



### **Accessible Housing Registry**

Virginia Housing Development Authority

601 South Belvidere Street

Richmond, VA 23220

Project Manager: Bill Fuller/Gail Braham

Award Amount: \$100,000

Project Duration: July 1, 2003 – December 31, 2004

### **VHDA Launches Website to Help Virginians Find Accessible, Affordable Housing**

On November 16, 2004, VHDA released the *Access Virginia* website. Officially unveiled at the Governor's Housing Conference, [www.accessva.org](http://www.accessva.org) is a comprehensive collection of information to help people find accessible apartments, learn more about accessibility requirements and Universal Design.

*Access Virginia* serves as an online housing registry featuring an apartment finder that searches a database managed by the National Apartment Association. The registry lists both subsidized and market rate units.

The website offers a variety of other information ranging from home plans to accessible kitchen appliances and also helps individuals locate specific information about building products designed for people with disabilities-providing an invaluable resource for those who are planning to rent an apartment, build a new home or renovate their existing home.

- Made possible through a grant from the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities, *Access Virginia* has been in development at VHDA for the past year. Some key associates involved with launching the project include Housing Initiatives Officer Bill Fuller, Grant Project Coordinator Gail Braham and Business Systems Analyst Greg Bowers. This team will proceed to work regularly with VHDA Asset Managers to fill accessible unit vacancies in VHDA-financed multifamily developments. They will also maintain relationships with individual property managers to enable them in managing and updating their own data online.
- Although just shy of its inauguration, plans to continuously change and improve this resource are already moving forward. During the next year, *Access Virginia* will add more rental listings as well as increase its index of accessible housing resource links. Reversely, concentrated efforts will be made to place the *Access Virginia* link on several other websites, including those belonging to local and state government entities as well as VHDA business partners. *Access Virginia* will also work with Centers for

Independent Living to create public awareness of accessibility issues.

- For more information, please visit the [Access Virginia](#) website or click on "Related Links" on [VHDA.com](#). Gail Braham (ext. 5512) and Bill Fuller (ext. 5754) are available to answer questions and receive feedback regarding the *Access Virginia* project.