

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



I am pleased to present the FY2005 Annual Report, which describes the achievements of the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) during FY2005. This Annual Report illustrates that the CHA continues to move toward reaching the goals set forth in the Plan for Transformation. During FY2005, the CHA completed 1,052 units, bringing the total number of completed units to 14,189 or 57% of the units promised under the Plan. Hundreds of CHA families relocated into new and rehabilitated homes in communities with greater access to schools, parks, social services, and retail establishments.

The Plan, however, is about more than building units. It also creates opportunities for low-income individuals to advance socially and economically. Housing Choice Voucher participants continued to thrive by purchasing 42 homes in FY2005. That means 138 families have taken advantage of the Choose to Own Home Ownership Program since the Plan began. Public housing residents engaged in the Service Connector Delivery System availed themselves of a wide variety of services, including job placement, skill enhancement, and educational programs. Additionally, the CHA promoted and encouraged economic growth through Minority, Women, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (M/W/DBE), Section 3, and Resident Owned Businesses (ROB) policies.

Funding is a challenge in many arenas. For the Plan to be successful, the CHA must secure funds in addition to those provided by HUD. Supplemental financing comes from grants, private and public resources, which may include tax credits, tax-exempt bonds, and HOPE VI awards.

The CHA's progress toward completing the Plan has been possible because of the collaborative efforts of private businesses, community leaders, our residents, and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In order for the face of public housing to evolve from despair into one of hope, the CHA must continue to prepare families to be successful. It must also connect residents with opportunities that will foster their economic and social self-sufficiency as well as deliver more units. I continue to look forward to this gratifying work in progress and the success stories that come along with it. I thank you for your continued support and urge you to help us make FY2006 another year of triumph.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Gist Gilliam".

Sharon Gist Gilliam, Chairperson
Chicago Housing Authority Board of Commissioners