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For immediate release
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HUD zeroes out Tenant Resource Center for 2007-2008, closing statewide toll-free renters' hotline

Tenant Resource Center (Madison) learned late last week that its funding for the statewide toll-free rental rights and responsibilities hotline will not be renewed by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the upcoming year. Because of the timing of HUD's fiscal year, October 1 to September 30, the Tenant Resource Center must discontinue this service effective immediately. The cut amounts to over \$41,000, approximately 20% of TRC's current funding from government sources and 13% of the 2007 budget overall.

"At this time we are extremely disappointed, but have no choice other than to at least temporarily discontinue this service. This means that the thousands of renters we help each year from outside of Dane County won't get the information they need about their rights in regard to evictions, repairs and more," said Brenda Konkel, Executive Director.

"We need to focus on building community-based financial support so we can, hopefully, re-open the toll-free hotline by the beginning of November. We are delaying a decision on a permanent shut-down until November 1st and will only keep the hotline open if we see a significant commitment to funding it into the future," Konkel continued. Tenant Resource Center has pursued additional funding sources for this statewide program since its inception, enduring annual cuts and supplementing the program through fundraising efforts, but currently does not have enough funding to fill the void caused by this cut.

This service provides information about rental rights and responsibilities to tenants and landlords throughout Wisconsin. The most common problems discussed are eviction, repairs, security deposits and other consumer protections for tenants and landlords. There are no other organizations in Wisconsin that provide free rental housing counseling to the entire state.

All local housing counseling, outreach and education services will continue uninterrupted, at no cost within Dane County as usual. People outside Dane County in need of information should refer to TRC's website at www.tenantresourcecenter.org. Those wishing to volunteer or donate can do so through the website at http://www.tenantresourcecenter.org/volunteer_donate/.

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1202 Williamson Street, Suite A, Madison, WI 53703

Housing Counseling Line: 608.257.0006 or 877.238.RENT(7368) toll-free from outside of Dane County

Housing Mediation Service: 608.257.2799 **Administrative Office:** 608.257.0143 Fax: 608.286.0804

Email: asktrc@tenantresourcecenter.org office@tenantresourcecenter.org Website: <http://www.tenantresourcecenter.org/>

Housing Help Desk: 608.242.7406 Fax: 608.242.7490 1819 Aberg Avenue, Madison, WI 53704

Email: housinghelpdesk@tenantresourcecenter.org

