



Ava Burlingham, 4, lounges in the living area of her recently renovated Oak Courts apartment on Tuesday.

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# First phase of renovations to Oak Courts complete

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GREENFIELD — The first phase of the \$13.2 million Oak Courts renovation project is complete and 16 families are now moved into the new apartments some have been waiting up to a decade to live in.

The much-needed renovations began last November.

The project was supposed to be done in four phases, but since then, Greenfield Housing Authority Executive Director Dan Finn said, it has been reduced to three phases, the last of which is expected to be completed by next May.

The local housing authority manages the low-income housing development and secured funding for the project through the state Department of Housing and Community Development.

The project includes the renovation of the kitchens and bathrooms in the 72 apartments there, as well as the construction of two new accessible apartments and a community center with computers. It also includes energy-efficiency upgrades, new sprinkler systems, new carpets and fixtures and new siding on all of the buildings.



The kitchen area of a recently remodeled Oak Courts apartment.

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Finn said the first phase was to renovate 16 apartments that were vacant so that the people living in apartments to be renovated in Phase 2 would have somewhere to live, and so on.

He said the second phase will include the renovation of 24 apartments and the third will include the renovation of the

remaining 34, as well as the construction of the two accessible apartments and the community center.

Finn said more than 300 people will live in Oak Courts when the project is complete.

He said most buildings have four apart-

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The recently remodeled section of Oak Courts housing of Elm Street in Greenfield.

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## Oak Courts

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ments and a couple have eight. According to the housing authority, three to four people live in each apartment on average.

Finn said some Oak Courts residents have been living in other Greenfield Housing Authority properties during the renovation project, but will return to Oak Courts when their apartments have been renovated.

He said when the project is completed, several vacant units will be occupied by people on the housing authority's waiting list.

He said that list consists of 122 families waiting for two-bedroom apartments and 50 waiting for three-bedroom apartments. He said Greenfield residents are first priority.

Many of the development's building code items have not been updated in years, so those updates will also be done.

Finn said renovations on bathrooms and kitchens throughout the development were last done in the early 1980s.

Many of the development's residents don't make more than \$12,000 a year, according to the housing authority.