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## HUD awards \$6.9 million so Presbyterian Villages, United Methodist Retirement Communities can build senior apartments along Detroit River

By [Sherri Welch](#)

The **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** has awarded a \$6.9 million grant to two local nonprofits to help fund the second phase of a senior community under development on the east front of the Detroit River.

**Presbyterian Villages of Michigan** and Chelsea-based **United Methodist Retirement Communities Inc.** plan to begin construction on the \$7.5 million, 43,000-square-foot apartment building during the first quarter of 2013.

The building will have 50 independent-living, affordable senior apartments as part of the Rivertown neighborhood development and is expected to open in the spring 2014.

It will be just east of the nonprofits' \$27.5 million phase-one development — an affordable, assisted-living complex with 80 one-bedroom apartments for seniors and the **Henry Ford/PVM Center for Senior Independence**. That first phase — an adaptive reuse of a former **Parke Davis** building across from the **UAW/GM Center for Human Resources**, on the east riverfront — is expected to open by the end of this year.

The **National Affordable Housing Trust** and its investors are vested in the project, along with Presbyterian Villages, United Methodist Retirement Communities and **Henry Ford Health System**.

When phases one and two are completed, the community will include affordable assisted living, independent living, an adult day center, senior health and wellness services and recreation areas for seniors living there and in the surrounding neighborhoods.

As planned, a third phase would connect the first Park Davis building to a second one with an atrium and incorporate residential nursing-home units and a community café, John Thorhauer, president and CEO of United Methodist Retirement Communities, said through a spokesman.

No timetable has been announced for the third phase, he said.

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