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CHA HONORS FIRST CLASS OF GRADUATES FROM RESIDENT-OWNED BUSINESS PROGRAM

Will receive computers, software to run their business
September 13, 2002

Encouraging greater self-sufficiency among its residents, the Chicago Housing Authority will graduate 18 public housing residents from CHA's resident-owned business (ROB) program during a special ceremony on Friday, September 13, 2002 from 2-3pm at the Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center located at 4859 S. Wabash. This is the first group of graduates from this program.

The free program, developed specifically for public housing and Section 8 residents, teaches new and existing business owners many important skills through mandatory workshops held over a three-month period. The workshops, regularly taught by business experts in the community, cover topics such as writing business plans and proposals, marketing, finding contract opportunities, legal issues and accounting.

The graduates, a diverse group of different ages and races, will receive their ROB certificate, along with a new computer and software to help them run their business.

"We are extremely proud of these residents," said Terry Peterson, CHA's CEO. "They are a great example of how motivation leads to success."

A total of 45 residents have participated in the ROB program thus far. All will be honored at the ceremony.

Even after graduation, the residents can receive ongoing training in marketing, networking, examining competitors, and staying updated on procurement opportunities. All participants in the program have the chance to present their services to larger companies as well as government and city agencies for a chance at potential contract recognition.

Note to the media: Interviews with graduates and the ROB program coordinator are available.