

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Melissa Flores  
Phone: 916.324.4647  
Fax: 916.322.2345  
mflores@calhfa.ca.gov  
www.calhfa.ca.gov

**CalHFA Announces Groundbreaking of Villas at Gower  
to Provide Housing Options for Californians**

*Villas at Gower to House 70 Families in the Hollywood Area*

**SACRAMENTO, July 1, 2010**– The California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) announced today the groundbreaking for a 70-unit development dedicated to serving Californians with mental illness and their families in the Hollywood area. Villas at Gower is made possible through the work of A Community of Friends, the developer.

The Villas at Gower complex, once complete, will be located at 1726 North Gower Street in the Hollywood Business Improvement District. Of the 70 units, 35 will provide housing to low-income adults and their families with psychiatric disabilities who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

“In today’s tough economy, its important for us to provide housing options for the people of California, especially to those in need of supportive services,” said Steven Spears, Executive Director for the California Housing Finance Agency. “Our unique collaboration with the California Department of Mental Health allows us to finance housing for those with mental illness and provide access to treatment and services to keep them off of the streets.”

The Villas at Gower project was funded in part by California’s Mental Health Services Act Housing Program, which is providing \$7 million in financing. Construction is expected to be completed by the fall of 2011.

Twenty-five facilities have secured \$44 million in funding from the Mental Health Services Act Housing Program for capital costs associated with development, acquisition, construction and/or rehabilitation of permanent supportive housing and \$34.5 million in operating subsidies.

-more-

Additional details about this Housing Program can be accessed through the Department of Mental Health at [www.dmh.ca.gov](http://www.dmh.ca.gov) and CalHFA at [www.calhfa.ca.gov/multifamily/mhfa](http://www.calhfa.ca.gov/multifamily/mhfa).

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has also invested \$8.7 million in the Villas at Gower from two programs funded by Proposition 1C, the voter-approved \$2.85 billion housing bond of 2006. \$6.9 million comes from the Multifamily Housing Program – Supportive Housing, which funds rental housing for lower income households with associated social services. An additional \$1.8 million is provided from the Infill Infrastructure Grant program. This funds infrastructure improvements to facilitate new housing development, including water, sewer, streets, roads, and traffic mitigation.

### **About the California Housing Finance Agency**

The California Housing Finance Agency was created in 1975 with the goal of helping more Californians live in a home they can afford. CalHFA's Multifamily Division has invested \$1.4 billion for the construction and preservation of more than 33,000 affordable rental housing units to assist very low and low income Californians. For more information on Multifamily Loan Finance programs and the full complement of CalHFA programs, visit [www.calhfa.ca.gov](http://www.calhfa.ca.gov) or call toll free 877.9.CalHFA (877.922.5432).

### **About the California Department of Mental Health**

The California Department of Mental Health, entrusted with leadership of the California mental health system, ensures through partnerships the availability and accessibility of effective, efficient, culturally competent services. This is accomplished through advocacy, education, innovation, outreach, understanding, oversight, monitoring, quality improvement, and the provision of direct services. For more information, please visit [www.dmh.ca.gov](http://www.dmh.ca.gov)

### **About the California Department of Housing & Community Development**

HCD provides leadership, policies and programs to preserve and expand safe and affordable housing opportunities and promote strong communities for all Californians. The Department also supports increasing the supply of housing, especially affordable housing, and works to improve the state's housing conditions and the health and safety of its residents. As the lead housing department, HCD is part of the state Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. For more information, please visit [www.hcd.ca.gov](http://www.hcd.ca.gov)