



# REACH

## Community Development, Inc.

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### NEWS RELEASE

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### REACH WINS FEDERAL RECOVERY ACT DOLLARS TO HELP US 'GO GREEN'

PORTLAND, OR – On Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, representatives from the U S Dept of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) will join REACH at 11:30 am at Powell Boulevard Apartments located at 2105 SE Powell Blvd in SE Portland as we announce receipt of a \$258,426 grant through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act. Funds were awarded to REACH under the HUD Green Retrofit Program for Multifamily Housing. REACH will use the funds to make significant energy upgrades and retrofits to the Powell Boulevard Apartments, and provide much needed jobs in the construction trades.

REACH built Powell Blvd Apartments in 1998, a 20 unit apartment building, to help address a critical need in our community for much needed supportive, affordable housing for those with mental health issues recovering from drug and alcohol abuse. Over the life of the building, we have partnered with various mental health service providers to ensure that residents receive the supports they need to aid them in their recovery.

REACH received \$258,426 in funds to provide needed energy upgrades to the building. Among these are photovoltaic solar roof panels, replacement of all kitchen countertops with formaldehyde-free, low VOC countertops, and replacement of old hot water heaters in each unit with 93% efficient models. Replacement products are providing superior energy efficiency, improved air quality, and renewable, earth-friendly materials. The general contractor will recycle, or properly dispose of all materials from the building if recycling is not possible.

The solar panels will produce over 10,000 kilowatt hours of electricity annually, equivalent to approximately one month's worth of building electricity. The new reflective roof will significantly curb cooling costs of the building. Through this project, REACH is

contributing to Oregon's employment in the sagging construction sectors; approximately 35 jobs in these trades will contribute to its completion. This project aligns with REACH's "Going Green" Initiative, focused on greening our portfolio of affordable housing buildings; reducing our energy dependence; while emphasizing healthy, green homes for our tenants.

REACH Executive Director Dee Walsh will be joined by HUD Northwest Regional Administrator Mary McBride, and two other recipients of American Recovery & Reinvestment Act funds, Andy Wilch of the Salem Housing Authority and Kay Toran of Volunteers of America. "Thanks to these grants and the good work of our partners," said HUD Regional Director Mary McBride, "energy costs will be reduced; residents will be more comfortable, the buildings' useful life will be extended, our carbon footprint will be smaller and out-of-work or underemployed trades people will be put back to work."

REACH has been developing and managing affordable housing and providing award-winning supportive services to our residents since 1982. REACH also sponsors the Community Builders Program, a free home repair program available to low income senior homeowners. Our portfolio of over 1,318 units includes single family homes, apartment buildings and mixed-use developments located throughout northeast, southeast, and downtown Portland. Visit [www.reachcdc.org](http://www.reachcdc.org) for more information.

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