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Fayette County Community Action Agency to Build Affordable Housing with Energy Star Features for Seniors in Fairchance, PA with support from West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund

May 1, 2019 – Fayette County Community Action Agency (FCCAA) received a \$75,000 grant from West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF) to ensure its newest community development initiative, a senior high-rise in Fairchance PA, reaches Energy Star Standards. This initiative is in response to area needs assessments indicating a strong need for senior housing in the area.

FCCAA has been approved for funding through the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program to build a 36-unit apartment building for residents over the age of 55 in the Borough of Fairchance in Fayette County. The purpose of the Tax Credit Program is to assist in the creation and preservation of affordable housing for low-income households. The Fairchance Senior Housing project serves as an important part of a comprehensive community improvement plan. The site offers a highly-visible and accessible location within walking distance of many amenities including the newly renovated Fairchance Senior Center, a grocery store, beauty salons, a pharmacy, post office, churches, and medical and dental facilities.

“The West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund has been a partner in our development effort for two decades. With their help we were able to develop Uniontown Family Homes and build the first green building in Uniontown with the construction of the Administrative Service Center on our campus.” said FCCAA’s Chief Executive Officer, James Stark. “The Fund’s commitment to helping communities deploy clean energy technology and promote energy efficiency has certainly benefited our area.”

The 44,200 square-foot three-story building will contain 18 one-bedroom, one-bath, 676 square-foot apartments, and 18 two-bedroom, one-bath, 997 square-foot apartments. The development will include a community room, common laundry facilities, and an on-site management office. The units will conform to VisitAbility standards and will include Energy Star

appliances. With support from a grant from WPPSEF, the development will achieve Enterprise Green and Energy Star criteria. Energy Star Features will include properly installed insulation, high performance windows, tight construction and ducts, energy efficient cooling and heating systems, and Energy Star qualified appliances, lighting and water heaters. The development will also utilize solar panels to supply approximately 15% of the development's electricity.

"The solar panels and the Energy Star design for the Fairchance Senior Housing development continues the Fund's work of expanding renewable energy to communities and will help to reduce the operating costs of the Fairchance development. We are grateful for the support of the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund in helping to improve housing in our local communities." said Stark.

FCCAA is a non-profit organization that provides a variety of human services to Fayette County and surrounding areas of Southwestern Pennsylvania. The organization provides over 70 projects and programs that reach over 20,000 individuals each year. FCCAA is uniquely positioned to be a provider of human services while also placing a strong emphasis on community and economic development initiatives. Visit www.fccaa.org to learn more.

The West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that invests in the deployment of sustainable energy technologies that benefit West Penn Power ratepayers in Pennsylvania. WPPSEF investments are focused in three broad categories:

- ✓ Deployment of sustainable and clean energy technologies;
- ✓ Deployment of energy efficiency and conservation technologies; and
- ✓ Facilitating economic development, environmental betterment, and public education as they relate to sustainable energy deployment in the WPP service region.

Visit <http://www.wppsef.org> for further information.