

**January 6, 2009**

**Martin Nesbitt**  
*Chairperson*

*Board of Commissioners*  
**Hallie Amey**  
**Dr. Mildred Harris**  
**Michael Ivers**  
**Samuel Mendenhall**  
**Bridget O'Keefe**  
**Carlos Ponce**  
**Sandra Young**

**Lewis A. Jordan**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

**Scott W. Ammarell**  
*General Counsel*

Contact:

Office of Communications – Chicago Housing Authority  
Adaku Onyeka: (312) 913-7482; aonyeka@thecha.org

## **CHA, CYS Lead Youth from Hip-Hop to Health** *Teens Learn How to Make Healthy Choices*

CHICAGO – The Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) has given Chicago teens something to think about as they enter the New Year.

The CHA, in partnership with the Chicago Department of Children and Youth Services, educated 150 public housing teens, ages 13 to 15, on the risks and prevention of contracting sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV and AIDS, during its first Youth Summit at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

The event titled ‘Hip Hop to Health,’ invited teenagers to participate in eye-opening presentations, educational activities and engage in a trivia game to answer questions about STIs for points. The team that received the most points won White Sox tickets and bragging rights, while all participants gained the knowledge to help lead healthy lifestyles.

“Hip Hop to Health successfully offered teens alternatives that helped them become the smarter, healthier leaders for tomorrow,” said Lewis Jordan CEO of CHA. “Midway through the Summit, we had an electronic poll that indicated 56% of the teens said they would remain abstinent and 44% would use condoms if they engage in any sexual activity. This is a good indication that our message was getting through to the youth.”

The 150 attendees were invited as part of their involvement in CYS afterschool programs, as well as its School and Career Readiness Program.

CYS sponsors an afterschool program with CHA and recently added 225 additional slots for residents of public housing in the 2008-2009 school year. CHA also co-sponsors a summer jobs initiative with CYS to help 50 adolescents get vocational and job readiness training.

“Building on the success of Hip Hop to Health, we look forward to hosting other youth summits in the future, with topics ranging from sex education to violence prevention and conflict resolution,” said Jordan.

**Note for Editors: Photos of the event are available upon request.**