

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Mills Park Tower and the Oaks Receive
Federal Communication Grant Funds**

On October 4, 2010 the Illinois Senior Internet Adoption Coalition and Congressman Danny K. Davis will announce federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and Illinois Jobs Now! Grants for a demonstration project to develop effective Internet education and training programs for seniors and persons with disabilities living in public and Section 8 housing.

The Illinois Senior Internet Adoption Coalition consists of nine Illinois public housing authorities, five private providers of affordable housing, Dominican University, and other partners. The Oak Park Housing Authority and the Oak Park Residence Corporation are members of the Coalition. The awardee for the grant is MyWayVillage, a Quincy, Massachusetts based social impact company, which worked cooperatively with DSSA Strategies, an Illinois-based company, to secure the grant.

More than \$4.7 million in federal funding was awarded competitively through the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). More than \$1.2 million in Illinois Jobs Now! public works funding provided the financial support needed to secure the federal grant for Illinois. Coalition partners are contributing an addition \$900,000 in in-kind matching funds to bring the total project value to \$6.8 million.

Grant funds will be used in Oak Park to establish computer learning centers at Mills Park Tower and the Oaks and to provide training to building residents in the use of computers and the Internet. The program will fund the on-site computer learning center, two years of on-site instruction, and free computing services for building residents.

"Senior citizens and people with disabilities need adequate, affordable access to the technology tools of the 21st century," said U.S. Congressman Danny Davis. "This project represents a powerful way to close the digital divide by increasing computer training and high-speed Internet availability in our Illinois communities."

"We are pleased that the residents of Mills Park Tower and the Oaks will be able to benefit from these federal grant funds," said Edward Solan, Executive Director of the Housing Authority and the Residence Corporation. "Access to computers and the Internet will be of great assistance to our residents in maintaining contact with family and friends, and in having better access to other information on topics such as Medicare and Social Security."

A news conference to announce the award will be held on Monday, October 4 at 10 AM at Habilitative Services, 415 South Kilpatrick, Chicago, IL 60644. Congressman Davis is expected to attend to make the announcement.

The Oak Park Housing Authority is an Illinois Municipal Corporation that administers Federal housing subsidies in Oak Park. It owns and operates Mills Park Tower, a 198-unit facility for low-income seniors and persons with disabilities.

The Oak Park Residence Corporation is a community-based, non-profit housing development corporation. Its primary mission is to promote Oak Park's historic strength as a diverse and economically balanced community by providing quality rental housing at an affordable price. The Residence Corporation owns and operates the Oaks, a 76-unit building for seniors and persons with disabilities.

For additional information, please contact Edward Solan at 708-386-6061.

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