer-Hicks, director of CMHA’s Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP).

There is never a charge to apply for the Voucher Program/Section 8 in Cuyahoga County or anywhere else. This Web site also identifies a landlord listing site which is NOT the site CMHA uses or endorses.

The only way to apply for a housing voucher from HCVP is through a public housing authority where there is an open waiting list, no matter where individuals live. They can go to the HUD Web site (www.hud.gov) for free information on how to locate various housing authorities across the country.

The CMHA HCVP tenant-based waiting list is currently closed. When it re-opens, announcements will appear in local newspapers.

“There is absolutely no external program that can ‘get someone in’ for a fee,” added Pointer-Hicks.

Landlords wishing to list their rental units should go to www.housingcleveland.org, a free service provided by a group of nonprofit and public sector partners which includes CMHA. This Web site is the only one to which CMHA refers its families and landlords.

Founded in 1933, the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority is the oldest public housing authority in the country. It is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio, created under sections 3735.27 and 3735.50 of the Ohio Revised Code. It serves Cuyahoga County excluding Chagrin Falls Township primarily through two federally assisted housing programs: Low-Income Public Housing, which serves about 16,000 residents, and the Housing Choice Voucher Program, which provides rental assistance for 14,000 households.

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