

# HUD blesses Bridgeton, Millville, Vineland

By staff reports

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development made efforts to strengthen the housing market during the rough economy with over \$68 million on Wednesday.

According to a HUD press release, Secretary Shaun Donovan awarded a total of \$68,032,729 to public housing authorities.

Public Housing Capital Fund awarded Bridgeton Housing Authority with \$605,738, Millville Housing Authority with \$485,965, and Vineland Housing Authority with \$797,068.

"While this funding will certainly help housing authorities address long-standing capital improvements, it only scratches the surface in addressing the deep backlog we're seeing across the country," Donovan said.

"Housing authorities need nearly \$26 billion to keep these homes safe and decent for families, but given our budget realities, we must find other, innovative ways to confront the decline of our public housing stock."

The press release stated HUD's mission statement: "To create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers."

In order to build, repair, renovate, and modernize public housing, HUD's Capital

Fund Program provides annual funding to public housing.

"Unless we transform the way we fund our public housing authorities, local managers will be increasingly forced to choose between repairing roofs, replacing plumbing, or worst of all, demolishing or selling their properties. We simply can't afford for that to happen," Sandra B. Henriquez, HUD assistant secretary for Public and Indian Housing, said.

According to the release, HUD released Capital Needs in the Public Housing program, earlier this month. The program is a study updating national estimates of capital needs in the public housing stock in the U.S.

An estimated \$25.6 billion was needed in large repair projects for 1.2 million housing units.

The capital needs includes large repairs such as roof replacement or plumbing and electrical system updates in order to make energy more efficient.

Funding usage could include "large-scale" improvements such as new roofs and renovating for more energy efficient upgrades.

According to the release, HUD is requesting \$200 million for Transforming Rental Assistance demonstration to rehabilitate affordable housing in Fiscal Year 2012.