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U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Community Planning and Development

RC/EZ/EC News Flash

Flash #20

October 18, 2001

SPOTLIGHT ON TWO INNOVATIVE EMPOWERMENT ZONES

PHILADELPHIA EMPOWERMENT ZONE:

September 11 was a day that all Americans not only grieved, but in many ways has produced actions that typify the generosity and spirit that are so indicative of our Nation. The **Philadelphia Empowerment Zone** has used one of its successful programs involving the recruitment of economically disadvantaged adults for vocational skills training to support the clean-up activities at the World Trade Center.

The program's training providers, ETI International and Philadelphia Workforce Development Corp. are responsible for training over 50 unemployed adults, which enabled them to receive their OSHA 40 hour Hazwoper certifications. As a result of their certifications, they will be involved in the environmental clean-up activities at the World Trade Center site.

MINNEAPOLIS EMPOWERMENT ZONE:

True to its tag line of *Connecting People, Places and Business*, the **Minneapolis Empowerment Zone** has leveraged \$400 million in private and public resources and issued more than \$54 million in EZ related tax credits within just two years of its designation. It has committed \$7.9 million in HUD funds and \$9.1 million in State funds to 24 projects. Exemplifying the ideal in partnerships, this EZ's Governance Board consists of residents and business representatives as well as foundation leaders, bank presidents, college deans, clergy, the Mayor, the Honorable Sharon Sayles Belton, the City Council President and Directors of leading area non-profits.

At the recent one-day Minneapolis Empowerment Zone Community Visioning Conference, over 215 participants gathered not only to celebrate the Zone's achievements, but also to discuss and plan the Zone's future. The future is based on an ambitious 2002 Agenda to advance the Zone's new and updated strategies for economic development, housing and community-based services.

Empowerment Zones & Enterprise Communities

Empowering America's Communities

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