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Shuster Announces Grants to Help Homeless in Cumberland and Perry Counties

Federal Grants will Fund Important Community Assistance Programs

Washington, D.C. – **Congressman Bill Shuster** is pleased to announce that the Housing Authority of Cumberland County has received two grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide transitional housing support and shelter housing for homeless residents of Cumberland and Perry Counties.

The Housing Authority of Cumberland County received a \$687,600 grant for Shelter Plus Care and a \$333,804 grant for Transitional Housing.

The grants are part of the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s ongoing Continuum of Care program to provide permanent and transitional housing to homeless persons. The Continuum grants fund important services including job training, health care, child care, mental health counseling, and substance abuse treatment.

“These grants will make a positive impact on families and individuals who are working towards a better life,” Shuster said. “Helping people move from homelessness to stability takes determination, compassion and money. These grants will allow Cumberland County’s Housing Authority to continue their great work and improve more lives in 2008.”

Chris Gulotta, Executive Director of the Housing Authority, commented upon learning of the approval of these grants, “we are very pleased to be provided with additional resources by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to serve households, many of which include children and persons with disabilities in overcoming homelessness.”

Gulotta added, “We also appreciate the support of the United Way of the Capital Region in helping us with funding to develop a plan for Perry County to address housing needs, including the needs of homeless persons.”

The Shelter Plus Care award will assist up to 20 chronically homeless households in Cumberland and Perry Counties with rental assistance and supportive service. The transitional shelter for Perry County is expected to assist up to four individuals and two families for a period of up to twenty-four months with the objective of eventually placing these persons in permanent housing.

“The homeless must not become invisible or marginalized,” said Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson. “Our response tells us much about our humanity as a people and a nation. When our fellow citizens literally need shelter from the storm, or a meal, or counseling, or help to regain their footing in life, we must be there to respond.”

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