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Ridgefield to get \$3.25M in state money for affordable housing

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RIDGEFIELD "" Gov. M. Jodi Rell announced \$3.25 million in state funding this week **to** renovate 120 units of elderly and family housing. Rell said the state Bond Commission is expected **to** approve the funding when it meets later this month.

"Providing affordable housing for the elderly and disabled is something we can all agree on and continue **to** provide," Rell said. "These funds will make a real difference in the lives of many **Ridgefield** residents."

Diana Burgos, executive director of the **Ridgefield** Housing Authority, said the money will help pay for a \$14 million renovation project at the authority's Ballard Green and Prospect Ridge developments.

The project will renovate units more than 20 years old, including new roofing, heating systems, cabinets and plumbing fixtures. It also includes the construction of 12 new units of elderly housing at Ballard Green.

"This is really exiting news for us," Burgos said. "This money is good news for **Ridgefield** and the families that depend on this housing."

About 85 percent of the funding needed for the project is now in place. "We are hoping **to get** started on the work within the next 60 days," Burgos said.

Tenants recently began moving into 20 units of affordable housing just completed at the Prospect Ridge development.

Rell thanked state Rep. John Frey, R-**Ridgefield**, for his help in bringing the project **to** fruition.

"Our senior citizens deserve an affordable place **to** call home," Frey said. "Building additional units and renovating existing units will allow these developments **to** last for many years **to** come and provide homes **to** more people."

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