

Buchanan Announces Sarasota Housing Authority to Receive a Resident Opportunity and Self Sufficiency Grant

Sarasota, Florida – U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan announced today that the Sarasota Housing Authority has won a Resident Opportunity and Self Sufficiency (ROSS) Grant. The Sarasota Housing Authority will receive \$150,000 in funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to help residents of public housing achieve economic independence.

“Public housing is an important safety net for individuals and families in need of shelter,” said Buchanan. “But it was never intended to be a permanent solution to people’s housing needs. This grant will help current residents of public housing develop the necessary job and life skills to provide for themselves and their families. I applaud the housing authority and their partners in the community for their advocacy on behalf of the residents.”

“The Housing Authority is thrilled to be awarded this grant which, along with our community partners, will enable us to transition more of our families to self-sufficiency. Our goal is not just to redevelop our distressed housing stock in Newtown, but to truly transform the lives of our residents during this process. This HUD grant clearly enhances our ability to make that become a reality for our families.”

The \$150,000 grant will pay self sufficiency program coordinators and homeownership program coordinators that link program participants to training and supportive services necessary to achieve economic independence and self sufficiency. The programs include literacy and employment, life skills, and homeownership.

The ROSS grant encourages communities to develop local strategies to help voucher families obtain employment that will lead to economic independence and self-sufficiency. Children First, Habitat for Humanity, Hoyt Architects, Jewish Family and Children Services, Olsten Staffing, Manasota Goodwill Industries, Manatee Community College, Protocol Marketing Group, Sarasota County Area Transit, Senior Friendship Centers, Walgreens, and Washington Mutual Bank are assisting in the program.