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## **CHA and ComEd Help Nearly 1,000 CHA Families Pay Off Their Electricity Bills**

*All Clear Funds Available to Eligible Leaseholders until April 15*

CHICAGO – Nearly 1,000 CHA families have taken the opportunity to pay off their electricity bills through the All Clear Fund – a unique program created by ComEd and the Chicago Housing Authority. All eligible leaseholders are encouraged to take advantage of the program before it ends on April 15, 2008.

Through All Clear, if a CHA leaseholder who owed \$500 or less in past due amounts to ComEd as of December 31, 2007 pays 50 percent of the amount owed, the CHA and ComEd will match the payment, assuring the family of continued electrical service and helping them gain the financial self-sufficiency and final housing choice that are the goals of the Authority's Plan for Transformation. Eligible families have been contacted by mail and phone.

“We are pleased that nearly 1,000 families have taken advantage of All Clear over the past few weeks,” said CHA CEO Lewis A. Jordan. “We are hopeful that when the remaining eligible families learn about the success of others, they themselves will take advantage of this rare opportunity.”

So far, through participation in the program, residents have paid off more than \$50,000 in outstanding balances and have received just over \$50,000 in matching assistance from the combined funds of CHA and ComEd.

Jordan explained that the CHA worked with ComEd to create the program after learning that while more than 3,000 CHA leaseholders had past due electric bills, the vast majority owed less than \$250. Since being current with their utility bills is a condition that must be met before leaseholders can move into newly created or rehabbed public housing units, helping people remain in good standing with their bills is essential.

“All Clear is an example of partnership between ComEd, the CHA and customers that is helping families in a tangible way,” said Anne Pramaggiore, executive vice president, Customer Operations, Regulatory and External affairs. “We encourage all customers to

visit [www.ComEdCARE.com](http://www.ComEdCARE.com) to find out about more programs available to help manage electricity costs.”

To raise their part of the funds to participate in All Clear, leaseholders can use their own cash or draw upon a variety of government and charitable utility payment assistance funds. Upon payment of half of their bills, CHA and ComEd will complete payment of the money owed and notify the CHA family.

“To me, something that helps people that are not able to keep up with their bills is like a life-saver,” said Mary Watkins, who received a matching payment of \$185.05 for her commitment of \$185.54 to her utility bills. “It gives people a goal to move forward. It helps people enhance their ‘I can do it’ attitude.”

CHA leaseholders that wish to take advantage of All Clear should call the dedicated phone number for the program at (312) 913-7676 or email [allclear@thecha.org](mailto:allclear@thecha.org).

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