



City of Centralia, Illinois Press Release

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Centralia Announces \$357,000 in Grant Funding from Illinois Housing Development Authority

Today the Director of Community Development, Gayla Harting, received notice that the City of Centralia is receiving a boost in its ongoing effort to remove blighted, vacant, and unsafe homes through the Illinois Housing Development Authority's Strong Communities Program application that she submitted in June.

The City of Centralia has been selected for the funding under the Strong Communities Program, Round 2 from the Illinois Housing Development Authority. Grant Funds totaling \$357,000 can be used to acquire, demolish, and green blighted properties.

“The program complements our already aggressive approach to handling these problem properties,” Director of Community Development and Planning & Zoning Administrator, Gayla Harting said.

Strong Communities Program will provide funds for the demolition in cases where properties are beyond repair and negatively impact neighboring residences. As a result, SCP has the potential to increase property values, create jobs, help reduce crime, generate additional tax revenue, and attract further community investment. By enabling greater revitalization opportunities, SCP will help to preserve existing affordable housing stock that is often in city centers and in proximity to community amenities (schools, parks, medical facilities, shopping, jobs, and transportation), and encourage further investment and revitalization.

The City looks forward to working with IHDA in this opportunity to continue our efforts to remove blight and revitalize the neighborhood stabilization and promoting economic development in our city.