

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced today that the Utica Municipal Housing Authority (UMHA) has been awarded a \$136,500 grant through HSBC bank from the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York (FHLB) Affordable Housing Program to help local families access affordable home loans for 21 planned units in the Oneida Homes phase of the HOPE VI project.

“In light of the mortgage crisis and increasing barriers to owning a home, it is critical that we work together to help local families achieve the American dream of home ownership,” **Arcuri said**. “By providing families with affordable loans, this funding will help provide much needed growth and stability to the Cornhill area. I am glad to see a public/private partnership working with federal, state, and local resources to help deserving families become homeowners and rebuild the community.”

“It is the second time the Federal Home Loan Bank has demonstrated its support for our community by awarding the Authority this grant through HSBC USA. N.A.,” **UMHA Executive Director Dr. Taras J. Herbowy said**. “We are heartily grateful for their support which bodes well for our community and new homeowners.”

In order to ensure that the Oneida Homes project provides homeownership opportunities to very low income families, the Affordable Housing Program direct subsidy financing will be used to reduce interest rates, closing costs, down payments, and other related costs for new home buyers, which will ensure the long-term affordability of the units.

“I can only amplify the comments from Congressman Arcuri and Dr. Herbowy by stating that this serves as an example of public, private, and government collaboration that must continue as we work together for the City of Utica,” **Utica Mayor David R. Roefaro said**. “Both Dr. Herbowy and Congressman Arcuri are Utica residents who believe strongly in the future of our City and region.”

“The Federal Home Loan Bank of New York is very pleased to join with HSBC to support Oneida Homes for first-time homebuyers,” **said FHLB of New York President Alfred DelliBovi**. “Not

only are we providing new affordable homes, but we are making contributions to the economic growth and the overall quality of life of Utica. This success would not be possible without the support and leadership of Members of Congress like Mike Arcuri.”

Oneida Homes is the homeownership development component of the HOPE VI project. Oneida Homes is a multi-year initiative of the City of Utica and the Utica Municipal Housing Authority to develop homeownership opportunities for residents of public housing, the Cornhill neighborhood, and the City of Utica. Oneida Homes involves the construction and sale of single-family homes to low-income first-time homebuyers on scattered sites in the HOPE VI Revitalization Area.

Oneida Homes will consist of 40 single-family homeownership units constructed within the HOPE VI development area. All the units will be intended for fee-simple sale. To date, 19 homes have been developed. Financing is provided by the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, the City of Utica HOME Program, New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal, private bank mortgages and construction loans, homeowner equity, and HOPE VI funds.

Of the twenty-one units to be developed, there will be two 2 bedroom accessible units and nineteen 4 bedroom units. The units will have low-maintenance exteriors, new appliances, and will be designed to be energy efficient. All homes will be constructed according to HUD and New York State energy conservation guidelines.

The Utica Municipal Housing Authority has already successfully implemented a Federal Home Loan Bank interest subsidy grant for the first phase of the Oneida Homes project. All homes have been sold and subsidy funds expended.

In 2003, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development approved a FY 2002 HOPE VI Revitalization Grant in the amount of \$11,501,039 to the Utica Municipal Housing Authority (UMHA) to demolish the Washington Courts public housing development and develop replacement housing for existing residents.

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