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Press Release

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Report shows \$423 Million in Stimulus Projects in New York City Public Housing Has Resulted in Few Jobs for Residents **NYCHA Disregards Federal Regulations by Only Hiring 214 Residents Out of Over 3,500 Jobs Created by Stimulus Funds**

New York, NY – Public housing residents who are members of Community Voices Heard (CVH) will hold a press conference this afternoon in the form of a math class. By utilizing a chalkboard, residents will show the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) that they need to get their stimulus math correct. NYCHA received \$423 million in Federal Stimulus funds to make capital improvements such as replacing elevators, roofs, boilers, and making buildings more energy efficient. Section 3 is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulation that requires contractors who are receiving federal funds for work on NYCHA developments to hire public housing residents first. However, NYCHA Chairman John Rhea announced that only 214 out of over 3,500 jobs created by stimulus funds went to jobs for residents.

Public Housing residents feel this math doesn't add up. Kim Lloyd, public housing resident of Audubon Houses, feels that "It's a shame that public housing residents can't find jobs, and youth have to hang around with nothing to do". This summer, Community Voices Heard members who are public housing residents decided to start tracking this information themselves. CVH members conducted surveys in eight different developments across four boroughs, and collected over 300+ surveys. They found that the vast majority of NYCHA residents surveyed were not informed about job opportunities, nor did they see stimulus work being done in their development. When NYCHA has received similar funding in the past, work had not been completed, contractors performed sub-standard work that required more repairs within a short amount of time, and money disappeared or had been diverted elsewhere. CVH released a report at the press conference, based on the findings of the survey project, titled "Bad Arithmetic: The Failure of NYCHA Recovery Funds to Create Jobs for Local Residents."

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Roxanne Reid, CVH member and Tenant Association President of Castle Hill Houses in the Bronx, spoke about sending over 30 residents to NYCHA Resident Employment Services to receive training. "I sent so many folks down there, that they was telling Castle Hill folks the classes were filled. This was good but unfortunately, many of these people who received training now say to me 'Ms. Reed, when can I get a job?' It's not easy telling them, there is none."

CVH members called on NYCHA to ensure that 30% of the hours worked on projects funded with federal money are by public housing residents.

Community Voices Heard is a grassroots membership organization composed of over 30,000 low-income families in all five boroughs of New York City, many of whom are public housing residents, working on issues concerning job creation, welfare/workforce policy, public housing and community development. During the fall 2008 election, CVH mobilized thousands of low-income New York residents to vote in State Senate and State Assembly elections, through a non-partisan voter education project.