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PRESS RELEASE

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June 27, 2016

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City of Rockford Streamlines Community Housing Program Information

ROCKFORD, ILL. – The City of Rockford, following months of data compilation and revisions, has launched the Rockford Community Housing Program (RCHP) map in the Map Gallery. Found on the homepage of the City’s website, www.rockfordil.gov, the RCHP map allows an interested homeowner, perspective homebuyer, or real estate agent to type in a specific address and immediately find out which of the following housing programs meet the qualifications for the specific property.

- **The Water Hook-up Program** provides owner occupants of single family homes located within the city of Rockford assistance in hooking up to City water and capping off the well.
- **The Homebuyer Assistance Program** offers financial assistance in purchasing single family unoccupied homes, or in bringing property up to code within certain areas of the city.
- **The Focus Area Rehabilitation Program** provides owner occupants of single family homes located within the city of Rockford assistance with repairs such as electrical, plumbing, mechanical, some exterior repairs, and accessibility modifications. A five-year forgivable mortgage loan with no interest or monthly payment is available for up to \$25,000 plus program fees. An additional loan requiring repayment upon transfer of ownership may also be available for up to \$15,000 (minimum loan \$500).
- **The Homebuyer’s Property Tax Refund Program** offers qualifying new homeowners with a tax refund for buying a distressed home or building a new home located in the city of Rockford and Public School District 205 in the 2016 calendar year.

The RCHP map also includes information on the following Illinois Historic Preservation Agency financial incentive programs.

- **The Property Tax Assessment Freeze Program** freezes the assessed value of historic owner-occupied, principal residence for a period of 8 years, followed by a four-year period during which the property's assessed value steps up to an amount based upon its current market value. This program is administered free of charge as a benefit to Illinois property owners interested in rehabilitating their historic home.
- **The Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit** provides federal income-tax incentives for the rehabilitation of historic income-producing properties.

The RCHP map includes the respective phone number for each program that interested homeowners, homebuyers or agents can call for more information.

“The purpose of the Rockford Community Housing Program map is to make sure people are aware of the programs that are offered that can help people buy a home or fix up one they currently own,” said Vicki Manson, Housing and Program Manager for the City of Rockford. “Interested parties no longer have to go out searching for every single housing program the City offers because they’re all right here on the map.”

The City and representatives from local housing organizations discuss these programs and others at monthly homebuyer and homeowner rehabilitation workshops. Workshops are held on the second Tuesday of each month, free of charge, at HomeStart, 803 North Church Street. For workshop information and registration, contact Michelle Ryan at 815-516-5304 or MichelleR@nwhomestart.org. Space is limited.

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