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NeighborWorks America gives \$505,000 to Mutual Housing

NeighborWorks America has awarded \$505,000 to Sacramento/Yolo Mutual Housing Association to build new housing in the two-county region and rehabilitate existing housing.

The grant also will be used for green education, financial training and leadership programs at the communities.

“Mutual Housing is pleased to bring federal funds for housing production to our region,” said Rachel Iskow, executive director of Sacramento/Yolo Mutual Housing Association. “The investment in our core business means we will continue to provide homes for families seeking stability in an uncertain economy and provide jobs for our construction industry partners.”

In Yolo County, the funding will be used for:

- Construction of 69 units at New Harmony in Davis, a project that’s already underway;
- Predevelopment for 101 units of affordable family housing in Woodland, including housing specifically intended for farm worker families at Spring Lake; and

- Efforts to identify and acquire affordable housing for preservation of existing communities.

“This is a win for our communities and our local economy,” said U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson, D-St. Helena. “With this grant we’re not only rehabilitating and building more affordable housing for our families, we’re putting folks to work and growing our green economy.”

In Sacramento, the grant will be used for predevelopment for new construction of 100 units in South Sacramento and predevelopment for acquisition or rehabilitation of 116 units that continues revitalization efforts in North Highlands.

While the bulk of the funds will go toward building, the grant also will help:

- Ensure the long-term affordability of 932 homes in Sacramento and Yolo counties;
- Institute green operations at communities that maximize the \$6 million for solar and energy efficiency that Mutual Housing has invested over the past few years;

- Create green job opportunities for residents; and
- Develop training, mentoring and civic engagement programs for youth in Mutual Housing communities and surrounding neighborhoods that will put them on the path to higher education and financial security.

As part of the 2012 funding cycle, NeighborWorks America will provide nearly \$50 million in grants to its national network of 230 nonprofit organizations in more than 4,400 rural, urban and suburban communities, including Sacramento and Yolo counties.

“In 2011, NeighborWorks America and its affiliated NeighborWorks network leveraged nearly \$4.2 billion in direct investment — a ratio of \$25 for each core funding dollar appropriated,” said Eileen Fitzgerald, CEO of NeighborWorks America.

“As good stewards of taxpayer dollars, NeighborWorks ensures our investments are working in ways that truly make a difference.”

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NeighborWorks America and its network develop, own and manage more than 90,000 affordable, high-quality rental units, provide housing, financial counseling and other assistance to nearly 260,000 families. In 2011, it invested more than \$4 billion in America's urban, rural and suburban communities. For more information, visit www.nw.org.

Founded in 1988, Sacramento/Yolo Mutual Housing Association develops and operates well-designed rental housing for modest-income households. The communities have 2,700 residents, half of whom are children.

Through Mutual Housing's focus on leadership, the nonprofit also provides training and mentoring as well as educational programs, community-building activities and services for residents and neighbors. For more information, visit <http://www.mutualhousing.com>.