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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Indiana Permanent Supportive Housing Institute Continues to Combat Chronic Homelessness

INDIANAPOLIS – Yesterday at the Purdue University Memorial Union, eight development teams representing the 2010 Indiana Permanent Supportive Housing Institute offered their *Opening New Doors Finale Institute Team Project Presentations* to an audience of their peers and Institute officials. Representatives of the Indiana Department of Child Services, Federal Home Loan Bank, and Key Bank were also present for the demonstrations.

Permanent Supportive Housing is a model of providing services to the chronically homeless. The initiative is an effective strategy to support persons who cannot find housing without proper services, and cannot obtain the services they need without proper housing. As a part of the Initiative, the Indiana Permanent Supportive Housing Institute is an intensive, interactive, technical training to assist organizations in moving projects from concept to completion in the state's effort to not just manage, but rather end, homelessness in the near future.

One of the many partnerships resulting from the Initiative is the ECHO Housing and the Veteran Center collaboration which is working to serve the nearly 80 homeless veterans without housing on a given night in Vanderburgh County. Graduating from the 2009 Institute, they are creating 27 one bedroom units of permanent supportive housing for Veterans who are currently experiencing homelessness and living with a disability in the Evansville area. For this project, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) has partnered with several organizations including ECHO Housing Corporation, The Veterans Center of Evansville, Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH), The VA Hospital, the City of Evansville, Evansville Community Foundation, Toyota, and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indiana. The project, named Lucas Place II, celebrated its groundbreaking on October 21st for the newly constructed three-story building with an elevator and is expected to be completed and open for residents in September 2011.

“The Institute is a critical step in project strategy and development because it allows teams to take an idea from concept to financing, said Sherry Seiwert, Executive Director of the Indiana

Housing and Community Development Authority. “In just three years, we are nearly 75% of the way towards our initial goal of 1100 units of permanent supportive housing in Indiana by 2012.”

The 2010 teams, representing a broad geographic spread across Indiana, have been attending classes and seminars, and completing monthly homework assignments since June through the process to bring projects, which will fill a targeted need in their local communities, to fruition. Combining the advancement of past teams, there are a total of 813 units either currently open and serving individuals, under construction, or in the works with funding in place or in the application process. This class has added 229 of those units of permanent supportive housing to the pipeline.

The 2010 Indiana Permanent Supportive Housing Institute Teams include:

Partners in Housing Development Corporation and Aspire Indiana Behavioral Health System- (Marion County)

- This partnership seeks to create permanent supportive housing on behalf of people with severe and persistent mental illness who are experiencing homelessness. The project also seeks to provide supportive housing on behalf of hearing impaired individuals.

Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth (SAFY) – (Allen County)

- Partnering with Construction Management Services and Whitley Crossings Neighborhood Organization, SAFY plans to offer permanent supportive housing to youth aging out of foster care in Fort Wayne, and looks forward to replicating this model in several other states.

Hamilton Center- (Vigo County)

- The Hamilton Center, Inc. endeavors to enhance the quality of life, and reduce the unmet need for permanent supportive housing in the communities it serves by developing 20 units of supportive housing in Terre Haute.

Allen County Community Corrections; Park Center-(Allen County)

- The vision of this project is to help restore the lives of people with mental illness and chemical dependence who are involved in the criminal justice system through a strategy of permanent, supportive clustered housing.

Blue River Services, Inc.; LifeSprings; & New Albany Housing Authority- (Floyd/Harrison Counties)

- Serving multiple vulnerable populations, Blue River Services, Inc. and LifeSpring joined the institute to focus this next project on youth aging out of the foster care system. The New Albany Housing Authority joined the team to assist in developing housing in Floyd County.

Porter-Starke Services, Inc. - (Porter/Starke Counties)

- By providing a family housing option, single parents could transition from their shelter plus care program into more appropriate housing; making room for additional

single residents at the shelters. This project will also provide supportive housing to families who are currently experiencing homelessness.

Pathfinder; Love, Inc.; Huntington House; Bowen Center- (Huntington County)

- The agencies participating in the Institute want to substantially rehabilitate twenty units in three adjacent buildings known as Huntington Historic. These buildings are across from the County Courthouse in downtown Huntington and will be used as permanent affordable housing for the most vulnerable in the community with the addition of permanent supportive services for future residents.

The Indiana Permanent Supportive Housing Initiative (IPSHI) is a collaboration between IHCD, Indiana's Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA), The Transformation Work Group (TWG), Great Lakes Capital Fund, and the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH).

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The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCD), chaired by Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, creates housing opportunity, generates and preserves assets, and revitalizes neighborhoods by investing financial and technical resources in the development efforts of qualified partners throughout Indiana. IHCD believes that growing Indiana's economy starts at home. For more information, go to www.ihcd.in.gov. For updates from Lt. Governor Skillman and the agencies she oversees, please sign up at www.lg.in.gov