



Snohomish County
Office of the Executive
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County Executive

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Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon’s Proposal to Support Affordable Housing Project Approved by Council

On Friday, October 26, 2007, County Executive Aaron Reardon submitted a proposal to the Snohomish County Council to provide needed support for a new affordable housing initiative sponsored by Housing Hope, Snohomish County’s largest affordable housing agency. The County Council unanimously approved Executive Reardon’s proposal on Monday, October 29, 2007.

The County’s support will enable Housing Hope to develop Lincoln Hill Village. The affordable housing development will be located on approximately 1.5 acres in the Stanwood area, and will consist of twenty-four (24) units of affordable housing for very low-income families (at or below 50% of the area median income). Nine units will be three bedroom apartments targeted to large families with children. The sixteen remaining units will be two bedroom apartments for low income families with children. Five of these units will serve homeless families with children as part of the Sound Families Initiative.

Ed Petersen, Executive Director of Housing Hope, thanked Executive Reardon for his support. “This is a powerful endorsement, which I expect will yield dividends on several fronts,” said Petersen. “The most important is securing funding approvals from the Housing Finance Commission and CTED.”

The County will provide a low interest, 30-month loan of \$842,500 to Housing Hope. This loan will in turn make the project eligible for nearly \$2.8 million in tax credit financing from the Washington State Housing Finance Commission and funding in the amount of \$842,500 from the State Housing Trust Fund, thus enabling Housing Hope to repay the County’s short term loan. Funding for the short term loan will come from the \$2.9 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds on account in the Federal Treasury. These are funds the County has awarded to local projects and programs but have not yet been drawn down.

In response to Council’s questions, Executive Director Deanna Dawson explained that this loan would not jeopardize any other projects in line for funding, in that the loan can

be called in at any time within the 30 month period of the loan. The loan will be secured by an irrevocable letter of credit, and backed by Housing Hope's Capital Reserves. Upon hearing Executive Director Dawson's explanation of the loan process, the council voted unanimously to approve Executive Reardon's proposal.

Executive Reardon thanked the Council for their support. "Tackling the challenges of providing affordable housing to our working families and to our most vulnerable residents will require partnerships," said Reardon. "I look forward to working closely with council on other innovative ways to create and preserve affordable housing in Snohomish County."

Executive Reardon's 2008 budget includes funding to partner with the Housing Consortium of Everett and Snohomish County in an eight month effort that will result in an Affordable Housing Action Plan. "Snohomish County is a highly desirable place to live and the demand for land and housing is high," said Executive Reardon. "Through partnership with the Consortium and its member agencies including nonprofit housing developers and social service providers, for profit developers, lenders, realtors, and government agencies, we will develop a detailed plan of action that engages community stakeholders in proactive solutions and results in better alignment of resources with community need."

For more information, contact Deanna Dawson, Executive Director, Snohomish County Executive Office at (425) 388-3297.