

Washington, DC - U.S. Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that Rural Ulster Preservation Company, Inc. (RUPCO), Hudson River Housing Services, Inc., and Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. (INHS) have been awarded \$769,625 in flexible first round grant funds from NeighborWorks® America – providing a much-needed boost in support of their affordable housing and community development activities. The grant will allow RUPCO, Hudson River Housing Services, and INHS to continue to provide and enhance services, which allow low- and moderate-income families in Ulster, Dutchess, and Tompkins counties to secure affordable housing and achieve homeownership.

"With the cost of living soaring in New York and all over the country, families with modest incomes are struggling to make ends meet and locate affordable housing," said Hinchey. "Meeting basic needs is getting harder and harder while homelessness is on the rise. Fewer families are able to become homeowners; however, housing initiatives like these, with the help of federal grants, help Ulster, Dutchess, and Tompkins county residents find and afford their piece of the American Dream."

RUPCO, which is receiving a total of \$237,500, will use \$100,000 for the Home Ownership Center to support home ownership opportunities and rehabilitation of owner occupied housing. Another \$50,000 will be used towards future RUPCO real estate activity, while \$87,500 will be used to support RUPCO's general operations. Hudson River Housing Services, Inc. is receiving \$87,500. Hudson River Housing Services, which is receiving a total of \$87,500, will use \$20,000 for their Home Ownership Center and \$67,500 towards general operations. The INHS grant will advance three important priorities. \$117,000 will go towards supporting the Cedar Creek Housing project in Ithaca, which will provide 39 housing units for low and moderate income families. \$250,000 will support energy conservation projects in homes for low and moderate income families throughout Tompkins County. \$77,000 will be directed towards capacity building, which will allow INHS to increase its administrative resources so it may acquire and renovate more homes.

"I want to thank Congressman Hinchey for his ongoing support of the NeighborWorks® Program, and for the receipt of these funds," said Kevin O'Connor, RUPCO Executive Director. "He continually provides critical support to RUPCO's broad approach to housing and community development in Ulster County."

"NeighborWorks® America truly understands what it takes to move forward with the full range of housing issues and is clearly an invaluable resource for Hudson River Housing," said Gail

Webster, Executive Director of Hudson River Housing, Inc.

"This grant will help leverage many times more in funding and allow INHS to provide safe housing for more low and moderate income working families who otherwise would not have housing," said Paul Mazzarella, Executive Director, INHS.

Overall, NeighborWorks® organizations in New York will receive \$4.6 million in NeighborWorks® America grants this year. Working together, NeighborWorks® America and NeighborWorks® organizations throughout New York will be responsible for leveraging \$170.2 million reinvested in the community to create more economic development and affordable housing opportunities for New York citizens. Established by Congress in 1978 as the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, NeighborWorks® America is the original community/public/private partnership model, with locally-driven, efficient community development and leverage of the public investment as its hallmarks.