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NEWS RELEASE

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CMHA First to Make Housing Vouchers Available for Ohio's HOME Choice Program

Older and Disabled Northeast Ohioans to have access to rental housing assistance

Cleveland, June 26, 2009 – The Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) announced today that it has designated 25 housing vouchers for use by older adults and persons with disabilities as part of the Ohio Home Choice Program. CMHA is the first public housing authority in Ohio to make vouchers for rental housing assistance available through HOME Choice, which makes it possible for nursing home residents to transition back to homes or community-based settings.

The tenant-based vouchers provided by CMHA address the need for affordable housing, while Home Choice's transition coordinators help eliminate the barriers caused by the need for security and utility deposits, transportation, furniture and other household items. Home Choice is administered by the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services.

"Seniors and those with disabilities deserve quality, affordable housing," said George Phillips, CEO of CMHA. "We are pleased to be a part of this much needed collaboration."

The Home Choice is a component of Ohio's "Money Follows the Person" Demonstration Project. Ohio was one of 34 states to receive funding for this project in January 2007. In addition to providing an important service to persons trying to move back into the community, the project is helping Ohio reform the long-term service and support structure for older adults and persons with disabilities.

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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