



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tonya Crawley, *HCV Coordinator*

The Greenville Housing Authority | 122 Edinburgh Court | Greenville, SC 29607 | Phone: 864-467-4250
TDD: 864-467-4203 | Toll Free: 844-411-TGHA (8442)

Returning Citizens Housing Initiative Now Underway

GREENVILLE, SC – TGHA is pleased to announce the new Returning Citizens Housing Initiative, a comprehensive re-entry housing program facilitated by the Soteria Community Development Corporation (SCDC) and the Housing Authority of the City of Greenville, SC. Our goal is to provide Returning Citizens a second chance at becoming productive citizens in the Greenville community.

Soteria CDC and TGHA know thousands of families in the Greenville community have been and are impacted by incarceration, poor financial management and a lack of education. Like TGHA, Soteria CDC offers housing to low income individuals. Soteria CDC is passionate about providing other support services besides housing. These support services range from providing basic needs like clothing, food and transportation to life skill development classes including goal setting, financial literacy and counseling for alcohol and drug abuse. Developing these life skills will help the Returning Citizen become a positive contributing member of the Greenville community. Soteria CDC will provide Returning Citizens initial jobs through Greenstart – a wood reclaiming business based in Greenville. Soteria will also prepare and connect participants with employers throughout the Greenville community for permanent employment opportunities.

Participation in the Returning Citizens Housing Initiative, at this time, is limited to men who are enrolled in Soteria's Ex-Offenders Program. Returning Citizens Housing Initiative participants must be referred by a Case Worker, Chaplain or a Probation/ Parole Officer with the potential participant's application submitted at least six (6) months prior to release.

To facilitate funding the Returning Citizens Housing, TGHA will utilize the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program that will serve up to 15 Returning Citizens at one time.

Through this Initiative, Returning Citizens will participate in three housing phases (Transitional, Temporary, Permanent) in housing owned by Soteria Community Development Corporation. Transitional Housing is available to participants for up to one (1) year of residency. Transitional and Temporary Housing allows participants a home while they start the reunification process and become stably employed. Each housing participant must demonstrate their ability to succeed independent of the Returning Citizens Housing Initiative and must continue to meet HCV and Soteria program requirements. Graduates of the Returning Citizens Housing Initiative may receive permanent housing rental assistance as long as they meet the HCV program requirements.

Returning Citizens Housing Initiative participation parameters are:

- Participants must be male and be at least 28 years old.
- Participants must have been released from incarceration within the past three (3) years.
- Participants must have completed their minimum sentence and have one (1) year, or less, of correctional supervision remaining.
- Each man must have a history of homelessness or have no housing available upon release.
- Men who are parents with a reasonable chance of reuniting with their children are encouraged to apply.
- HUD statutes and regulations prohibit program participation from these two types of criminal convictions: conviction of producing methamphetamine in federally-assisted housing and/or conviction and registration as a lifetime sex offender.

A partial list of additional agencies that are participating in the Returning Citizens Housing Initiative include:

- Greenville County Reentry Coalition
- Pardon, Parole & Probations
- Correctional Institutions
- Homeless Service Providers
- U.S. Attorney's Office – Department of Justice (Greenville Office)

For more information about the Returning Citizens Housing Initiative, please visit www.TGHA.net or call Tonya Crawley at 864-467-4250. For more information about Soteria Community Development Corporation, please visit www.soteriacdc.org or call Jerry Blassingame at 864-272-0681.

The Greenville Housing Authority offers affordable housing for people across the income spectrum and has served as a catalyst for affordable housing in the Greenville area since 1938. TGHA provides Housing Choice Vouchers funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Greenville Housing Authority is located at 122 Edinburgh Court, Greenville, SC 29607. TGHA may be reached by phoning (local) 864-467-4250 or (toll free) 844-411-TGHA (8442).