

Tacoma, WA - Friday, October 16, 2009

< [Back to Regular Story Page](#)

## Bellingham Housing Authority receives over \$9.9 million to 'green'

**KIE RELYEA**

Last updated: October 6th, 2009 01:58 PM (PDT)

BELLINGHAM - The Bellingham Housing Authority has been awarded a little over \$9.9 million in federal stimulus money, which will be used to make three of its senior high-rise buildings in the city more energy- and water-efficient.

The dollars will be spent on Lincoln Square, Washington Square and Chuckanut Square, which have a total of 396 units.

"We are extremely excited about receiving these funds," said Dave Bergmann, chief operating officer for Bellingham/Whatcom County Housing Authorities.

"The three high rises are projects that have not received any substantial funding for rehab in about 20 years," he said, "where our family properties have all undergone some type of rehab in that period."

The money is part of \$300 million in Recovery Act competitive grants given to 36 public housing authorities nationwide for projects that reduce energy costs and encourage healthier lifestyles for residents, according to a news release from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Locally, the grant will be spent on new energy-efficient windows, more roof insulation, solar panels to heat water, and to replace outdated mechanical, electrical and water systems. The energy gathered by the solar panel will be directed into the power grid for purchase by Puget Sound Energy, Bergmann said.

The improvements could reduce the amount of energy used by all three high rises by as much as 35 percent, according to Bergmann.

Work also will improve indoor air quality.

After interviewing four firms, the housing authority selected Seattle-based SMR Architects to help with design and the scope of the work.

Construction should begin in spring 2010.

"This type of money, bringing it into our community, is going to have a positive impact on the jobs in our community," Bergmann said, adding the authority will be required to report the number of jobs created as well as the energy saved.

Originally published: October 5th, 2009 03:53 PM (PDT)



[Privacy Policy](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Advertising Partners](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Jobs](#) | [RSS](#)

1950 South State Street, Tacoma, Washington 98405 253-597-8742

© [Copyright 2009 Tacoma News, Inc.](#) A subsidiary of The McClatchy Company ▲