

LOCAL NEWS

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HOUSING FUNDING

FHA wins \$650G energy-efficiency grant



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On Thursday, the Fitchburg Housing Authority announced that it had received a grant of \$625,426 for energy saving improvements at their Canton Valley development. Here, Douglas Bushman, the executive director of the Housing Authority, explains the grant and how it will help the Canton Valley apartment complex.

By Daniel Monahan
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FITCHBURG» The Housing Authority announced Thursday that it would be receiving a state grant of about \$625,000 to complete some much needed energy-efficient upgrades to the homes at Canton Valley Terrace.

The project will replace roofs, sliding doors, and upgrade interior and exterior lighting at the 48-family development built in 1957.

These new efficiency measures are expected to reduce utility costs by 24

percent and reduce CO2 emissions by about 160,000 pounds annually, according to Doug Bushman, executive director of the Fitchburg Housing Authority.

"It means more than just reducing pollution or reducing energy costs for our tenants," said Bushman. "It's really bringing the community together."

Bushman said there is currently a nationwide effort to reduce utility costs, which is a benefit to everyone in the community.

"It's about bringing energy efficiency and public housing together," he said.

He also said the grant was the largest Fitchburg Housing Authority has seen in over a decade.

Gov. Charlie Baker announced seven awards totaling \$4.4 million to communities across the commonwealth on July 30.

The grants will upgrade a total of 240 state-aided public housing units through a state program known as the Comprehensive Sustainability Initiative.

The Housing Authority also received a \$150,000 grant on July 18, through a partnership with Unifil and the Massachusetts Opportunity Council, to

make energy efficient improvements to Canton Valley.

"I don't think in all the years I've been in public service the Housing Authority ever secured resources to this extent," said Mayor Stephen L. DiNatale.

DiNatale said the funding will not only secure important energy-efficient upgrades, but it will help improve the quality of life for residents.

Sen. Dean Tran was also in attendance Thursday and added that he was happy to see the city was getting the help it needs to support residents.

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