



# IMPACT

An online publication of the DC Housing Authority — Empowering Families to End Poverty.

## Ensuring Families Have Safe and Affordable Homes



Audanna Todman  
Executive Director

Welcome to DC Housing Authority's Impact, a periodic online newsletter to keep you informed about the DC Housing Authority (DCHA) and how our programs impact our city and citizens. As the District's largest landlord, DCHA manages and develops housing for more than 50,000 low- and moderate-income residents. We are committed to ensuring that families have access to safe and affordable housing and are dedicated to providing quality service.

We own nearly 8,000 public housing units and administer federal subsidies for an additional 11,000 families who rent from private landlords in every Ward across the District.

Formed as an independent agency of the DC government just ten years ago, DCHA has earned a national reputation for securing federal housing grants. In fact, we garnered the second highest number of US Department of Housing and Urban Development HOPE VI grants in the country. Working with private and non-profit partners, we have leveraged this \$181 million in grants into \$1.5 billion in community economic redevelopment in the District.



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*Photos courtesy of the DC Housing Authority*

Join us in celebrating the DC Housing Authority's 10th Anniversary with a newly energized executive team committed to affordable housing excellence and customer service. To find out how to become involved as a community partner or volunteer, go to our website at [www.DCHousing.org](http://www.DCHousing.org), and we're now on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/DCHA2>.

# From Public Housing to Homeownership

Nearly two years ago, Shernita Spriggs spoke at a DCHA event for homeownership as a new homeowner. Her home was not yet built, but she was excited—we were all excited—about her pending move. In March, Ms. Spriggs closed on her new home and she moved in April 2011.

Ms. Spriggs' journey attests to her tenacity, because the subsidized house she was renting went into foreclosure, so she had to move to an apartment while her house was being completed.

In addition to finally getting the keys to her home, Ms. Spriggs said it was extra special because she was able to surprise her children, since they didn't know when they were moving. When asked how she felt today, she said she felt "overwhelmed, overjoyed, relieved and very blessed."

## Fatherhood Initiative

Executive Director Adrienne Todman participated in HUD's Fatherhood Initiative webinar, a program inspired by President Obama's nationwide call for fathers to become more actively involved in their children's lives. DCHA is hosting a series of workshops in various Wards to connect fathers with their children. These workshops will begin in May and culminate on June 18 with a full day event in which District government agencies will showcase services for fathers and their families. Contact 202-535-1000 to learn more.

## DCHA Thumbnail

- One of the District's largest affordable housing developer
- The District's largest landlord
- Serving 50,000 residents
- Annual budget \$315 million from HUD
- DC Local Rent Supplement Program allocation - \$19 million

## Upcoming Events

- MAY 20** Kentucky Courts Garden ribbon cutting
- MAY 25** Sibley Gardens ribbon cutting
- MAY 26** Ms. Todman presents at DC Building Industry Association, 8:30 AM, National Press Club
- JUNE 1** HCVP Mid-Atlantic Roundtable
- JUNE 18** Fatherhood Initiative

## Commitment to Excellence Scholarship

The "Commitment to Excellence" Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to public housing residents and voucher-holders enrolled as full-time students in college or at an accredited training school beyond high school. This year a minimum of \$25,000 in financial assistance will be awarded to individuals who demonstrate a financial need and academic leadership. If you are a public housing resident or a voucher participant, click **here** to apply.

