

## **Housing Authority announces Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program**

The Columbia City Housing Authority announced today the start of an Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation program available to low-to-moderate income households. “There was a strong need in our community to restart the Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation program in our community,” stated John Lefever, Housing Authority Chairman. “We wanted to raise the overall quality of the homes in Columbia City and the surrounding area, while assisting those who may not be able to afford it.” The program will support homeowners who make 80 percent or less of the county’s median income level, which varies depending upon the number of full-time occupants in the home.

No interest loans will be provided for selected applicants for repair projects including, but not limited to: eliminating lead-based paint, insulating homes, replacing water heaters or furnaces, replacing sanitary or domestic plumbing, installation of windows or eliminating problems with water damage or mold. The program allows participants who pay off 90% of the loan amount on schedule to have the final 10% be forgiven. “I’m excited to partner with the Housing Authority on this meaningful program,” stated Mayor Ryan Daniel. “This program made a great impact on over 20 families in the past. I believe it will make an even bigger impact on our entire community in the years to come.” A maximum request of \$20,000 will be allowed and applications for the OOR program will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Homeowners interested in the program, or for more information, can pick up the application packet at City Hall in the Mayor’s Office. The first round of applications will be accepted until June 30<sup>th</sup>, while the second round of application acceptance will run from July 1<sup>st</sup> through December 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Columbia City Housing Authority resumed work in November 2013 after years of being dormant. The seven member group focuses on raising the quality of the housing stock within the City limits and the two-mile jurisdictional boundary surrounding the City.

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