NCDA
WASHINGTON REPORT

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Celebrate National Community Development Week !!!! April 24-30, 2000

FEATURE ARTICLES

PRESIDENT RELEASES HIS FY 2001 BUDGET

Budget Overview

The President released his FY 2001 federal budget on Monday, February 7. The massive $1.84 trillion budget provides approximately $350 million in tax cuts, all of which are offset by revenue increases through tax increases on cigarettes and the elimination of some corporate tax shelters. Clinton's budget plan increases discretionary spending by 4% overall.

Clinton's budget plan also proposes using a portion of the projected surplus to pay off the $3.6 trillion national debt by 2013. The President's plan to pay down and eliminate the national debt, which resulted in interest cost savings of $230 billion last year, is designed to make funds available to extend the solvency of Social Security through 2050.
To date, the House and Senate GOP leaders remain at an impasse over FY 2001 spending levels. Rep. John Kasich (R-OH), Chair of the House Budget Committee is advocating freezing discretionary programs,

with the exception of defense and education. Sen. Pete V. Domenici (R-NM), Chair of the Senate Budget Committee, says a freeze is unrealistic if Congress wants to move the budget process quickly this year.

HUD'S BUDGET: The Highlights

On Monday, February 7, Secretary Cuomo outlined HUD's FY 2001 budget. HUD's FY 2001 budget increases by $6 billion, from $26 billion in FY 2000 to $32 billion in FY 2001. Most of this increase can be found in the Housing Certificate Fund and through modest increases in other program areas.

CDBG and HOME. HUD's FY 2001 budget makes slight increases to CDBG and HOME. A funding level of $4.9 billion is proposed for CDBG, an increase of $119 million. The HUD proposed set-asides within CDBG would be reduced by $131 million. With the decrease in the set-asides and the increase in the program level, the formula funding for the program will be increased to a projected $4.486 billion, up from $4.236 billion in FY 2000. The HOME program would be funded at $1.65 billion, an increase of $50 million. The budget proposes a set-aside of $24 million from the HOME program for housing counseling and a $5 million set-aside for management information systems

Set-asides. In terms of CDBG funding, the budget sets aside $22 million for a new Mississippi Delta Regional Initiative to provide funds and technical assistance for the economic revitalization in the Delta region. The Community and Interfaith Partnerships set-aside within CDBG seeks to empower community-based (including religiously affiliated) non-profit organizations in their affordable housing and community development efforts. HUD has once again proposed a Regional Connections set-aside within CDBG. This $25 million set-aside will fund local smart growth strategies across jurisdictional lines. Congress frowned upon the many "boutique" programs in HUD's budget last year and will likely take the same stance again this year.

Optional Entitlement Communities. Also of note is the specific language in the budget relating to last summer's discussion of the Secretary's "Optional Entitlement Cities and Communities Program." It is HUD's intent to engage in discussions with counties and states regarding changes and enhancements to the threshold for becoming an "entitlement" community. This will require a statutory change. States and counties still object to the proposal and OMB is said not to be in favor of it either. That leaves Congress. The authorizers have plainly said that HUD has not discussed, in any great detail, their proposal. HUD staff are presently putting the final touches on the "numbers." At this writing, NCDA staff have not seen the revised 1998 figures on how many new entitlement communities and urban counties would be created if this proposal becomes law. We are certain that a minimum of 400 new communities would be added to the "entitlement" list. According to last summer's proposal, funding for these new entitlements would come from the 30 percent of the formula allocated to the State and Small Cities program. Assistant Secretary Cardell Cooper has been quoted as saying he is not in favor of this program. At HUD's budget briefing, however, Secretary Cuomo assured the group that he was counting on Cardell Cooper and Deputy Secretary Saul Ramirez to assist with this initiative.

Section 8. HUD's FY 2001 budget proposes to fund 120,000 new Section 8 vouchers. This is an increase of 60,000 housing vouchers from last year. The vouchers will be targeted, in the following manner: 32,000 Welfare-to-Work vouchers, 18,000 vouchers for the homeless, 10,000 housing production vouchers for use in conjunction with the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and FHA's multifamily insurance programs, and

60,000 “fair share” vouchers awarded to PHAs based on need. In addition, HUD’s budget would renew all existing vouchers set to expire in FY 2001, estimated at $13.010 billion this year. In addition, the budget allocates $50 million to a Voucher Success Fund to improve the operation of the Section 8 program in communities having difficulty using Section 8 vouchers.

Homelessness Programs. HUD’s homeless assistance programs would increase from $1.02 billion to $1.20 billion in FY 2001. However, $105 million of this amount will be used to fund the 18,000 Section 8 vouchers targeted to the homeless and an additional $12 million would be set-aside for technical assistance/management information systems. This leaves a balance of $1.083 for HUD’s homeless assistance programs in FY 2001. Beginning in FY 2002, the 18,000 vouchers will be funded from HUD’s Housing Certificate Fund. The budget includes authorizing language enacted as part of the FY 2000 HUD appropriations bill which requires 30 percent of the funds to be used for permanent housing for the homeless, a 25 percent match by grantees, and authorizing language that requires state and local jurisdictions to pass on at least 50 percent of administrative funds to non-profit organizations. HUD will incorporate all of these requirements into its FY 2000 “Continuum of Care” NOFA that is expected to be released in the new few weeks. In addition, HUD’s FY 2001 budget calls for the renewal of the Shelter Plus Care contracts through the Housing Certificate Fund instead of the homeless assistance line item.

Public Housing. HUD’s Public Housing Capital Fund is funded at $2.955 billion in FY 2001, an increase of $86 million. This includes $55 million for service coordinators that previously were funded as a set-aside within the CDBG program. HUD’s Public Housing Operating Fund is funded at $3.192 billion in FY 2001.

Special Populations Housing. HUD is requesting a total of $989 million for the Housing for Special Populations account, which provides funding for the Section 202 Housing for the Elderly Program and the Section 811 Housing for the Disabled Program. Of this amount, $210 will be allocated to the Section 811 program. The budget also includes language to allow at least 25 percent, and up to 50 percent, of these funds to be earmarked for tenant-based assistance for the disabled. A total of $779 million is provided to the Section 202 program. Of this amount, $50 million will be allocated by competition for a capital grant program to convert Section 202 projects to assisted living facilities. An additional $50 million will be used to provide service coordinators to the elderly.

HOPE VI. HUD’s proposed budget would provide $625 million for the HOPE VI program in FY 2001, a $50 million increase. The HOPE VI program redevelops severely distressed public housing projects. This figure includes $266 million for vouchers for families residing in these projects.

HOPWA. The budget provides $260 million for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program. Of this amount, 1 percent of the funds will be used for technical assistance and .05 percent will be used for management information systems support. HOPWA provides States and localities with resources and incentives to devise long-term comprehensive strategies for meeting the housing needs of persons with HIV/AIDS and their families.

Lead Hazard Control. HUD’s FY 2001 budget would increase the Lead Hazard Reduction Program from its current level of $80 million to $120 million. This additional funding, if approved by Congress, will enable more communities to address lead-based paint hazards. A portion of the funding will be used for HUD’s Lead Hazard Control Grant Program which provides grants of $1 to $4 million to State and local governments for control of lead-based paint hazards.

New Initiatives. Like its FY 2000 counterpart, HUD's FY 2001 budget is peppered with new initiatives and programs. For example, HUD proposes the creation of a Gun Buy-Back and Violence Reduction Initiative through its Public Housing Drug Elimination Grant Program (PHDEP). This initiative would allow PHAs to provide local police departments with funding from their Drug Elimination Grants to buy-back guns from the community. In addition, HUD proposes to use $30 million in PHDEP funding to create a Community Gun Safety and Violence Reduction Initiative to reduce drug use and other crime in and around public housing projects. The budget will also increase the FHA maximum mortgage loan limits, allowing single family insurance to cover loans up to the same level as the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac limits. Currently FHA can insure home mortgages only up to 87 percent of the GSE limits in high cost areas and only up to 48 percent in low-cost areas, including 2,200 rural counties. In addition, HUD's FY 2001 budget requires FHA to develop new adjustable rate mortgage products.

THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Economic Development Programs FY 2001 Budget Overview

In general, FY 2001 funding for the bevy of programs that make up HUD's so-called 'economic revitalization portfolio' largely consists of modest increases to existing programs, strategic reductions to certain programs, proposals for the creation of a couple of boutique 'New Market' programs, and the transfer of funds from existing programs to new ones.

Of the Department's existing economic development programs, **Urban Empowerment Zones** and the **Brownfields Redevelopment Initiative** see the biggest single year funding increases. If HUD is successful, the budget for EZs would rise by $95 million--from $55 million for this year to $150 million in FY 2001. According to the original authorizing legislation for the EZ program, the fifteen Round I and Round II empowerment zone communities were to receive $150 million in direct federal aid for 10 years. Thus far, however, Congress has not seen fit to fully fund the program. The proposed increase would bring the program to full funding. The Administration is also once again requesting that EZ funding be appropriated under Title XX, the mandatory side of the federal budget, thereby locking in full funding levels for the ten year life of the program. Lastly, President Clinton is proposing the creation of a third round of ten new Empowerment Zones. The Round III designation would remain in effect until the year 2009. Included in the legislative package for the new EZs will be substantial increases to and extensions of an array of tax credits currently being received by the Round I and II EZ communities, such as the wage tax credit and the small business expensing tax credit.

With respect to HUD brownfields funding, the Administration is asking Congress to double the funding available for the **Brownfields Redevelopment Initiative**. If the President manages to get his way, next year budget authority for the program would rise from $25 million to $50 million.

Interestingly enough, despite the fact that just about every other program in the HUD budget is slated to receive some kind of increase, the FY 2001 Departmental budget asks Congress to reduce its appro-priation for the **Section 108 Loan Guarantee** program debt limit by $44 million. In a related matter, the Department is petitioning Congress to Congress cut all **EDI/Special Purpose Grants** out of the FY 2001 budget. Last year, Congress appropriated $232 million in EDI/Special Purpose Grants, ballooning the total amount of CDBG set asides to well over $500 million. The proposed EDI/Special Purpose Grant phase out is part of a concerted effort by HUD to significantly reduce or at least cap the amount of set asides in CDBG.

The **Economic Development Initiative (EDI)/Community Empowerment Fund** program has a formal request of $100 million for FY 2001. This represents a $76 million increase from last year's appropriation. HUD expects the $100 million request to leverage an additional $500 million in Section 108 guaranteed loan funds. The CEF Trust becomes fully operational later this year, and the Department has high hopes that it will lay the foundation for a true secondary market in economic development loans.

It appears that a great deal of the money is to being taken out of the Section 108 Loan Guarantee program and the savings from projected EDI set aside reductions are being poured back into the CDBG formula grant and an array of other smaller boutique initiatives. For instance, in the FY 2000 budget cycle, President Clinton and Secretary Cuomo succeeded at getting congressional appropriators to provisionally approve $20 million for the America's Private Investment Companies or **APIC** program on the condition that, before any money can be spent, the program must be authorized by June 30, 2000. Apart from seeking its formal authorization, the Administration is requesting an additional $37 million for APIC in its FY 2001 budget. APIC would set-up HUD-licensed investment teams armed with millions of dollars in federal credit subsidies and charge professional with the duty of attracting private business investment to low- and moderate-income areas. Another new initiative, the **New Markets University Partnerships** program, is a $5 million grant to help business and law schools provide support for business development and expansion in lower income areas. The Department will also submit new authorizing legislation for the **Mississippi Delta Initiative**. The Mississippi Delta Initiative is a new $22 million HUD effort to help jump start the economy of this severely distressed region.

Additional funding increases are proposed for Youthbuild (from $43 million to $75 million in FY 2001), and the President has committed to seeking $24 million to continue the **National Community Development Initiative** in FY 2001. The Administration is also seeking $183 million dollars for 32,000 new **Welfare-to-Work** housing vouchers.

HOUSE PASSES MARRIAGE PENALTY TAX BILL

On a vote of 268 to 158, the United States House of Representatives passed a GOP-sponsored bill to eliminate the so-called marriage penalty affecting some 25 million couples who file joint tax returns on Friday, February 11, 2000. Forty-eight Democrats and one independent joined with 219 Republicans to send the measure over to the U.S. Senate. This issue is proving extremely popular with both the political parties and all of the presidential candidates. Regardless, serious disagreements remain on just what form marriage penalty tax relief should take.

The following chart provides an overview of the proposed FY 2001 funding levels for HUD's program areas.

HUD's FY 2001 Budget

Program	FY 2000 Level	FY 2001 Request
CDBG	$4.781 billion	$4.9 billion
Set-asides:		
Indian Community Block Grant	($67 million)	($69 million)
Capacity Building	($20 million)	($24 million)
Section 107 Grants	($42 million)	($69 million)
Tribal Colleges and Universities	(0)	($5 million)
Housing Assistance Council	($3 million)	($3 million)
National American Indian Housing Council	($2 million)	($2 million)
Special Olympics	($4 million)	(0)
Neighborhood Initiative Demo.	($30 million)	(0)
Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS)	($55 million)	(0)
Self-Help Homeownership	($20 million)	($18 million)
Habit for Humanity	($4 million)	($8 million)
Youthbuild	($43 million)	($75 million)
Mississippi Delta	(0)	($22 million)
Faith-Based Program	(0)	($20 million)
Community Empowerment Fund/EDI	($256 million)	($100 million)
Total Set-Asides	***$546 million***	***$415 million***
Total Formula Funding	***$4.236 million***	***$4.486 million***
HOME	**$1.6 billion**	**$1.65 billion**
Set-Asides:		
Housing Counseling	($15 million)	($24 million)
Information Systems	($7 million)	($5 million)
Total Formula Funding	*$1.578 million*	***$1.621 million***
Community Development Loan Guarantees	$30 million	$30 million
Homeless Assistance Grants	$1.02 billion	**$1.20 billion**
Set-Asides:		
Homeless Vouchers (18,000)	(0)	($105 million)
Technical Assistance	(0)	($12 million)
Total Homeless Assistance Grants	***$1.020 billion***	***$1.083 billion***
HOPWA	$232 million	$260 million
Housing Certificate Fund	$11.377 billion	$14.268 billion

Public Housing Capital Fund	$2.869 billion	$2.955 billion
Public Housing Operating Fund	$3.138 billion	$3.192 billion
Section 202 (elderly housing)	$710 million	$779 million
Section 811 (disabled housing)	$201 million	$210 million
Lead-Based Paint	$80 million	$120 million
Drug Elimination Grants	$310 million	$345 million
America's Private Investment Companies	$20 million	$37 million
Brownfields	$25 million	$50 million
Fair Housing	$44 million	$50 million
HOPE VI	$575 million	$625 million
Rural Housing and Economic Development	$25 million	$27 million

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE MARKS-UP HR 1776

As anticipated, the House Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity met on February 15 to mark-up H.R. 1776 – The American Homeownership and Economic Opportunity Act of 1999. The bill now moves to the full committee. The Senate does not yet have a companion bill in place, but even if the Senate does not introduce a similar measure, all or some portions of H.R. 1776 could be tacked onto other legislation making its way through Congress this year.

Introduced by Rep. Rick Lazio (R-NY), H.R 1776 encourages local governments to reduce barriers to affordable housing and homeownership and provides local governments with additional flexibility to develop homeownership programs for low-income citizens.

H.R. 1776 would authorize the CDBG program at $4.75 billion through 2004 and the HOME program at $1.6 billion through 2004. It prohibits set-asides within the CDBG program. Subcommittee staff admit that this may be difficult to do, given the appropriators' desire to fund set-asides within the program. Section 403 and Section 505 of the bill would provide a special provision for homeownership for municipal employees. These sections would allow local governments to use their CDBG and HOME funds to provide down payment assistance to certain municipal employees (police, sanitation workers, firemen, and teachers) whose incomes are at or below 150% of area median income. The amendment is designed to assist these municipal workers living in high cost areas. The bill makes environmental cleanup and economic development activities related to Brownfields a permanent eligible activity under CDBG by permanently amending the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.

The bill makes several changes to the HOME program. First, it amends the HOME statute to make mutual housing associations and limited equity cooperatives eligible for HOME assistance. It also adds a provision to the HOME statute to allow HOME funds to be used as leverage in connection with the creation of greater "loan pools" (ten times the amount of HOME funds invested in such a pool) without imposing the HOME income restrictions on the entire pool. It also creates a HOME Loan Guarantee program (similar to the CDBG Section 108 Loan Guarantee program) by allowing participating jurisdictions to pledge up to five times their HOME allocation.

The bill also includes a provision that requires HUD to transfer ownership of substandard multifamily, unoccupied multifamily, or unoccupied single-family properties that have been held by HUD for at least six months to a unit of local government, or to a community development corporation.

The bill authorizes $15 million for grants to States and local governments for regulatory barrier removal strategies developed in conjunction with the grantee's consolidated plan. In addition, the bill creates a Regulatory Barriers Clearinghouse within HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research to collect and disseminate information on, among other things, the prevalence of regulatory barriers and their effects on availability of affordable housing, and successful barrier removal strategies.

The bill includes a multitude of other provisions. The bill authorizes $25 million for Homeownership Zones. It also allows seniors to maximize the equity in their homes by streamlining the process of refinancing an existing Federal-insured reverse mortgage. The bill would allow PHAs to provide down payment assistance in the form of a one-time grant to public housing tenants. The bill requires all federal regulations to include a housing impact analysis which certifies that a proposed regulations would not have a serious impact upon housing affordability. Rules with negative impacts, would have to be re-worked. The bill includes language to create a pilot program to allowed disabled individuals to use Section 8 vouchers to purchase a home. The bill also includes a provision to assist law enforcement officers to purchase homes in high crime areas.

As proposed in HUD's FY 2001 budget, H.R. 1776 includes language to create a hybrid FHA ARM to allow FHA to insure ARMs that carry fixed interest rates for the first 3 to 10 years of their term.

During the mark-up, the Subcommittee agreed to delete Title VII of the bill which dealt solely with manufactured housing. Subcommittee staff is currently in negotiations with HUD staff and industry officials on this section. It may be added at a later date.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TAX AGENDA GAINING MOMENTUM

Notwithstanding the partisanship and general lack of productivity that normally accompanies election year sessions of Congress, one new initiative that Capitol Hill observers believe is likely to pass this year is legislation aimed at spurring economic activity in the nation's depressed or financially under-served communities. In November of 1999, at a face to face to meeting in Chicago, President Clinton and House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (R-IL) pledged to work to together see that tax legislation to encourage private sector investment in the nation's financially distressed areas gets enacted before the end of the 106th Congress. Last month, Speaker Hastert further commented that, pushing through a community development tax package is one of his top three legislative priorities for the year.

Dubbed the America Community Renewal Act, and expected to be officially introduced as H.R. 3, the community development tax package being promoted by House Republicans couples together federal tax and regulatory relief to draw businesses and jobs to low-to-moderate income communities. The America Community Renewal Act also includes a number of specific provisions to help existing small businesses in poor neighborhoods grow and expand. Early reports indicate that this bill will also allow for the creation of so-called 'Family Development Accounts' for the working poor. Family Development Accounts would provide a federal match for savings accounts dedicated to starting businesses, buying homes, attending college, and paying emergency medical bills. Speaker Hastert has set April as a target deadline for bringing either the Republicans community development tax plan or some form of blended compromise up for a vote on the House floor.

As it stands right now, the America Community Renewal Act has 117 co-sponsors in the House, with roughly two dozen Democrats and key members of the Congressional Black Caucus strongly endorsing the bill. Spencer Abraham (R-MI) and Rick Santorum (R-PA) are the chief proponents of a piece of companion legislation, S. 463, in the Senate.

The Clinton Administration is, of course, pushing its own set of community development tax schemes: the New Markets Tax Credit and APIC. (For more detailed information on the New Markets Tax Credit, please see the July 16, 1999 archived edition of *The Washington Report*; APIC is discussed in greater detail elsewhere in this issue and in the October and November 1999 archived issues of *The Washington Report*.) The President's FY 2001 budget doubles his FY 2000 appropriations request for the New Markets Tax Credit from $2.1 billion to $5 billion; calls on Congress to create ten additional Empowerment Zones and fully fund the 15 existing ones; adds $37 million to the already $20 million appropriated for APIC in last year's budget; and sets aside $30 million dollars for a "First Accounts" pilot program for low-income families which mirrors the Republicans' "Family Development Accounts" proposal.

Regardless of what the final legislation looks like, that the two major parties are actually competing to provide assistance to the nation's low-to-moderate income families and communities cannot be seen as anything else but a boon for low-income community development interests. Indeed, all this talk of passing community development tax legislation sooner rather than later is bolstering hopes that the much needed increase in the Low Income Housing Tax Credit is just right around the corner. But of course none of this can come to fruition unless national advocates, local government officials, and just plain folks back home keep pressure on Congress to act.

HUD NEWS

New HOME Publication Available. HUD's Office of Affordable Housing has released the second addition of *Financing Rental Housing Under the HOME Program*. This publication showcases how HOME funds can be used effectively to develop affordable rental housing. Call Community Connections at 1-800-998-9999.

HUD Sponsors Regional Homeless Conferences. HUD is sponsoring five regional conferences on developing housing for the homeless. The two day conferences will bring together HUD officials, grantees, and non-profits to examine ways to involve the community, service providers, and housing developers to create supportive housing for homeless persons. To register for a conference, call Community Connections at 1-800-998-9999.

Registration is free. The conferences are scheduled for:

Atlanta	February 17-18
Dallas	February 29-March 1
San Francisco	March 6-7
Philadelphia	March 27-28
Chicago	April 11-12

Lead-Based Paint Update. HUD has still not finalized the final dates for the second round of Lead-Based Paint Training that is scheduled to begin this spring. Check NCDA's web site at www.ncdaonline.org for a list of the cities and the month the training sessions will be held. As soon as HUD has finalized the hotel information and the exact dates for the training, NCDA will post this information to its web site. To check your existing registration status for the current training sessions, go to HUD's Lead-Based Paint web site at www.hud.gov/lea/leahome.html. If you need further information regarding the registration process, contact ICF Consulting at 703-934-3392.

NCDA will meet with HUD officials on March 7 to discuss NCDA's member concerns and questions regarding the Lead-Based Paint final rule. If you have a particular question or concern, please contact Vicki Watson at vicki@ncdaonline.org or at 202-887-5532. NCDA will provide a follow-up memo to members on this meeting.

CPD/FHEO MEMORANDUM ON ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE

On February 14, a joint memorandum was released by CPD Assistant Secretary Cardell Cooper and FHEO Assistant Secretary Eva Plaza to all Field Offices that provides guidance to field offices regarding the requirement that state and local entitlement jurisdictions receiving funding through the Consolidated Plan prepare an Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice. The following is the that memorandum....

> *The Consolidated Plan regulation (24 CFR 91) requires each state and local government to submit a certification that it is affirmatively furthering fair housing. This means that it will conduct (1) an analysis of impediments to fair housing choice, (2) take appropriate actions to overcome the effects of impediments identified through that analysis, and (3) maintain records reflecting the analysis and actions.*
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> *In response to requests from state and local governments, the Department [HUD] developed a Fair Housing Planning Guide and training program to assist in fair housing planning and in fulfilling the fair housing requirements of the Consolidated Plan and Community Development Block Grant regulations. The Guide provides information on how to conduct an AI, undertake activities to overcome identified impediments, and maintain documentary records. The Guide should be used by state and local governments to conduct or update their AIs.*
>
> *The Guide defines the AI as a comprehensive review of a state's or entitlement jurisdiction's laws regulations, and administrative policies, procedures, and practices. The AI involves an assessment of how these laws, regulations, policies and procedures affect the location,*

availability, and accessability of housing and how conditions, both private and public, affect housing choice

A jurisdiction must include a summary of the impediments identified in the AI plus a description of actions taken to overcome the effects of impediments identified through the analysis in their ***Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report.*** *Although AIs are not submitted or approved by HUD, each jurisdiction should maintain its AI and update the AI annually where necessary, and include actions the jurisdiction plans to take to overcome the effects of impediments to fair housing choice during the coming year in the Annual Plans that are submitted as part of the Consolidated Plan submission*

HUD can require the submission of an AI in the event of a complaint or as part of routine monitoring. If after reviewing all documents and data, HUD concludes that (1) the jurisdiction does not have an AI, (2) an AI was substantially incomplete, (3) no actions were taken, (4) the actions taken were plainly inappropriate to address identified impediments, or (5) the jurisdiction has no records, the Department would provide notice top the jurisdiction that it believes the certification to be inaccurate or, in the case of certification is not satisfactory to the Secretary. In connection with this review, HUD will consider whether a program participant has made appropriate revisions to update the AI.

HUD will work with the jurisdiction to determine actions necessary to address issues raised concerning compliance with the certification. These actions may take the form of a special assurance which describes actions to overcome the effects of identified impediments and which includes a timetable for accomplishing these actions. If you have any questions regarding this guidance, please contact Nadab Bynum at (202) 708-2565 in CPD or Pam Walsh at (202) 708-2288 at FHEO.

NCDA NOTES

National Community Development Week is April 24-30, 2000

"People Strengthening Communities Strengthening People."

This year **National Community Development Week is April 24-30, 2000.** This is the week directly following Easter and Passover celebrations. Being that this is an election year, members will spend more time in their home districts. Please let them know of your community development programs. Invite them to your awards presentations. This year's theme is "People Strengthening Communities Strengthening People." The following is the 2000 Congressional Calendar to assist you in preparing your own calendars for the year.

The House of Representatives		**The United States Senate**	
February 18 - 25	District Work Period	February 12-21	Not In Session
April 17 - 28	District Work Period	March 11- 19	Not in Session
May 29 - June 2	District Work Period	April 15 -24	Not in Session
July 3 - 7	District Work Period	May 27 - June 4	Not in Session
July 31 - Sept. 5	District Work Period	July 1 - 9	Not in Session
Sept. 29	Rosh Hashanah	July 29 - Sept. 4	Not in Session
October 6	Target Adjournment	Sept. 29 - Oct 1	Not in Session
		October 6	Adjournment

The 2000 National Community Development Poster art and products order form is on the front page of the NCDA's web site. We have selected a new vendor who is ready and willing to process your orders. We hope you will get your orders in as soon as you can. **Even though we have more time to plan our National Community Development activities this year, being that this is an election year, Congressional schedules get filled fast. It's time to get moving!!!!**

NCDA, NAHRO, AND NACCED TO CO-SPONSOR DRAWDOWN WORKSHOPS

Between April and August, 2000, NCDA, NAHRO and NACCED will co-sponsor four regional workshops with HUD to provide technical assistance to grantees on the issue of timely expenditures. The first workshop, which is targeted to regions one, two, three and four will be held in Washington, DC on April 3-4, 2000. A letter from Assistant Secretary Cardell Cooper inviting grantees will go out shortly. Included in that package will be an acknowledgment of NCDA's co-sponsorship and the agenda. NCDA will be contacting members to assist with this training. There is no conference registration fee and it is assumed that if grantees act as trainers, their travel costs will be reimbursed by HUD. The following schedule has been set.

April 3-4,	**Washington, DC**	**Regions 1-4**
May 1-2, 8-9, or 15-17	**Chicago, IL**	**Regions 5-8**
June 15-16, 22-23, 29-30	**Washington, DC**	**Very Large Entitlement Communities**
August 28-29	**San Francisco, CA**	**Regions 9-10**

HOME TRAINING AVAILABLE

NCDA, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, will sponsor a HOME workshop at the NCDA Region V conference on March 27-28 in Rockford, IL. *HOME Again: A Refresher Course for PJs* will provide an overview of the HOME Investment Partnerships Program to both new HOME administrators and experienced administrators who may need a "refresher" of the regulations. The workshop is free; however, attendance is limited to 70 people. Please contact Vicki Watson by phone at 202-887-5532, or by e-mail at vicki@ncdaonline.org if you or your staff would like to attend the workshop. Please see the attached flyer for more information on the workshop.

NCDA REGIONS IV AND V TO HOLD ANNUAL CONFERENCES IN MARCH

NCDA Region IV will hold its Annual Conference and Training Symposium on March 11-14, 2000 in Jacksonville, FL , at the Radisson Hotel 1515 Prudential Drive, 904-396-5100. Please see the attached agenda and registration form. For more information, please contact Chester Wheeler, III, Director, Economic and Community Development, 439 Cotton Avenue, Macon, GA, at 912-751-7190.

NCDA's Region V will hold a conference on March 25-28 in Rockford, Illinois. NCDA encourages all of its Region V members, as well as other bordering regions, to attend the conference. This is an attempt by Region V to activate its region and NCDA strongly supports this effort. The conference promises to provide a variety of sessions and activities for members. Please refer to the enclosed Region V conference registration and agenda for further information on the conference.

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICES

February 16, 2000. Notice of Funding Availability for the HUD Rural Housing and Economic Development Program. This notice announces approximately $24.75 million in FY 2000 funding for the Rural Housing and Economic Development Program. The purpose of the program is to build capacity at the State and local level for rural housing and economic development and to support innovative housing and economic development activities in rural areas. Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, community development corporations, Indian tribes, State housing finance agencies, and State community development agencies. The application deadline is April 7.

February 10, 2000. Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Programs; Notice of Availability of Funds. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the availability of fiscal year (FY) 2000 funds for a cooperative agreement program for new State and competing continuation State and local programs to develop and improve Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention activities which include building Statewide capacity to conduct surveillance of blood lead levels in children. This program addresses the "Healthy People 2000" priority area of Environmental Health. The purpose of this program is to provide the impetus for the development, implementation, expansion, and evaluation of State and local childhood lead poisoning prevention program activities which include Statewide surveillance capacity to determine areas at high risk for lead exposure.

February 4, 2000. Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project Competitive Grants. The U.S. Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) announces a $8.25 million grant competition for the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project. The Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project assist homeless veterans by providing employment, training, supportive and transitional housing assistance.

January 31, 2000. Announcement of Funding Awards for the Youthbuild Program, Fiscal Year 1999. This announcement notifies the public of funding decisions made by the Department in a competition for funding under the Super Notice of Funding Availability (Super NOFA) for the Youthbuild Program. The Youthbuild Program is designed to provide disadvantaged young adults with education, employment, and leadership skills. This announcement contains the names of the awardees and the amounts of the awards made available by HUD.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ATTACHMENTS
Check NCDAonline (http://www.ncdaonline.org) for the attachments below.

- NCDA 2000 National Community Development Week Promotional Items Flyer
- Housing Committee Minutes
- Membership Committee/State Whips Committee Minutes
- Region IV and Region V Annual Conference Agendas