



## Berkeley Housing Authority

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **BHA ACHIEVES “STANDARD PERFORMER” STATUS IN THE SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM**

*An exuberant sense of pride and accomplishment permeates every corner of the BHA Office.*

On January 13, 2010 HUD released its final report that confirmed the “Standard Performer” status of the Berkeley Housing Authority (BHA). HUD acknowledged the tremendous efforts of BHA staff, and the vast improvement in Public Housing Authority administration over the past two years. It truly is a time for celebration for the core staff of 14 who have worked tirelessly to establish and adhere to systems, policies and procedures that meet the HUD standards, without sacrificing service to our clients.

Designated a “Troubled Authority” in the Section 8 program since 2002 and subject to a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) with HUD, BHA’s improvements provided the basis for BHA to self-certify as a “Standard Performer” on August 27, 2009 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009. HUD independently verified the “Standard Performer” rating through a Confirmatory Review.

BHA now is working on new goals to further improve the operations of the Housing Authority to ensure that all tenants are housed in safe and sound housing that meets housing quality standards and other steps that will directly benefit Berkeley residents and the operation of the Housing Authority.

The Confirmatory Review was performed by HUD staff the week of November 16, 2009. Reviewers evaluated all the underlying documentation BHA maintained in support of the scores claimed under each of the 14 SEMAP (Section Eight Management Assessment Program) indicators, and tested BHA’s practices against the locally adopted Administrative Plan. HUD’s confirmation of BHA’s Standard Performer status was announced on January 13, 2010.

BHA remains committed to a responsibility to the public we serve and to the taxpayers who fund our efforts, including being responsible stewards of the resources available to the Authority; to seek ways to respond to the unique needs of our clients, within the constraints of

all applicable program rules and regulations; and to one another, so we value each others’ talents and gifts and our respective roles.

We are quick to acknowledge that we learned from the errors and accomplishments in prior administrations; that we were very fortunate to have the ongoing support of the City of Berkeley, and our sister Housing Authorities who so freely shared their expertise, staff and policies as we encountered situations we could not address alone; and equally important, we acknowledge the support and encouragement from the HUD Field Office staff under the leadership of Stephen Schneller, Director, Public Housing. Finally, we share this great honor with the landlords and families in the Section 8 Program, and the residents in our Housing Authority owned units who stood by us with extreme patience as we accomplished one task after another.

We have an ambitious agenda ahead of us over the next 12 months, including:

- Opening the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Wait List (closed since 2001);
- Maintaining on-time completion of at least 95% of annual recertifications for assisted households to ensure that families are paying the correct amount for rent;
- Maintaining on-time completion of 100% of the annual inspections required to make sure that every assisted household is living in safe and decent housing;
- Providing assistance to 100 previously unassisted households in the City of Berkeley;
- Transitioning our current LIPH and RHCP residents to Section 8 tenant or Project Based rental assistance; and
- Preserving and encouraging additional owners to partner with us in our effort to make quality rental units available to assisted households.

For more information on the activities and policies of the BHA visit our website at [www.cityofberkeley.info/bha](http://www.cityofberkeley.info/bha).

