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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HUD Awards CMHA Choice Neighborhoods Grant

The planning grant will focus on the Central Neighborhood in Cleveland, Ohio

CLEVELAND, OH (January 10, 2012) – The Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) has been awarded a \$300,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The planning grant will focus on the Central neighborhood adjacent to Cleveland's downtown. CMHA, as the lead applicant, submitted a Choice Planning grant in partnership with the City of Cleveland, Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland, The Cleveland Foundation, The Gund Foundation, The CMHA Resident Progressive Action Council, Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, Cleveland Public Library, Burton, Bell, Carr Development Corporation, The Campus District, Key Bank, US Bank, PNC, and Enterprise Community Partners.

Jeffery K. Patterson, CMHA's Interim Chief Executive Officer stated, "CMHA is pleased that this collaborative effort has yielded such a positive result." Patterson added, "This grant is a significant opportunity for CMHA and its residents. We look forward to working with our residents and community stakeholders to develop a plan that will be cohesive with various economic development, educational strategies, and sustainable activities that are being planned within the community."

Once completed, the plan will become the guiding document for the revitalization of the public housing units in the Cedar/Central Community, while simultaneously directing the transformation of the surrounding neighborhood and positive outcomes for families. The goal of this Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant is to employ a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation. The program will transform neighborhoods by revitalizing severely distressed public and/or assisted housing and leverage investments in well-functioning

services, high quality public schools and education programs, high quality early learning programs and services, public assets, public transportation, and improve access to jobs. In addition, Choice Neighborhoods will ensure that current residents will be able to benefit from this transformation by preserving affordable housing or providing residents with the choice to move to affordable and accessible housing in another existing neighborhood of opportunity.

“The fact that we can predict health, economic, and educational outcomes of children based on zip code is nothing less than a tragedy. And it’s not who we are as Americans,” said Antonio R. Riley, HUD’s Midwest Regional Administrator. “And we know transforming housing, improving schools, and spurring economic development is most effective when local institutions in the public and private sectors can align their resources, break down barriers and cut through the red tape. That’s why I’m so proud to award Cleveland one of 13 Choice Neighborhoods planning grants.”

Building on nearly 20 years of success through HUD’s *HOPE VI Program*, *Choice Neighborhoods* links housing improvements with a wider variety of public services including schools, public transit and employment opportunities. The program is a centerpiece of the Obama Administration’s interagency *Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative*, a collaboration between HUD and the Departments of Education, Justice, Treasury and Health and Human Services. With support from the White House Domestic Policy Council and White House Office of Urban Affairs, the interagency partnership supports local solutions for sustainable, mixed-income neighborhoods with the affordable housing, safe streets and good schools all families need.

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