NCDA
WASHINGTON REPORT

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**DATE:** March 3, 2000

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

*FEATURE ARTICLES*



## HOUSE AND SENATE DISAGREE ON BUDGET GOALS

Congressional leaders announced earlier in the year that the House and Senate would pass their respective budget resolutions early this year, preferably by the end of March. Now that the two sides are in disagreement over fiscal year 2001 discretionary spending, quick passage of these budget resolutions is slowly fading away. To worsen matters, both sides recessed in February and the Senate plans to take another recess March 10-20. This will shorten the time for reaching agreement on a budget plan. To date, the House and Senate are approximately $14 billion dollars apart on discretionary spending. The House wants to spend approximately $600 billion and the Senate wants to spend approximately $586 billion, the same as the FY 2000 level. GOP leaders would like both chambers to adopt the same budget resolution, eliminating the need for a conference. It now seems likely that substantially different resolutions will emerge from each of the two panels.

Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM), Chair of the Senate Budget Committee, plans to mark-up a budget resolution next week. Senator Domenici would like to see discretionary spending increase by the rate of inflation. Several GOP members of the Senate Budget Committee have voiced their opposition to increased spending for discretionary programs, including Sen. Phil Gramm (R-TX), Rod Grams (R-MN), Judd Gregg (R-NH) and Don Nickles (R-OK). Sen. Gramm wants to set a lower budget level for discretionary spending and then possibly negotiate upwards if necessary. Gramm feels that since spending is likely to end up higher than the level Congress sets in the budget resolution, the process should begin with a conservative figure. The House Budget Committee will likely try to mark-up a budget resolution next week too. Rep. John Kasich (R-OH), Chair of the House Budget Committee, is advocating a spending freeze on discretionary programs. Rep. C.W. "Bill" Young (R-FL), Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, is advocating for increased spending levels for discretionary programs in order to produce appropriations bills that Clinton will sign.

**NCDA MEETS WITH SENATOR ALLARD'S STAFF**

NCDA, along with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, the Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies, and the Council of State Community Development Agencies, met with the staff of Senator Allard (R-CO), Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Housing and Transportation, on February 29 to discuss housing and community development priorities in FY 2001. Senate staff asked to meet with the groups to outline and receive feedback on a housing and community development authorization bill that Allard plans to introduce by the end of March. Senator Allard's broad authorization bill will include several titles, including one to consolidate HUD's McKinney Homelessness programs. We are happy to report that Senator Allard used the set of McKinney consolidation principles developed by NCDA and the other national interest groups as the basis of the language in the authorization bill. These principles include: (1) consolidation of all of HUD's homeless assistance programs into a formula allocated block grant; (2) a 10% administrative fee for state and local governments; (3) no more than a 25% match requirement, with flexible match sources; (4) a "hold harmless clause" for those communities that have received funding through HUD's Continuum of Care application process; (4) placement of the Shelter Plus Care renewals into HUD's Section 8 line item; and (5) development of an appropriate formula for the block grant. Allard's staff has asked NCDA and the other national interest groups to draft detailed language for the "hold harmless clause" and the Shelter Plus Care renewal provisions of the bill.

In addition to McKinney consolidation, Allard's bill will include a provision to prohibit set-asides within the CDBG program. H.R. 1776, a bill that is proceeding through the House, also includes the same provision. NCDA brought to the attention of the staff it's disappointment with a provision within H.R. 1776 that would allow jurisdictions to use CDBG and HOME funds to provide homeownership opportunities to municipal employees whose income levels are at or below 150% of area median income. NCDA also asked the Senate staff include language for the creation of a HOME Loan Guarantee Program and include language to allow local governments to purchase HUD foreclosed properties. The interest groups wanted to be sure that local governments would have discretion over which properties they could purchase and not be required to purchase "bundles of properties" as is required by some other programs.

A major portion of Allard's bill will focus on devolving control over federally assisted housing programs down to the state and local government level. The bill proposes to strip from HUD the responsibility of administering federally assisted housing programs and allow state and local governments who want to administer these programs on behalf of HUD the opportunity to do so. State and local governments who choose to administer the programs themselves would enter into a performance contract with HUD. This portion of the bill is still being drafted. NCDA and the interest groups will meet with Allard's staff again on March 20 to continue discussions on the bill.

**MAYORS AND WASHINGTON REPS STRATEGIZE ON 2001 APPROPRIATIONS**

On Wednesday, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the City Representatives met to discuss specific housing and community development issues that will affect FY 2001 appropriations and authorizations. The issues that are of most concern are language in HR 1776, Representative Lazio's Homeownership Bill, and the McKinney Homeless Programs consolidation efforts and the proposed APICs program that could get companion legislation in the Senate this year.

The most pressing issue with HR 1776 is an amendment that would increase the low-mod threshold of the CDBG and HOME programs from 80 percent of the median to 150 percent of the median for uniform municipal employees and teachers, specifically for housing activities. This amendment has gotten broad support from many high cost communities across the country, particularly those that have a large union base. This issue is troublesome in that pushing the low-mod threshold for these two programs would take away the substantially dilute the focus on the populations they were designed to serve. Furthermore, many believe that supporting this amendment would open the door to other "targeted groups" getting special consideration using these two funding sources. In general, community development and housing advocates do not support raising the low-mod threshold for any purpose or targeted class of employees.

The other major issue that concerns the mayors and the city reps is block granting the McKinney Homeless programs. Many communities feel that the using the current formula (the CDBG formula) is a bad idea when proposing a block grant for these programs They feel that the CDBG formula does not take into consideration homeless populations. Also, many non-profit service providers believe that they would do better in receiving funding within the current competitive structure than through a block grant scenario. NCDA met with members of Senator Allard's staff to discuss this issue which resulted in NCDA working with them to come up with language relating to consolidation of homeless programs for

Senator's housing reauthorization bill. Many advocates believe that in order to get a homeless block grant passed this year, we must stick with the current formula and then work out the problems later in the next Congress. With the Congressional year being so short due to the elections, to try to come up with a new formula would surely doom the transition to a block grant. It would be even more difficult to start completely over with a new Congress next year. It is hoped that the competing interests can come to a meeting of the minds on this and work out the problems before the window of opportunity is lost.

With respect to APICs participants at the meeting agreed to work out a strategy to drum up support among their members to get the program authorized before the June deadline established by Congress in the FY 2000 Appropriations bill. More information about APICsis available in archived 1999 issues of the Washington Report.

## SENATE GRILLS HUD ABOUT COMMUNITY BUILDERS

The Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Sub-Committee on Housing & Transportation held an oversight hearing on HUD's Community Builders Program on Tuesday, February 24, 2000. The stated purpose of the hearing was to assess HUD's progress in complying with a Congressional directive in the FY 2000 Appropriations Act for HUD to eliminate the Community Builders Fellows (CB) program. By the time the two hour hearing was over, however, even the most untutored observer would have realized that another one of the Committee's main objective was to challenge the Department's stated rationale for and operation of the six year old program.

Reacting to Vice-President Gore's "Blair House Papers" on the need to reinvent government through innovative public-private partnerships, in 1993 then HUD Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development Andrew Cuomo organized the Community Builders Fellows program to be the new face of HUD in the community. Community Builders Fellows are mid-career professionals with significant experience in such areas as law, accounting, real estate development, banking, law enforcement, architecture, education, etc., who serve two-to-four year terms at HUD in the capacity of liaisons and project facilitators between the community and the Department. In the words of Secretary Cuomo, the Community Builders Fellows would be "HUD's front door." As of December 1999, official estimates indicate that 800 Community Builders Fellows are stationed in the departments 81 field offices nationwide. This constitutes ten per cent of HUD's entire workforce. Rates of pay for Community Builders Fellows range anywhere from $52, 000 to $95,000 per year plus locality pay. Most if not all community Builders Fellows are directly supervised by Senior Community Builders, permanent HUD employees.

Throughout the course of the hearing, Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO), Chairman of the Housing & Transportation Sub-Committee, peppered HUD Deputy Secretary Saul Ramirez with questions about whether the Community Builders Fellows program constituted a mis-allocation of the Department's personnel resources to the detriment of the agency's career employees and ability to perform its mission, as well as about whether HUD's present effort to convert current Community Builders Fellows positions into permanent civil service posts constitutes an attempt to circumvent Congress's order to terminate the program. Along with Deputy Secretary Ramirez, the Sub-Committee received testimony from two severe critics of the Community Builders Fellows initiative: Michael Beard, district inspector for audit, Southwest District, Office of the Inspector General, HUD; and Irene Irene Facha, president, Local 2032, American Federation of Government Employees.

Mr. Beard testified that his office's investigation of the Community Builders program led him to conclude that many of the Community Builders fellows were improperly hired, which is to say, not in accordance with the statutory Schedule A and veterans preference guidelines that govern the regular federal hiring process; and that most Community Builders add little real value to the Department's ability to perform its mission since so since much of their duties are not in the area of program implementation but public relations and often stray, illegally, into the realm of political advocacy; and under the auspices of the Community Builders Fellows program HUD has diverted its limited salary, training, and travel dollars from core programs and career HUD professionals to an "elite" cadre of specialists who possess little knowledge of the Department's basic programs and procedures.

Speaking on behalf of career HUD civil servants, Irene Facha added that many of her union members have complained to her that Community Builders fellows receive preferential treatment from the Department with respect to their access to limited needed sources. The end result is the existence of an atmosphere of acrimony between the CB fellows and career HUD officials, not to mention depressed morale in the Department's civil service ranks. Ms. Facha concluded her testimony by pointing out that, while many individual Community Builders have made significant positive contributions to the Department, still, the fact remains that had career HUD staff received the same kinds of investment in terms of training and over all support from the HUD's top brass they would have had an even greater impact.

In response to these and other charges of mis-conduct and conflicts of interest between some of the CB fellows and the work for the Department, Deputy Secretary Ramirez referred Chairman Allard and the other members of the Sub-Committee to a review of the Community Builders program conducted by Ernst & Young, LLP which concluded that Community Builders are part of a successful reform effort at HUD that has resulted in improved customer service and reductions in bureaucratic delays. From the Department's point of view, argued the Deputy Secretary, the rationale behind the Community Builders initiative was to free up career staffers to focus on compliance and monitoring, while Community Builders handle all of HUD's public liaison and service coordination needs. And this strategy was bearing fruit out in the field. With respect to the concerns about an irregular hiring process, HUD claims it followed the advice and counsel from the Office of Personnel Management in working out its procedures for hiring the fellows, and that in the future all CB positions will be filled through a hiring process that is in strict accord with the federal government's Schedule A and other statutory guidelines.

Michael Beard countered that, the Ernst & Young study, which cost HUD $147, 000, was not a full audit but a "survey" and was hardly independent since it was HUD that dictated to Ernst & Young what kind of information it could include in its report. Moreover, there is a severe over-concentration of CB fellows in the Department's highest GS grade ranks and this is putting a strain on the Department's limited personnel budget. For instance, 40% of CB fellows are in the highest pay grade compared to 6% of career HUD employees. And despite the fact that HUD was ordered to reduce its number of GS-14 and GS-15 employees under a previous reform effort, the CB fellows initiative has led to a 64% increase in the number of GS-14s and GS-15s on the Department's payroll. "We all need to remember," declared Mr. Beard, "that Community Builders is not a program. It was never authorized the Congress. It is a position. And any money spent on these positions takes money away from HUD's programs and existing personnel funds."

The hearing had one "star"witness, as it were, Senator Christopher Bond (R-MO), the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee Sub Committee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies. Senator Bond testified on the specific question of Congress's order to HUD in the FY 2000 Appropriations bill to eliminate Community Builders. According to Chairman Bond, it was never the Committees intention that HUD simply allow the CB fellows to burrow themselves into career posts at HUD by merely converting their positions into civil service posts, and neither does the bill's language allow for this interpretation. Rather, the Committee and Ad ministration negotiators agreed that the Community Builders Fellows program would be scrapped in its entirety by the end of this fiscal year and the dollars reprogrammed back into positions and resources or HUD's basic operations. Ultimately, the hearing closed on a rather ominous note for HUD with Chairman Allard pointedly challenging the Deputy Secretary about whether CB fellows were illegally involved in drumming up opposition to the Republicans initial FY 2000 Budget proposal last year. This question from Senator Allard all but confirmed rumors of a wide spread belief among congressional Republicans that the Community Builders are thinly veiled political operatives for the Clinton-Gore Administration.

Just what additional action Chairman Allard and the other Republican Senators opposed to the Community Builders are prepared to take to bring a definite end to the Fellows initiative remains undetermined, but as always NCDA will strive to do its best to keep you informed of these ad other interesting developments at HUD.

## HUD NEWS

### DGMS PART OF GOVERNMENT WIDE GRANT MANAGEMENT REFORM EFFORT

On the morning of February 28, at national headquarters, HUD held a an update briefing for national interest groups on the progress of its plan to roll out and fully implement the new internet based Departmental Grants Management System by June 30, 2001. In addition to Deputy Secretary Saul Ramirez, the other briefing panelists included Terry Nicolosi, DGMS Project Director; Gloria Parker, HUD's Chief Information Officer; Deborah Vincent, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy; Barbara Dorf, Grants Information Specialist; OMB Representative Jim Charney; and representatives from two DGMS pilot communities, John Greiner of the State of Maryland Housing Department and Ellen Melendez, CPD's Texas Field Office pilot participant.

Apart from the fact that HUD has decided to expand its pilot program beyond CPD to also include Public and Indian Housing grantees in its designated pilot communities, there really was no substantial new information about how DGMS is progressing presented at the briefing.
(A previous article describing the basic design and scope of DGMS is archived in the November 30, 1999 issue of the *Washington Report*.) Along with the states of Texas and Maryland, the other DGMS pilot grantees are the City of Seattle and two counties, Anne Arundel County, MD and Jacksonville-Duval County, FL. Both the Maryland and Texas representatives indicated that, based on what they have seen thus, far DGMS promises to be far easier to use than the HUD's current electronic grants management system, IDIS. However, it deserves to be pointed out that HUD has just barely made fully operational the first DGMS module, the part of the system dedicated to taking in grant applications over the internet. Serious doubts remain about whether the Department will have the completed system ready to roll out to the grantees by its own very ambitious June 30 deadline. A copy of HUD's complete proposed DGMS time-line is attached to this issue of the *Washington Report* for your consideration.

Jimmy Charney, OMB's representative at the briefing, explained to those is in attendance that HUD's DGMS transition is but one small part of a federate government wide effort to modernize, better coordinate, and consolidate all the executive branch agency grants management operations.

Last year Congress passed and the President signed the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act, or Public Law 106-107. Among other things, the new law instructs OMB to review all federal grant programs in every department and agency in order to simplify the grant application and reporting requirements, improve the delivery of services to the public, and facilitate greater coordination among those responsible for delivering federal assistance. In accordance with the new law, OMB has designated federal grants management reform as a "priority management objective" (PMO) in the President's FY 2001 budget request.

This new PMO calls on OMB and federal agencies to make it easier for the states, local governments, Native American tribes, and not-for-profits to apply for federal grants. Establishing new electronic grants management systems like DGMS for al the federal departments is going to be a major component of this effort. Specifically, OMB is promising to create a common grant application and reporting system for grant programs that relate to similar functions or types of assistance regardless of agency, as well as consolidating payment systems, and identifying and eliminating those statutory impediments to grants management simplification. Perhaps the most striking thing, however, is that Public Law 106-107 requires all federal agencies to offer electronic filing and management options similar to what is proposed in DGMS by 2003. The ultimate objective of all this is to present a single portal for federal grant programs, however, all agencies will continue to administer their own grants. Clearly, big, big changes are coming to the world of federal grants administration.

## HUD RELEASES FY 2000 SUPERNOFA

HUD released its ***Super Notice of Funding Availability (SuperNOFA) for Housing, Community Development and Empowerment Programs and Section 8 Housing Voucher Assistance for FY 2000*** on February 24, 2000 in the Federal Register. This massive SuperNOFA announces the availability of $2.42 billion in HUD program funds covering 39 competitive grant categories. Please refer to the attached chart for the various application due dates for each program. HUD's SuperNOFA Information Center can provide you with information on the SuperNOFA process, including application kits, answers on the NOFA, and a guidebook titled "Connecting with Communities: A User's Guide to the HUD Programs in the 2000 SuperNOFA Process." You can contact the SuperNOFA Information Center at 1-800-HUD-8929. The Center can also provide you with guidance in determining which HUD Field Offices should receive a copy of your application. HUD will hold information broadcasts via satellite for potential applicants to learn more about the programs in this SuperNOFA and preparation of the applications. For more information about the date and time of the broadcast, you should consult the HUD web site at http://www.hud.gov or contact your local HUD Office.

The FY 2000 SuperNOFA adds three new funding availability announcements for the Section 8 program. The Comprehensive Improvement Assistance Program (CIAP) and the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program are no longer included in the NOFA process because they are now formula allocated programs.

The SuperNOFA is divided into two major sections. The General Section of the SuperNOFA describes the procedures and requirements applicable to all applications. The Programs Section of the NOFA describes each program that is a part of this SuperNOFA. For each program, the Programs Section describes the eligible applicants, eligible activities, factors for award, and any additional requirements or limitations that apply to the program. The appendix to the General Section of the SuperNOFA contains the standard forms, certifications and assurances used by the majority if not all of the programs that are part of the SuperNOFA. The standard forms are available at http://www.hud.gov/nofa00/stdforms.html

The attached chart lists the programs available through the NOFA, the amount of funding available through each program, the application due date and where the application must be submitted. Of note to NCDA's members, the NOFA announces funding for HOME Technical Assistance, McKinney Act Homeless Technical Assistance, Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance, Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Technical Assistance, HOPE VI Revitalization Grants, HOPE VI Demolition Grants, Economic Development Initiative (EDI), Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI), Youthbuild, Rural Housing and Economic Development Program, Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly, and Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities.

The SuperNOFA provides for the award of up to two bonus points for eligible activities/projects located in federally designated Empowerment Zones (Ezs), Enterprise Communities (EC), Urban Enhanced Enterprise Communities (EECs), or Strategic Planning Communities. In the BEDI competition, two bonus points are available for federally designated Brownfields Show Case Communities.

## HUD ANNOUNCES "GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY" PROGRAM

HUD announced on March 1st the availability of a new program to assist local governments in purchasing HUD homes. The Good Neighbor Policy initiative would allow local governments to purchase HUD-owned homes for $1 each. Under the program, foreclosed FHA single-family properties that HUD has not been able to sell after six months would be made available for sale to local governments for $1 each. Homes in extremely deteriorated condition, where rehabilitation is not feasible, will be demolished by HUD and the vacant lots will be offered for sale to the local government for $1. H.R. 1776 – the American Homeownership and Economic Opportunity Act of 1999 - a bill introduced by Rep. Rick Lazio (R-NY), includes similar language.

A second program, the Direct Sales Program, which is currently in place, offers homes for sale in revitalization areas that are in need of repairs for sale at 30 percent discount of the appraised value of the home. The homes are sold to local governments and nonprofit organizations as soon as they become available to FHA.

## LEAD-BASED PAINT UPDATE

HUD provided NCDA with the Round II Training sites this morning. A copy of the list of the training sites and locations is attached to this newsletter. In addition, HUD has provided a list of frequently asked questions about the Lead-Based Paint Training. This list is also enclosed. Both items are also posted to NCDA's website at http://www.ncdaonline.org

NCDA's meeting with HUD on the Lead-Based Paint Final Rule is now scheduled for March 9. We have received over 40 questions/comments from members on the rule. We appreciate the feedback. A follow-up memo will be provided to members after the meeting. From the comments received so far, the primary concern of members is the lack of additional funds available to implement the activities required by the rule (i.e., testing, interim controls, abatement, clearance, training). Along these same lines, members are concerned that their rehab programs will be severely cut back or eliminated because of the costs associated with the implementation of the rule. In addition, members are unclear about which programs and activities are covered by the rule and which existing HUD programs can be used to pay for costs associated with this rule. Members are also concerned with the lack of available trained personnel to carry out activities under the rule and are concerned about the liability issues for local governments if they train their staff to carry out the activities. Members are also concerned about the relocation implications of the rule and need guidance as to when a family might have to be relocated. These and other issues raised by members will be raised with HUD at the March 9th meeting.

NCDA is also exploring the possibility of meeting with congressional staff to discuss additional funding (separate from CDBG and HOME) for lead-based paint activities.

## 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:**

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| San Francisco | March 6-7 |
| Philadelphia | March 27-28 |
| Chicago | April 11-12 |

## NCDA NOTES

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**

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| February 18 - 25 | District Work Period |
| April 17 - 28 | District Work Period |
| May 29 - June 2 | District Work Period |
| July 3 - 7 | District Work Period |
| July 31 - Sept. 5 | District Work Period |
| Sept. 29 | Rosh Hashanah |
| October 6 | Target Adjournment |

**The United States Senate**

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|---|---|
| February 12-21 | Not In Session |
| March 11- 19 | Not in Session |
| April 15 -24 | Not in Session |
| May 27 - June 4 | Not in Session |
| July 1 - 9 | Not in Session |
| July 29 - Sept. 4 | Not in Session |
| 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 TIMELINESS 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 to the workshop 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. **Also, see the draft agenda for the first workshop being held in Washington, DC, on April 3-4, for Regions 1-4.**

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|---|---|---|
| **April 3-4,** | **Washington, DC** | **Regions 1-4** |
| **May 22-23** | **Chicago, IL** | **Regions 5-8** |
| **June 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 28, 2000. Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program; Announcement of Funding Award.*** This notice announces the funding decisions made by HUD under the FY 1999 Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program. The following jurisdictions received awards: Alameda County, CA ($1.2 million); City of San Jose, CA ($1.3 million); City of Baltimore, MD ($1.3 million); and Tarrant County, TX ($861,622)

***February 16, 2000. Notice of Funding Availability for the HUD Rural Housing and Economic Development Program for FY 2000.*** This notice announces the availability of $24.75 million in FY 2000 funding for local rural non-profit organizations, community development corporations, Indian tribes, State housing finance agencies, and State economic development/community development agencies. The purpose of the Rural Housing and Economic Development 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.

## *JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ATTACHMENTS*

- NCDA 2000 National Community Development Week Guidebook and Promotional Items Flyer
- National Community Development Week Action Plans
- Regions IV and V Annual Conference Agendas
- DGMS Proposed "Deliverables" Timeline
- Timeliness Workshop Draft Agenda and *"Hold This Date"* Flyer
- Lead Based Paint Training Schedule