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HUD Awards \$1.8 Million to Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The U.S. Department for Housing and Urban Development (HUD) presented a check today for \$1.8 million to the Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless (MACH) that will be used to fund nine separate programs managed by six MACH member agencies. The funds came in response to a grant application for permanent supportive housing and shelter plus care that MACH submitted to HUD in 2007.

Many of the programs funded under the grant focus on the hard-to-house homeless, including those who are chronically homeless, disabled or living in rural areas. The programs are administered in five of the fourteen member counties of MACH: Kershaw, Lexington, Orangeburg, Richland and York.

Jim Chaplin, the South Carolina field office director of HUD, presented the check to the agencies during a ceremony at the Cecil Tillis Center and commended them for their ongoing efforts to combat homelessness. He also encouraged MACH to apply for more grants next year, challenging them to secure \$2 million in additional funding.

MACH received 100 percent of the funding requested from HUD as part of a highly competitive grant process that spanned across the country. Of the agencies funded, Columbia Housing Authority received \$643,273 for a program that will permanently house the disabled homeless.

“I am so thankful to the grant writers and our member agencies for all their hard work in securing this grant,” said Linda Renner, chair of MACH. “South Carolina has a great need for programs that help battle homelessness, and this grant will allow us to continue our mission of serving the homeless and securing permanent housing for them.”

Founded in 1994, the Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless strives to end homelessness by making a difference in the lives of people who are experiencing homelessness. MACH serves the counties of Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Chester, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lexington, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland and York.

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