



# TACOMA HOUSING AUTHORITY

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDS SPUR TACOMA HOUSING AUTHORITY APARTMENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

On **April 17, 2009 at 11 AM**, Tacoma Housing Authority will host a press conference to announce its receipt of \$4 million in federal stimulus funds to repair its public housing portfolio.

Wright Street Apartments  
602 South Wright Street  
Tacoma, WA

[several blocks west of Tacoma Avenue South; a few blocks north of Lincoln High School.]

Congressman Norm Dicks, Mayor Bill Baarsma, and other officials will attend.

The federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provided \$13.6 billion for housing and economic development, including \$4 billion for the repair of public housing. Moving very quickly, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocated 75% of these funds within one week. It was among the first stimulus money to be distributed. HUD has now told public housing authorities they could begin spending their share of nearly \$3 billion. An additional \$1 billion will be available to housing authorities through competitive process.

THA had already begun planning for its use of this money. “This federal stimulus money will help recoup decades of underinvestment in public housing capital needs,” said Michael Mirra, THA Executive Director. “We completed a physical needs assessment of all our public housing properties in May 2004. At that time we projected a need for \$30 million in capital improvements over the next ten years. The \$4 million in stimulus funds will give us a welcome boost toward meeting that need.”

THA's work will create local jobs and promote energy efficiency. THA will use the funds to retrofit its seven (7) high rise apartment buildings that house seniors and disabled persons. It will include the following work:

- replace galvanized water piping
- repair or replace siding
- repair or replace roofs
- update smoke detector systems
- replace awnings
- upgrade landscaping
- remove or replace floor covering
- abate asbestos
- repair streets
- upgrade electrical systems
- upgrade security systems
- repair parking lots

THA estimates the project will generate 130 – 150 jobs. The project will begin within 120 days. It will finish well within 24 months. THA will also use a portion of the funds for architectural and engineering work for the coming \$25 million redevelopment of Hillside Terrace, 1800 and 2500 Block, on South Yakima Avenue.

“We think it’s great that THA will spend this money to renovate the senior apartments,” said Hope Rehn, President of Seniors Advocating for Equality (SAFE). “SAFE represents the residents of THA’s seven senior apartments. We have been telling THA for a long time about work that these buildings need.”

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### **About Tacoma Housing Authority**

Established in 1940, Tacoma Housing Authority engages in a wide range of efforts to help its City meet the growing need for affordable housing. THA develops and manages real estate. It provides rental housing. In partnership with thousands of landlords, it helps families pay the rent in the private rental market. It delivers supportive services to help families succeed as tenants, parents, students and wage earners who can live without assistance. It helps them purchase their first home. THA seeks to do its work in ways that help neighborhoods be attractive places to live, work, attend school, shop and play, and that help its City be prosperous, healthy and just.