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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Peoria Housing Authority Names Christopher Vincent Chief Executive Officer

East Chicago Housing Authority Deputy Executive Director selected after nationwide search



PEORIA, Ill. — November 2, 2026 — At a special meeting on September 29, 2026 the Peoria Housing Authority (PHA) Board of Commissioners voted to hire Christopher Vincent, Deputy Executive Director of the East Chicago Housing Authority (ECHA) in Indiana, as the agency's next Chief Executive Officer. Thirty candidates applied for the position as part of a nationwide search. Vincent will take office 30 days from the date of the Board's approval.

Vincent replaces Armeca Crawford, the agency's former CEO, who resigned in January 2026 to pursue other opportunities.

"The Peoria Housing Authority Board of Commissioners is pleased with its selection," said Kadar Heffner, Chairman of the Peoria Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. "We believe Mr. Vincent has the skills and expertise to take this agency to the next level."

Vincent has more than 17 years of experience in public housing and federal housing programs, including eight years in executive leadership at ECHA. As Deputy Executive Director since 2020, he has helped lead the agency's long-term planning, operations and revenue growth. He also supervises management staff and works closely with the ECHA Board of Commissioners. Before that, he served as ECHA's Director of Finance. He began his career in the agency's finance and capital projects departments, where he managed capital fund budgets and construction projects and wrote the agency's procurement policy.

Vincent has led or taken part in five real estate development deals, including a 206-unit senior housing development that opened for leasing in 2025. He has also led two resident relocations for ECHA. One was the 2021 emergency relocation of 94 senior residents from a 10-story building, which he completed within six months.

Beyond East Chicago, Vincent has provided financial, capital fund, procurement and maintenance technical assistance to housing authorities in Indiana, Arkansas and Florida. This includes service as Interim Chief Financial Officer for the South Bend Housing Authority and work that helped an agency come out of HUD "troubled" status.

"I'm honored by the Board's confidence and excited to join the Peoria Housing Authority," said Vincent. "My goal is to build on the agency's progress, work alongside our residents, community partners and stakeholders, and improve the quality of life for the families we serve."

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Vincent is Vice President of the Indiana Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO). He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Accounting, cum laude, from Trine University and completed the Executive Director Education Program at Rutgers University. He also holds a Public Housing Management Certification from Nan McKay & Associates. He is active in his community, including service as president of the East Chicago Little League and on the board of the East Chicago Health Center.

Damon E. Duncan of Clesia Ventures, LLC has served as the PHA's Interim Chief Executive Officer since March 2026. He will work directly with Vincent for a thirty-day transition period. Vincent's first official day is November 2, 2026.

About the Peoria Housing Authority

The Peoria Housing Authority (PHA) provides safe, affordable housing to low- and moderate-income families, seniors and people with disabilities in Peoria, Illinois. Through its public housing communities and its Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program, PHA serves more than 2,500 households. Its communities include Harrison Homes, Providence Pointe, Riverwest, Sterling Towers and scattered-site homes. PHA also offers resident services, including a Family Self-Sufficiency program that helps families increase their income and build savings. As a commitment to the Peoria community, PHA works with residents, community partners and stakeholders to improve quality of life across Peoria. For more information, visit www.peoriahousing.org or call (309) 676-8736.

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