

Fitchburg Housing Authority receives \$8 million grant

Senior housing to be
renovated

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FITCHBURG — The Fitchburg Housing Authority has been awarded an \$8.07 million state grant to modernize the 46-year-old Wallace Towers for the elderly.

The awarding of the grant was announced Thursday at a ceremony attended by Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, Housing and Community Development Undersecretary Janelle Chan, Fitchburg Mayor Stephen L. DiNatale and state Sens. Dean Tran and Stephan Hay.

The Fitchburg Housing

Authority will use the money to improve the 130-unit downtown high-rise, including upgrading 13 accessible units to current code.

In addition, Fitchburg plans to coordinate existing health care programs with new nutritional and socialization programs to promote aging-in-community. Partners include Montachusett Opportunity Council, Spanish American Center, Fitchburg Veteran Services and Fitchburg State University.

"Our older and adults and seniors deserve affordable, high-quality housing that meets their needs and enables them to age in the community they love," Polito said.

"Today's awards will enable our residents in state-aided public housing to continue thriving, and provide the necessary resources for local housing authorities to address the needs of an aging population."

"Aging in Place facilities, such as Wallace Towers, have become crucially important with the rising costs of nursing homes," DiNatale said. "I would also like to applaud the Fitchburg Housing Authority and all those who assisted with this successful application."

Statewide, \$23 million was awarded for improvements for public housing for seniors at seven local housing authorities.