

HOUSING
AUTHORITY

# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**REGULAR MEETING** 

MARCH 27





TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE ST. LOUIS HOUSING AUTHORITY ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING**

Take notice that the <u>regular meeting</u> of the commissioners of the St. Louis Housing Authority will be held via <u>Zoom\*</u> on Thursday, March 27, 2025, commencing at 4:30 p.m., to consider and act upon items shown on the attached agenda. An Executive Session may be convened to discuss legal actions, causes of actions, communications with attorneys, personnel matters, leasing, purchase or sale of real estate and bid specifications.

DATED: March 21, 2025

ST. LOUIS HOUSING AUTHORITY

**Attachment** 

### \*Instructions For Joining Zoom

Meeting ID: 939 278 0715

Via Smart Phone or Computer:

https://bit.ly/41J3uLl

Via Phone:

1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 939 278 0715 Passcode:536879

#### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, ST. LOUIS HOUSING AUTHORITY REGULAR MEETING, MARCH 27, 2025, 4:30 P.M. ST. LOUIS HOUSING AUTHORITY, 3520 PAGE BOULEVARD ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63106 AGENDA

#### **ROLL CALL**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Minutes, Annual Meeting, February 27, 2025

#### **RESIDENTS' COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

#### ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

2. Resolution No. 3031

Approving and Authorizing the St. Louis Housing Authority to Submit a Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Application to HUD for a RAD/Section 18 Blend Conversion of Public Housing Units at Parkview Elderly Apartments

**CHAIR'S REPORT** 

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT** 

**RESIDENTS' CONCERNS** 

COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

SPEAKERS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Executive Session may be convened pursuant to Section 610.021 of the Missouri Revised Statutes, to discuss legal actions, causes of actions or litigation, personnel matters relating to the hiring, firing, disciplining and promoting of employees, negotiations with our employees, leasing, purchase or sale of real estate and specifications for competitive bidding.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Please note that this is not a public hearing or forum. Anyone wishing to address the Board must follow the St. Louis Housing Authority's Speaker's Policy. (Contact the Executive Division at Central Office for a copy of the policy.)

# APPROVAL OF MINUTES FEBRUARY 27, 2025

#### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ST. LOUIS HOUSING AUTHORITY ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 27, 2025 4:30 p.m.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Commissioners of the St. Louis Housing Authority held its Annual Meeting via Zoom on Thursday, February 27, 2025. Chairman Sal Martinez called the meeting to order at approximately 4:31 p.m.

Present: Rachel D'Souza

Margaret English Dara Eskridge Regina Fowler Benita Jones Sal Martinez

Absent: Constantino Ochoa, Jr.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### Chair

Commissioner Martinez nominated Commissioner Fowler for the position of Chair. There were no further nominations. Commissioner D'Souza seconded the nomination. The vote appointing Commissioner Fowler as Chair passed with all commissioners voting aye.

#### Vice-Chair

Commissioner Fowler nominated Commissioner Ochoa for the position of Vice-Chair. There were no further nominations. Commissioner Martinez seconded the nomination. The vote appointing Commissioner Ochoa as Vice-Chair passed with all commissioners voting aye.

#### Treasurer

Commissioner Fowler nominated Commissioner Martinez for the position of Treasurer. There were no further nominations. Commissioner Eskridge seconded the nomination. The vote appointing Commissioner Martinez as Treasurer passed with all commissioners voting aye.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner D'Souza moved to approve the minutes of January 23, 2025, with the noted edit. Commissioner Fowler seconded the motion. The motion passed with all commissioners voting aye.

#### ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

#### Resolution No. 3029

Authorizing and Approving the Selection of a Service Provider and Plan Recordkeeping and Administration, and Investment Advisory Services for the St. Louis Housing Authority's Retirement Plan.

Presenting Resolution No. 3029, Latasha Barnes, Executive Director, stated that last year, the St. Louis Housing Authority (SLHA) undertook the process to improve the level of retirement planning services available to the staff and to streamline some of the functions into one entity. She noted that through the solicitation process, SLHA received bids and proposals from a number of entities and narrowed them down to the top three based on performance and proposed services to the agency. She said SLHA was now seeking board approval to proceed with further discussions and negotiations with the top performing entities from that process, which includes Voya Financial Services and Retirement Plan Advisors. Ms. Barnes noted that Jim Ladlie, a representative from Retirement Plan Advisors who has been working with

SLHA for the past 25 years and intimately familiar with the agency's current services and investment products, was present to answer any specific questions regarding the next step in the process.

Commissioner Fowler recalled having a lot of questions at the last meeting. She thanked Ms. Barnes for being patient with her and answering all of her questions so that she could be clear on what happened in the process. She noted that Ms. Barnes provided her with details of the process, as well as why Voya Financial Services was chosen. She said she was comfortable with the work the staff did and could vote comfortably with SLHA's selection.

Ms. Barnes thanked Commissioner Fowler for her assistance and thoroughness, as well as the expertise she brought to the process. She noted that she learned a lot in their communications and believes that the staff learned a lot as well. She said Commissioner Fowler has the knowledge and expertise and the staff was happy to receive her guidance and feedback.

Commissioner Martienz also thanked Commissioner Fowler for utilizing her expertise and experience in helping with this particular resolution. He asked if there were any further questions and/or comments regarding Resolution No. 3029.

There were none.

Commissioner Fowler moved to approve Resolution No. 3029. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed with all commissioners voting aye.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Commissioner Martinez stated that it had been a pleasure serving as chairman of the board. He noted that he is really excited of the progress of the organization and that one of his roles as chairman was having a role in the search committee that ended up identifying Ms. Barnes as the most qualified and capable candidate for the position of executive director. He said he is very proud of the work that Ms. Barnes and the agency continues to do and he is very appreciative that Mayor Tishaura Jones reappointed him to the board. He said it is his hope to have the ability to serve the organization in some way moving forward, as nothing, but great things are continuing to come to agency.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Barnes thanked Commissioner Martinez for his service and noted that it had been a pleasure to serve under his leadership.

Providing updates on agency activities, Ms. Barnes stated that SLHA's Clinton-Peabody effort continues and the momentum remains high. She noted that in addition to the \$6.5 million tax credit award received in December 2024, the project was recognized by the American Society of Landscape Architects last month at their St. Louis awards ceremony because of the resident-led design work that the agency and its partners at POAH and Lamar Johnson and Collaborative have been intimately involved in over the past three to five years. She noted that the development continues to move forward and the residents are excited about what is to come.

Ms. Barnes shared the announcement of a recent \$700,000 grant from the St. Louis Development Corporation to further support the work that will be ongoing at Cambridge Heights Apartments, which is in addition to the more recent \$1.2 million award that was offered to the property owners and managers there to help address some of the high vacancy rates and to improve some of the living conditions in that community.

Ms. Barnes stated that SLHA continues to maintain a 99% utilization rate in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, which continues to receive recognition from SLHA's partners at HUD, and most recently the agency was awarded with two new awards from HUD for Tenant Protection Vouchers to help support residents who have been displaced or at imminent risk of displacement from privately-owned housing developments. She congratulated the HCV team for their hard work.

Providing an update about the board-approved Emergency Winter Housing Pilot Program, Ms. Barnes stated that SLHA officially launched the program and so far, 18 families are in the process of receiving assistance. She said the referrals are coming in quickly and the team has implemented a streamlined approval and voucher issuance process. She noted that in addition to providing these families with a voucher for the housing support, a community housewarming drive was implemented and with SLHA staff along, many donations of household supplies and hygiene products were received in mass on February 24, 2025 to help the families get started and to warmly welcome them into new housing. Ms. Barnes stated that SLHA invited its community partners and some of its corporate partners to join the agency in this effort and extends that invitation to the board members as well. She said any donation is appreciated and she thanked them in advance for their continued support.

Commissioner Fowler asked Ms. Barnes how would they get the donations to SLHA.

Ms. Barnes stated that donations could be dropped off at the agency or SLHA can send its messenger to pick them up. She noted that SLHA is also implementing an Amazon wish list for people to place a purchase online to be delivered to the office.

Commissioner Fowler stated that it would be most helpful if the board could get the Amazon wish list.

Ms. Barnes stated that she would be happy to do that.

Providing an update on the Public Housing portfolio, Ms. Barnes stated that stabilization of SLHA's portfolio remains a priority through both occupancy and maintaining the physical structures. She noted that this past month, SLHA had 20 developments that reached 90% or higher occupancy rates and the agency is continuing to focus on turning vacant units and getting them reactivated to serve more families in the community. She said HUD performed NSPIRE inspections at LaSalle Park, West Pine and Euclid Plaza last month and each of the developments scored above 90%. She noted that she is incredibly proud of the efforts of the maintenance and facilities staff, the facilities director, the facilities specialist and everyone who was involved in that effort to make sure that the agency could perform well and demonstrate that its communities are safe and in good condition. She said SLHA is absolutely doing the best that it can to maintain its properties with the resources that it currently has. Ms. Barnes stated that SLHA also has a lot of ongoing property improvements in place and she acknowledged the Development and Modernization team who are currently working on or are actively planning 20 or more projects that are all designed to either improve infrastructure or increase safety and/or security at the sites. She said the Development and Modernization team has also been very busy writing grants and getting additional funding to support the critical work that needs to be done. She said she is very proud of their efforts.

Ms. Barnes stated that SLHA continues to monitor the federal landscape and she noted that staff has been working closely with public housing authorities across the nation to keep an eye on what is happening with funding. She recalled sharing a 2.5% proration decrease on the public housing side at the last meeting and stated that SLHA has started to see some shifts in funding from HUD this quarter. She said SLHA received a notice this month that its administrative fees in the Section 8 program for the months of March and April will be issued at a 91% proration rate, which is a nine percent decrease below what the agency's actual need is. Ms. Barnes stated that SLHA is hopeful that this is not sustained and is just until a budget is hopefully passed on March 14, 2025, however, it is something that the agency continues to watch. She shared that SLHA has been working with some of its leadership to identify areas where services can be streamlined and to renegotiate some rates, starting with the telephone and internet services, to decrease some expenditures in that regard. She noted that SLHA has also been reviewing some of its subscriptions and making necessary adjustments to make sure that the agency is using its resources most effectively. She said a conversation was had with the staff and all of the staff are committed and thinking about ways to make sure that the agency is being fiscally responsible and that it is using its resources in the best way possible. Concluding, Ms. Barnes deferred to Sergeant Teeter with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department to present.

Commissioner Jones asked Ms. Barnes if HUD is still trying to connect the NSPIRE inspections with the resident boards and the residents. She recalled having some information from HUD before. She said to save time, they could talk about it after the meeting.

Ms. Barnes stated that to her knowledge, that has not changed, but there has been a lot of staffing shifts at HUD and what that looks like moving forward remains to be seen. She said she has not received any information that suggests that HUD does not desire to do that, but with the staffing transitions it may be difficult to do some of the things that they really want to. She said she would be happy to talk with Commissioner Jones more if she has a few minutes for a call.

Sergeant Teeter stated that nine police reports had been generated during the month of February so far: one in Clinton-Peabody, one in LaSalle Park, two in Cochran and five in Blumeyer. He noted that violent crimes within the complexes were down again and that there was only one serious incident, which was an assault second. He said the suspect had been identified who is not a resident and has been entered into their system as wanted. Sgt. Teeter stated that the recovery of stolen vehicles within the complexes were also down again, noting that only two stolen vehicles were recovered so far this month. He said a total of five arrests were made within the complexes, with one for trespassing of a person on the bar and ban list. He stated that overall crime is down and he noted that if anyone would ever want more thorough information regarding incidents, he would be more than happy to respond by either email or telephone to relay more details that he is allowed to. He said board members could also go to the police department's website, under their crime mapping, to get more detailed information regarding incidents. Sgt. Teeter stated that the Housing Authority Unit had four officers, but one officer recently left the department. He said they are short-staffed, with only three officers and himself, but they are trying to stay highly visible in the complexes to deter crime as best they can.

#### **RESIDENTS CONCERNS**

Edith Guthrie, President of the City-Wide Tenant Affairs Board and President of the Blumeyer/Renaissance Place at Grand Tenant Association, stated that as board presidents they used to receive a document of every department head at SLHA and their telephone numbers. She said she is trying to bring that back and requested the information so that the tenant affairs board officers could have it, as well as the TAB board presidents, to reach out to the department heads to have them attend their resident meetings to share what their programs offer or what information they could give them. She said she was told that it should not be a problem, but she wants to know why they have to through Resident Initiatives to get that information. Ms. Guthrie asked Commissioner Martinez if he could help her understand what the issue is that they cannot get the department heads' email addresses and telephone numbers.

Commissioner Martinez stated that there is no reason why Ms. Guthrie could not have access to contact information or why that information should not be available. He said he would like for the information to be provided to Ms. Guthrie and whoever else with the TAB board.

Ms. Barnes shared that she received an email from Ms. Guthrie and she responded to her. She noted that SLHA does not currently have a list of names, email addresses and phone numbers; therefore, she provided a list of email addresses for all of the departments that interface and interact with the public housing operations. She said it is not a problem to provide the information and she noted that she did recommend that they work with Resident Initiatives primarily to make scheduling easier and ensure they are able to get the right people to the meetings to help support and provide correct information. She said it was to facilitate connection and not an exclusion or a barrier of that sort.

Commissioner Martinez thanked Ms. Barnes for the information and stated that SLHA will continue to make that information available.

Ms. Guthrie thanked Commissioner Martinez.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Fowler moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner D'Souza seconded the motion. The vote was in favor of passing the motion with all commissioners voting aye. The meeting thereupon adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Regina Fowler, Chair Board of Commissioners St. Louis Housing Authority

Latasha Barnes, Secretary Board of Commissioners St. Louis Housing Authority

(SEAL)

# RESOLUTION No. 3031



## Development & Modernization Department

3520 Page Blvd. ■ St. Louis, MO 63106 ■ p 314.531-4770 ■ f 314.531.0184 ■ tdd 314.286.4223 ■ www.slha.org

#### **MEMORANDUM**

To: Board of Commissioners

Through: Latasha K. Barnes, Executive Director

From: Jason W. Hensley, Director of Real Estate Development

Date: March 12, 2025

Subject: Resolution No. 3031

Approving and Authorizing the St. Louis Housing Authority to Submit a Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Application to HUD for a RAD/Section 18 Blend

Conversion of Public Housing Units at Parkview Elderly Apartments

The St. Louis Housing Authority is seeking Board support and approval to submit a Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) application, which will be blended with a Section 18 component, to HUD for the conversion of public housing units to the RAD Section 8 subsidy program at Parkview Elderly Apartments (AMP #MO001000019). This proposed change in funding source through HUD will allow more flexibility in seeking limited available funding sources, a more predictable subsidy for the redeveloped units, provide access to private funding for the redevelopment, and support capital improvements at Parkview through additional Capital Funds.

Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) – The RAD program was approved by congress in 2012 as a way to encourage public housing authorities (PHAs) to use a new funding source to meet the large and growing capital improvement needs of the nation's aging public housing stock. The program converts public housing assistance (Annual Contributions Contract or ACC) to long-term, Section 8 HAP contracts.

HUD is encouraging PHAs to utilize RAD to insulate subsidized housing units from Federal funding decisions impacting public housing. Nationally, there is a \$70 billion backlog of construction and modernization projects needed for public housing as a result of years of congressional underfunding of the ACC, or Capital Fund. SLHA itself has a \$200 million capital improvements need for modernization projects over the next ten (10) years and is expected to get less than a quarter of that amount over the next 10 years for Capital Improvement projects.

<u>Asset Repositioning Report</u> – On November 15, 2023, the Board approved the SLHA Asset Repositioning Plan which shows Parkview Elderly Apartment as a Tier 1C property in need of repositioning. Given a current assessment of the capital needs at the property, Parkview was selected as one of the first properties for SLHA to convert through RAD under its own

redevelopment plan and not using an outside developer. RAD is a key component of the asset repositioning strategy.

<u>RAD Conversion</u> —The conversion of units from ACC to RAD provides a more reliable funding source of subsidy that allows PHAs to safely leverage private capital to finance property rehabilitation or replacement. Conversion to RAD through long-term Section 8 contracts ensures that the units are perpetually affordable through the requirement that the contracts be renewed and Use Agreements that preserves HUD's interest in the property. The RAD funding source is stable, it receives a cost-of-living increase on an annual basis (OCAF) and it is kept from the uncertainty of annual Federal funding decisions.

<u>Section 18 Component</u> – By adding a portion of the unit conversion to Section 18 disposition, SLHA will be able to access higher subsidy rents afforded through the Section 18 process for a portion of the units.

<u>RAD/Section 18 blend</u> – Utilizing a RAD/Section 18 Blend allows SLHA to retain access to much needed Capital Funds to aid in the conversion of units. This is due to the specific inclusion of Capital Funds as a source for RAD conversion. Blending the two conversion processes maximizes the funding available to SLHA for the conversion and the ultimate rental subsidy received for the converted units.

<u>Parkview Elderly Apartments</u> — Completed in 1972, Parkview Elderly Apartments is one of a collection of "high-rise" public housing structures built in the early 1970s. The 13-story, 295 unit, reinforced concrete structure sits in a prime location at 4451 Forest Park Avenue in the Central West End neighborhood and was built to serve elderly households. Its close proximity to some of the major hospital campuses in the region makes it ideal for this purpose.

SLHA has recognized that Parkview Elderly Apartments requires redevelopment of its critical building systems, infrastructure and interior spaces. In addition, unit refreshes will be included depending on funding availability through the RAD/Section 18 process.

Redevelopment Process – Parkview Elderly Apartments had its most recent unit redevelopment conducted in the early 2000s, however, the building has experienced a significant amount of deferred maintenance to critical systems. Some of this deferred maintenance is being addressed using Capital Funds to replace the elevators, renovate the first floor, perform exterior cleaning, repair and caulking of the exterior of the building. However, Capital Funds will not be enough to address the replacement of the parking deck on the north side of the building and additional building renovation needs. The current parking structure needs replacement with a surface parking lot, which is estimated to cost around \$6 million.

In addition to the RAD/Section 18 Blend application to HUD, SLHA also intends to submit a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) application with the Missouri Housing Development Commission for its 2025 funding round. If successful, receiving the tax credits will allow SLHA to move forward with the redevelopment and conversion of Parkview Elderly Apartments to a project-based voucher subsidy format through the Section 8 program.

# Approving and Authorizing the St. Louis Housing Authority to Submit a Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Application to HUD for a RAD/Section 18 Blend Conversion of Public Housing Units at Parkview Elderly Apartments

WHEREAS, the Parkview Elderly Apartments development is in need of redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) created RAD to preserve and improve affordable housing and to address the \$26 billion nationwide backlog of deferred maintenance on public housing developments; and

WHEREAS, it is a goal of the St. Louis Housing Authority (SLHA) to "reposition, redevelop, and create new SLHA properties" within in the SLHA Strategic Plan 2020-2024; and

WHEREAS, the SLHA Agency Plan FY2024, Section B.2 – New Activities, Item number B.2(b), specifically states that SLHA will pursue the conversion of 295 public housing units in Parkview Elderly Apartments to Section 8 HAP Contracts under RAD/Section 18 Blend conversion; and

WHEREAS, the SLHA Agency Plan FY2024, Section B.2 – New Activities, Item number B.2(d), states that SLHA will pursue the conversion of public housing to tenant-based or project-based HAP Contracts under RAD conversion; and

WHEREAS, SLHA is committed to using all tools available to support affordable housing, including conversion of public housing units to Section 8 HAP Contracts, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, affordable housing grant opportunities, RAD and Section 18 conversion, and all other funding opportunities; and

WHEREAS, SLHA has begun the community engagement and planning process for the redevelopment of Parkview Elderly Apartments; and

WHEREAS, SLHA is committed to supporting the redevelopment of Parkview Elderly Apartments through every available means.

## NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE ST. LOUIS HOUSING AUTHORITY THAT:

- 1. The Executive Director is authorized to submit a Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) application with a Section 18 Blend component to HUD for the conversion of the public housing units at Parkview Elderly Apartments (AMP #MO001000019).
- 2. The Executive Director is authorized to execute all additional supplemental documents as required by HUD that are necessary to complete RAD/Section 18 Blend conversions with such modifications as may be reasonably necessary or desirable to carry out and comply with the intent of this Resolution.





## **Executive Department**

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#### **MEMORANDUM**

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Latasha Barnes, Executive Director

Date: March 21, 2025

Subject: Executive Director Report

I am pleased to share a recap of agency activities. This memo highlights our collective commitment to promote resident well-being, community building, and program excellence. For more detailed information, please refer to the accompanying Monthly Activity Reports.

#### **Navigating Federal Funding Landscapes**

We continue to navigate evolving federal funding landscapes. The (CY) 2025 Public Housing Operating Subsidy Obligations for January through early April were released at a 2.5% proration decrease, with interim levels at 95% for the first quarter. SLHA has received notice of an additional revision to the public housing operating budget, resulting in further decreases in public housing funding.

HCV Administrative Fees for March and April will be issued at a 91% proration, a 9% decrease below actual need. Experts currently anticipate that HCV Administrative Fees may be further prorated to 89% in the coming months, 11% below actual need. As federal funding landscapes evolve, SLHA will maintain a conservative fiscal approach to effectively manage potential fluctuations and ensure program stability for its residents.

#### **Housing Choice Voucher Program Thriving**

Our Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program continues to thrive, maintaining an exceptional 100% utilization rate. Due to federal funding, we have paused pulling families from the HCV waitlist, which currently includes approximately 5,100 families. We will continue to serve families through existing special voucher programs, which rely on separate streams of dedicated funding. Inspection completion rates have rebounded from last month, with an 8% increase, resulting in an outstanding 98% completion rate for February 2025.

#### Occupancy: Top Priority for Public Housing

Reactivating vacant units remains a priority for the agency. We continue to make steady progress, with 23 developments achieving occupancy rates of 90% or higher. Six sites currently have occupancy rates below 80% due to ongoing redevelopment/rehabilitation efforts. The agency will continue to leverage funding from the City of St. Louis Community Development Administration, the HUD Housing-Related Hazards grant, insurance proceeds, and capital funds to activate vacant units and increase housing opportunities for SLHA households.

#### Asset Repositioning and Portfolio Stabilization

SLHA is making significant efforts to revitalize its public housing portfolio, focusing on portfolio stabilization through asset repositioning. The Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program is a key component of our asset repositioning strategy. The conversion of units from the Annual Contributions Contract (ACC) to RAD provides a more reliable funding source of subsidy, which allows PHAs to safely leverage private capital to finance property rehabilitation or replacement. Conversion to RAD through long-term Section 8 contracts ensures that the units are perpetually affordable through the requirement that the contracts be renewed, as well as Use Agreements that preserve HUD's interest in the property. The RAD funding source is stable, receives a cost-of-living increase on an annual basis (OCAF), and is protected from the uncertainty of annual Federal funding decisions.

#### Clinton-Peabody: A Community on the Rise

We continue to make substantial progress in the RAD/Section 18 Blend conversion of public housing units at the Clinton-Peabody site. The development team met with the RAD Resource team to discuss the next steps in converting units and preparing for the demolition of the first 71 units in six buildings. We anticipate that HUD will approve the removal of these 71 units from the public housing inventory soon, which will allow for demolition to occur after the environmental review is approved.

A community Choice Neighborhoods planning meeting was held with broader community stakeholders on February 20, 2025 at Al Chappelle Community Center. This meeting was part of a 9-month process of collecting community feedback, with discussions focusing on key community focus areas: (1) Job Training & Workforce, (2) Safety & Security, (3) Health & Wellness, (4) Seniors & Multi-Generational Households, and (5) Transportation. During the meeting, the St. Louis Community Development Administration presented a check for the Clinton-Peabody redevelopment in the amount of \$2.9 million.

#### Investment in People: Self-Sufficiency and Community

SLHA is committed to empowering residents and promoting self-sufficiency through a variety of resident-based programs.

- ROSS (Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency): The program has 147 enrollees, which represents 74% of our 200 enrollment goal. We are launching a resident referral program with enrollment incentives to further motivate residents to sign up and make referrals.
- FSS (Family Self-Sufficiency): The program currently has 78 enrollees, and we are conducting a campaign to enroll 100 new families. We are utilizing employee incentives to encourage staff referrals. Current program participants have collectively saved over \$440,000!
- The 2nd Annual Resident Initiatives Jamboree is scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. We are seeking volunteers to support this event.
- Thanks to support from the St. Louis Community Development Administration Neighborhood Transformation Grant, SLHA is hosting community beautification events at five public housing developments. These events include gardening activities, urban greening, and resident engagement initiatives. Our team will continue to host a series of community events to gather resident input on community beautification efforts.