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## **Building Changes Receives \$1 Million in Federal Recovery Act Funds**

*Grant will help support organizations in Washington state's most distressed counties*

SEATTLE, WA (October 1, 2009)—Building Changes, a Seattle-based non-profit focused on ending homelessness, receives a \$1 million Federal grant to provide capacity-building technical assistance and grants to small community- and faith-based non-profits serving the homeless and at-risk or very low-income households. The award is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the federal economic stimulus package enacted by Congress in 2009.

Building Changes is one of 35 organizations nationwide selected for a Strengthening Communities Fund (SCF) Grant Nonprofit Capacity Building Program. The purpose of the grant is to improve the ability of non-profit organizations to promote the economic recovery of people with low incomes.

“This award helps non-profits across the state to reduce homelessness and assists those most in need to find jobs.” said Building Changes Executive Director Betsy Lieberman. “We have tremendous momentum right now in our grantmaking and training. These funds couldn’t have come at a better time. *The need* to increase state residents’ access to employment, housing and support services is greater than ever.”

Washington State is listed as the 13<sup>th</sup> most distressed state in the union (tied with Massachusetts) according to the Kaiser Family Foundation’s ranking ([www.statehealthfacts.org](http://www.statehealthfacts.org)). The ranking uses such measures as housing foreclosures, changes in employment and food stamp participation to calculate overall economic well-being.

Building Changes will use its two-year SCF grant money in the 31 most economically distressed counties in Washington state. By providing capacity-building grants, technical assistance and training to small community- and faith-based non-profits, Building Changes will help ease the financial strain currently felt by many individuals and families in these counties.

Other SCF grant recipients in Washington state include Seattle’s Human Services Department (\$250,000), the Confederate Tribes of Colville Reservation (\$249,301) and the Northwest Leadership Foundation (\$1,000,000).

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### **About Building Changes**

Building Changes has supported individuals and families throughout Washington State for more than 20 years. Guided by a belief that everyone deserves the opportunity for a home, a healthy life and a good job, the Seattle-based non-profit unites public and private partners to create innovative solutions, delivering expert advice, grant making and advocacy for lasting change. Building Changes also leads the Washington Families Fund, a ground breaking public-private partnership that changes the way community-based providers and state agencies think about, fund and deliver housing linked to social services. Building Changes serves more than 8,000 individuals annually, including homeless families with children, homeless single adults, housing and service providers and related government entities. For more information visit [BuildingChanges.org](http://BuildingChanges.org).

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