

PUBLIC HOUSING'S CRITICAL VALUE TO COMMUNITIES



Public housing is community-owned housing that, in partnership with the federal government, provides safe, decent and affordable rental units for some of the neediest families in our cities, towns and counties — in all fifty states.

- Public housing serves low-income households including many with special needs¹.**
 Nationwide: 51% of all public households are either elderly (31% or 293,527) or have one or more disabled persons (20% of 203,480).
 CTHC: 59% are either elderly (32%) or disabled (27%)
- Public housing also provides stable homes to female-headed households with children.**
 Nationwide: Among the 36% of public housing family households are 811,000 children ages 0 through 17.
 CTHC: Has 176 female-headed households with a total of 337 children.
- Public housing provides a stable foundation for struggling families** who need time to improve their life prospects through educational attainment, skill development or employment. Contrary to perception, public housing families typically move on to other opportunities within a few years. 31% of all residents move within 2 years and 52% move within 5 years.
- Public housing residents have an average annual income of \$13,425**, and they pay an average monthly rent² of \$315. The average household pays \$3,780 annually in rent of approximately 28% of their total income. The greatest source of household income (52%) is derived from Social Security, SSI and pensions followed by wage income (32%) and welfare (31%).
 CTHC: Public Housing residents have an average annual income of \$10,153. Their average monthly rent is \$205.
- Public housing is locally managed and maintained** with funds from the Public Housing Operating Fund. Capital improvements to public housing are accomplished with the help of the Public Housing Capital Fund.
- Public housing is an “economic generator³.”** Every dollar spent on capital repairs and maintenance generates \$2.12 in local economic activity. Every \$1 million expenditure creates 14 jobs which is not inconsequential in the currently depressed residential construction industry.
- Public housing is the most cost-efficient way to provide safe, decent and secure homes** for poor and special needs populations. The national annual average cost of providing a public housing unit is \$6,175 which is 30% lower than other rent subsidy programs.



¹ Data source: HUD Resident Characteristics Report, as of 12/31/2010

² Public housing “Total Tenant Payment” approximates rent and may in some cases include utility payments.

³ 2007 Econsult Corporation study. Assessing the Economic Benefits of Public Housing