



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Laurie R. Glenn
Phone: 773.704.7246
Email: lrglenn@thinkincstrategy.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2013**

MEDIA ALERT

47,000 FAMILIES TO BE PURGED FROM CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY WAIT LIST

CHA's 2014 Plan Reveals Lowest Level Of Rebuilding In History Of Plan For Transformation; Developer-Driven Redevelopment Slashes Housing Options For Thousands Of Low-Income Chicagoans

WHAT: In light of 47,000 individuals and families the Chicago Housing Authority plans to purge from its waiting list, revealed on page 36 of the recently released **Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Proposed FY2014 Moving to Work (MTW) Annual Plan**, the **Chicago Housing Initiative (CHI)** will formally present a list of demanded revisions to the *Plan* prior to the **CHA Public Comment Hearing on Wednesday, September 11, 2013**.

Stalled CHA redevelopment initiatives and persistent vacancies have brought about the wait list purge and are a result of the demolition and privatization model that the *2014 MTW Plan* continues to employ. CHI will highlight during its press statement the negative impact of a *Plan* that sustains unchecked displacements and demolition of low-rent housing options with no plans in place to follow through on its commitment to producing 25,000 replacement public housing units by 2015.

WHO:

Press Statement Speakers at Public Comment Hearing:

- **Mary Nelson, CHA waiting list, homeless**
- **Roderick Wilson, Lugenia Burns Hope Center**
- **Natalie Saffold, LeClaire Courts President with Right to Return**
- **Titus Kerby, Lathrop Homes Vice President**

Chicago Housing Initiative Coalition Members:

- **Jane Addams Senior Caucus**
- **Kenwood Oakland Community Organization**
- **Logan Square Neighborhood Association**
- **Lugenia Burns Hope Center**
- **Metropolitan Tenants Organization**
- **ONE: Northside**
- **People for Community Recovery**

WHEN: *Press Statement at CHA Public Comment Hearing*
5:40 pm (prior to Hearing)
Wednesday, September 11, 2013

WHERE: **Charles Hayes Family Investment Center (FIC)**
4859 S. Wabash
Chicago, IL

WHY: The CHA *2014 MTW Plan* continues a negative trajectory of slashing housing options for low-income Chicagoans, with a disproportionate affect on black people. Despite receiving millions in federal and city replacement housing grants annually, with no accountability or transparency for where these funds are actually going, the CHA's current demolition and privatization model has produced a negative impact:

- **Replacement public housing has slowed to a near halt with only 40 units projected for 2014 construction -- the lowest level of planned rebuilding in the history of the *Plan for Transformation*.**
- **More than 13,000 Chicago families have been deprived of already-funded housing choice vouchers with no explanation.**
- **More than 47,000 families are scheduled to be purged from the CHA housing waiting list.**
- **74% of replacement units delivered by CHA during the *Plan* have been brought back into occupancy through rehabilitation compared with only 12% from new construction following demolition.**

Organized in 2007, Chicago Housing Initiative (CHI) is a low-income housing coalition made up of eight community organizations whose mission is to preserve, improve and expand low-rent housing options, promote community stabilization, and advance racial and economic inclusion and equity.

###