NCDA
WASHINGTON REPORT

FROM: CHANDRA WESTERN
VICKI WATSON
KAREN MEANS
ROMULUS JOHNSON
TAMIKA MCRAE

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Celebrate National Community Development Week; April 24-30, 2000
NCDA Annual Conference, May 31-June 3, 2000, New Orleans

FEATURE ARTICLES

GOP BUDGET LEADERS AGREE ON FY 2001 BUDGET FRAMEWORK

Last Friday, after a rough start, the Chairmen of the House and Senate Budget Committees reached agreement on the framework for the FY 2001 budget. Both sides agreed to leave the Social Security surplus intact. They also agreed to use $10 billion of the non-Social Security surplus to increase FY 2001 discretionary spending, $10 billion to pay down the national debt, and another $10 billion in non-Social

Security surplus for a small tax cut in FY 2001. The agreement provides the foundation for the FY 2001 budget resolution, which the House Budget Committee approved on Wednesday, March 15, and the Senate will mark-up when it returns from its recess the week of March 20. The agreement envisions $596.5 billion in FY 2001 discretionary spending. Of this amount, $306.8 billion will be provided to Defense spending (a $16 billion increase from FY 2000) and $289.7 billion will be earmarked for non-defense discretionary programs.

Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM), Chair of the Senate Budget Committee, will have a hard time convincing some members of his committee to agree to the framework. Already, Senator Phil Gramm (R-TX), has publicly stated his opposition to the agreement, citing his displeasure with using the surplus to increase discretionary spending. Gramm wants to see discretionary programs frozen at their FY 2000 levels. Domenici needs the votes of all 12 republican members of the Committee in order to pass the budget resolution. Domenici initially wanted to increase discretionary spending by more than $600 billion, but agreed to the lower $596.5 billion level. Domenici has publicly stated that discretionary programs will need to be increased in order to pass the 13 appropriations bills in a timely manner this year. Many Democrats are expected to oppose the budget resolution because it does not set-aside money to extend the solvency of Medicare and Social Security nor does it increase non-defense discretionary programs enough to ensure passage and signature by the President.

The budget framework proposes a $10 billion tax cut in FY 2001, along with a $150 billion tax cut over five years. The tax cut portion of the framework may increase if the Congressional Budget Office’s surplus estimates increase when it revises its surplus estimates this June. The tax cut would focus on decreasing the marriage penalty tax, decreasing estate taxes, expanding education savings accounts, and providing small tax cuts for small businesses and health care.

The Budget Committee chairmen agreed to a reserve fund to pay for a Medicare prescription drug benefit. The House Budget Committee on Wednesday approved a $40 billion reserve fund over five years to pay for the prescription drug benefit. Furthermore, any funding set-aside in this budget agreement for a prescription drug benefit would be reverted to paying down the national debt, if agreement is not reached on legislation to enact such prescription coverage this year. Neither chairman has reached agreement on how much to provide for each non-defense discretionary program this year. Although, both have said they would like to see funding for the Department of Agriculture increased by $5 billion in FY 2001. Ultimately, the appropriations committees will decide how much funding to provide to their individual programs.

In a recent meeting with Senate appropriations staff, NCDA learned that the first priority for Senator Bond (R-MO), Chairperson of the Senate VA, HUD, IA Appropriations Subcommittee, this year is increasing funding for medical benefits for veterans. He’s also supportive of adequately funding the AmeriCorp Program, one of the President’s pet initiatives. In terms of HUD’s programs, Senator Bond is supportive of funding all of the Section 8 contract renewals, and he continues to be supportive of CDBG, HOME, and public housing; although, he questions the spend out rates of these and other HUD programs. It appears the Senate will try to get an increased budget level for discretionary programs, probably somewhere between what the President has proposed and what the House has agreed to. Senator Bond is supportive of increasing HUD’s programs by the inflation rate, but he refuses to fund any new programs, as requested in the President’s FY 2001 budget which also supports increasing HUD’s programs by at least by the amount of inflation. Bond’s staff feel that HUD’s new programs have no policy credibility whatsoever and feel that HUD should concentrate of the proper oversite and administration of its core programs.

Increasing production of affordable housing is on Bond's radar screen. Senator Bond would like to see more funds made available for housing production, especially through existing programs such as HOME. According to his staff, he is increasingly concerned that Section 8 vouchers cannot be used effectively in all areas of the country. Because of this, Section 8 vouchers are being recaptured annually by Congress and the funds re-used in other program areas, especially for supplemental funds. This makes no sense to staff, who realize that the appropriators will be called upon again this year to increase the number of incremental Section 8 vouchers – and will likely do so.

FY 2001 SUPPLEMENTAL BILL ON HOLD

The $9 billion dollar FY 2000 supplemental spending measure has hit a snag. House GOP leaders had hoped to schedule a floor vote on the measure this week, but GOP conservative members are displeased with the $9 billion price tag. The measure would provide funding for Kosovo, aid to Colombia to fight drug trafficking, and disaster assistance. The measure provides $4.9 billion for continued operations in Kosovo and other national security matters. It provides $2.2 billion for disaster assistance and other emergency appropriations, including $600 million for the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief Program to fund infrastructure repairs caused by natural disasters, $1.5 million for a study on future flood protection in Princeville, NC, and $11 million in additional HOME funds to assist New Jersey residents devastated by Hurricane Floyd. House GOP leaders will work to smooth out relations with GOP conservatives before continuing with the measure. House leaders have decided to hold the supplemental until they have adopted their budget resolution. Where will the money come from to fund the supplemental bill? We don't know at this point. House and Senate leaders are still working behind the scenes to come up with resources to fund the measure. We'll provide more detail in the next issue.

HOUSE BANKING COMMITTEE MARKS-UP H.R. 1776

The House Committee on Banking and Financial Services met on Tuesday, March 14 to mark-up H.R. 1776 – The American Homeownership and Economic Opportunity Act of 2000. As reported in previous issues of the *Washington Report*, this measure incorporates a myriad of provisions aimed at expanding homeownership, including the following:

- Authorizes 1 percent downpayment for FHA home mortgage loans for teachers, firefighters, and police officers;
- Incorporates H.R. 2860 and H.R. 2931, sponsored by Rep. Mark Green (R-WI), legislation to provide greater homeownership opportunities for persons with disabilities and for law enforcement officers in high crime areas respectively;
- Allows Section 8 residents to use their subsidy to purchase a home;
- Allows refinancing of Federally-insured reverse mortgages and establishes consumer protections for participating homeowners;
- Incorporates H.R. 3617, the Consumers' Home Improvement Protection Act, introduced by Mr. Lazio and Mr. Leach, to establish stronger anti-fraud protections in HUD's 203(k) program; and
- Creates a HOME Loan Guarantee Program, similar to the CDBG Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program.

The bill would increase the qualifying income limit of the CDBG and HOME program to 150% of area median to allow uniformed municipal employees, such as police and sanitation workers, to become homeowners. NCDA and other national interest groups, including the U.S. Conference of Mayors, are opposed to this provision because it goes beyond the intended purpose of the CDBG and HOME programs in assisting very-low, low- and moderate-income persons. To alleviate these concerns, the committee included language, during mark-up of the bill, that would allow this provision to apply only to uniformed municipal employees who are first-time homebuyers in high cost areas, and would give the HUD Secretary the authority to determine which high cost areas would receive this exception.

During the mark-up session, several amendments to the bill were approved by voice vote, including:

- An amendment offered by Rep. Michael Capuano (D-MA), to create a down payment assistance program for two and three family homes under HOME and CDBG.
- An amendment offered by Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA) to extend to FY 2006 the waiver on spending up to 25 percent of CDBG funds on public services for Los Angeles, CA.
- A 209 page Manager's Amendment offered by Rep. Lazio (R-NY), Chair of the House Subcommittee, which includes numerous proposals made by several Committee members, including:
    - An amendment offered by Rep. Leach (R-IA) to allow administrative expenses under the HOME program to be used over a long-term period to accommodate longer-term administration of servicing homeownership intiatives.
    - An amendment offered by Rep. Hooley (D-OR) which authorizes three pilot programs that would provide planning money to regions to coordinate affordable housing. This would be a set-aside from the HOME program for two years at $3 million each year.
    - An amendment offered by Rep. Weygand (D-RI) to allow grantees to use grant funds from the existing HUD Lead Hazard Control Grant program to provide access to residential lead-based poisoning prevention services at centralized locations. It also allows funds to be used to provide temporary lead-safe housing.
    - An amendment to classify Jacksonville, Florida as an urban county.
    - Reinserts Title VII of H.R. 1776, the "Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 1999." This title had been dropped from the earlier version of the bill in order to allow House and Senate members to reach compromise language on its content. This title give states five years to adopt a manufactured installation program, establishes a Consensus Committee of consumers, industry experts and government officials to advise HUD on safety standards and regulation enforcement with regard to manufactured housing, and finally, requires states to establish a dispute resolution program within five years for the timely resolution of disputes between manufacturers, retailers, and installers.

The committee defeated two amendments offered by Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA). The first amendment offered by Rep. Frank would have allowed state regulators and HUD to inspect manufactured housing units at the factory and at the place of sale. The second amendment would have required HUD to provide to consumers, within 60 days of request, information regarding defects in manufactured housing.

An amendment offered by Rep. Weygand (D-RI) to increase the loan limits of the Title 1 Loan Program for single family home improvements from the current rate of $25,000 to $32,500 was withdrawn, but will be negotiated among members and likely added to the bill when the bill reaches the floor. The bill did not include a provision to authorize HUD's America's Private Investment Companies (APICs) as requested by Rep. LaFalce (D-NY). We may see this included in the final version of the House bill.

NEW REPORT SUPPORTS FINANCIAL SOUNDNESS OF FHA; PRESIDENT CLINTON DIRECTS HUD TO USE EXCESS FHA RESERVES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

In its recently released report, the accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche concluded that FHA is the strongest it has been financially since 1934. In the report, Deloitte & Touche state that FHA has an economic value of $16.6 billion, $5.3 billion over the 1998 level. In receiving the news, President Clinton has asked Secretary Cuomo for recommendations on how best to use the excess revenues for affordable housing. Senator Kerry (D-MA) has proposed the creation of a National Housing Trust Fund, which would use FHA reserves to fund affordable rental housing across the country.

In a recent press release, Rep. Rick Lazio (R-NY) questioned the results of the report and has asked the General Accounting Office (GAO) and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to examine the data contained within the report. In a statement, Rep. Lazio said, "I am seriously concerned that HUD and the Clinton-Gore Administration have proposed spending money that does not exist, and is based on financial assumptions that may be seriously flawed."

HOUSE COMMITTEE PROBES HUD OPERATIONS–LOW SPEND-OUT, HOMELESSNESS GRANTS, COMMUNITY BUILDERS DOMINATE AGENDA

According to the official notice of the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Wednesday, March 8 sub-committee hearing was supposed to be about the Administration's FY 2001 budget request for HUD. But apart from Secretary Cuomo's opening remarks calling on Congress to increase HUD's budget by $6 billion over last year's appropriation, the hearing focused on HUD oversight and management issues, especially as they relate to concerns from some of the committee members' own districts. House VA/HUD/IA Appropriations Sub-Committee Chairman James Walsh (R-NY), led the committee in a free-ranging exploration of such diverse issues as the accuracy of the Department's worst case housing needs statistics, its participation in a law suit to sue the gun industry for reckless marketing practices, and the fairness of its inspection system for the nation's Section 8 and public housing stock. Still, despite the varying array of "constituent-type" questions put to the Secretary, several dominant themes emerged. These themes include: 1) the slow spend-out rate of HUD's programs; 2) the Department's progress in implementing mandated information systems reforms; 3) the possible need for supplemental appropriations for existing Continuum of Care Homelessness projects; 4) HUD's plans for using some $5 billion in FHA revenue; and 5) the ongoing dispute between HUD and the Congress over the future of the Community Builders Fellows program.

With respect to the slow spend-out rate of HUD's programs, Chairman Walsh made it clear that this is an area of special concern to him and other members of the committee. Republicans and Democrats alike expressed their concern to Secretary Cuomo that HUD has too much money "just lying around." In the hearing, it was revealed that HUD has some $8.1 billion in unobligated grant dollars collecting dust in the U.S. Treasury. From the committee's point of view, the spend-out problem cuts across all programs areas. Some members were irked by the slow spend-out rate in HUD's formula grant programs, while others complained about HUD's inability to get housing vouchers out to people who needed them in less than a year's time, as well as the high volume of recaptures in the housing certificate fund. Another member complained about the fact that HUD is sitting on $3.26 billion in public housing modernization funds and $1.66 billion in HOPE VI grant authority. The basic point put across by all the complaints is that the Secretary needs to make concrete improvements in this area or HUD may soon face the threat of rescissions to portions of its budget.

For his part, Secretary Cuomo responded that, while the Department recognizes there is room for improvement in terms of spend-out, his first priority is not to make sure that federal dollars are spent quickly, but spent well. He said he'd rather have money spent slowly than have to answer to the committee about waste, fraud, abuse.

The spend out issue provided a natural segue for a brief discussion about HUD's progress in improving its electronic data collection and grants management systems. Though IDIS and DGMS were never mentioned specifically, it was clear that several members of the committee were keen on seeing that HUD get the transition to the new DGMS electronic information system right. The Secretary was asked whether he felt HUD was devoting enough staff and resources to complete the change in a timely manner without incurring huge cost overruns. Secretary Cuomo indicated that he anticipated no major problems and replied "No" to a specific question about whether HUD plans to scrap a $4 million investment it has already made in an earlier agency wide electronic data warehouse project.

Along with the spend-out issue, another matter that seemed to spark a high level of bi-partisan interest during the hearing was whether there was a need to provide supplemental appropriations for existing Continuum of Care Homelessness assistance projects. Apparently, a number of homelessness assistance projects around the country that received HUD funding in FY99 were not funded in FY 2000. The Department opted to fund some newer projects instead. When Secretary Cuomo explained to the Committee that under this particular competitive grant process it is the local community that sets its own funding priorities, a number of members expressed interest in providing $35 million in supplemental grant authority for pre-existing homelessness projects that failed to get renewed funding. The House and Senate are currently marking-up a $9 billion FY 2000 Supplemental Appropriations bill. Whether new homelessness assistance funds will make it into the final conference report and onto the President's desk is anybody's guess at this point. But, as always, as soon as we know, you'll know!

After sparring with Chairman Walsh over the accuracy of HUD's characterization of the nation's worst needs affordable housing crisis, Secretary Cuomo took questions about HUD's plans to increase the availability of affordable housing and its recently announced "Good Neighbor" policy. Pointing out that the Clinton Administration's reform agenda for FHA has yielded five billion dollars in profit for this division of HUD, the Secretary plugged an Administration proposal to couple proceeds from FHA's new profits with low-income housing tax credits and project based section 8 vouchers in order to finance the construction of new affordable housing units targeted towards the very poor–families with incomes between 0%-to-30% of median. Several committee members wanted to know if under the new "Good Neighbor" policy local governments would face any use restrictions once they took ownership of abandoned or foreclosed upon HUD homes. "Outside of a requirement," said the Secretary, "to dedicate any profits generated from the sales of these homes for an affordable housing objective, local governments are free to do with the houses as they wish." Responding to criticism that so-called HUD homes often lie abandoned for months, becoming a source of blight and nefarious activity in communities all over America, on March 1, the Department adopted a plan to sell foreclosed upon single family houses to local governments for $1 if FHA is not able to sell them within six months.

One of the most contentious issues that came up during the hearing was the fate of the Community Builders Fellows program. Like their Senate counterparts, the Republicans on the House VA, HUD, IA Appropriations Sub-Committee made it plain to Secretary Cuomo that HUD's plan to convert the Community Builders Fellows to career civil service positions was a misinterpretation of their order in the FY 2000 appropriations act to phase out the Fellows program. Despite Secretary Cuomo's vigorous defense of the initiative, and his plan to institutionalize the Community Builders concept within HUD, Chairman Walsh said that he would be consulting with Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond (R-MO), Chairman of the Senate VA/HUD/IA Appropriations Committee to see that HUD adheres to the Congress' original intent.

NCDA AND OTHER GROUPS WORK WITH SENATE TO CONSOLIDATE MCKINNEY ACT PROGRAMS

NCDA and other interest groups have been working with Senator Allard (R-CO) and his staff to develop legislation to consolidate HUD's homeless assistance programs. These groups representing state and local governments have worked with Allard's staff to suggest appropriate language for several portions of the bill including a provision related to a "hold harmless clause" to provide some protection to those jurisdictions that have done well in HUD's competitive homeless programs. The provision would provide graduated minimum allocations over a five year period to these jurisdictions to allow them to adapt to a formula allocation. This coalition also advise Allard on appropriate language to allow contract renewals under the Shelter Plus Care program to be shifted to HUD's Section 8 line item. Another meeting with Senator Allard's staff to further discuss the draft bill has been scheduled for March 20.

NCDA MEETS WITH HUD REGARDING THE LEAD-BASED PAINT RULE

NCDA, along with the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, and the Council of State Community Development Agencies, met with HUD officials on Thursday, March 9 to discuss questions/comments received from members on the Lead-Based Paint final rule. HUD spent the meeting providing answers to most of the questions received from NCDA's members. There are a few questions that HUD is still trying to answer, so those questions/answers will be provided at a later date in the *Washington Report*.. A copy of the Q & A is attached to this newsletter and can also be accessed via NCDA's web site; http://www.ncdaonline.org NCDA would like to thank all of the members who provided comments.

NCDA has established a special Lead-Based Paint site on its web page that provides members with information regarding the final rule. In addition, HUD has a very good Lead-Based Paint web site which can be accessed at http://www.hud.gov/lea/leahome.html

NCDA is in the process of drafting a letter to the Hill regarding major issues of concern to NCDA's members. To date, some of the major issues identified include: (1) The cost of the rule on existing rehabilitation programs is excessive. Members need additional funding to keep their program operations stable; (2) The rule requires all housing units assisted by CDBG and HOME to be assessed for lead-based paint hazards. Members would like to see this limited to only those units where children under the age of 6 reside; (3) The level required for testing the lead-based paint is too high and must be decreased; and (4) Some programs need to be exempted altogether from the rule such as volunteer programs like Christmas in April, and other minor repair programs. For further information or questions, contact Vicki Watson at 202-887-5532.

MAYORS/LEAGUE OF CITIES JOIN PUSH FOR APICS

On March 2, 2000, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities officially committed to support the Clinton Administration's push for FY 2000 authorization for the APICs (America's Private Investment Companies) program. Last year, the Congress appropriated $20 million for APICs in the FY 2000 budget on the condition that the Administration would get the program authorized before June 30, 2000. In its FY 2001 budget request, President Clinton is seeking an additional $37 million appropriation for APICs. HUD has publicly declared that getting APIC authorized and seeking funding for a third round of ten new Empowerment Zones rank among its top legislative priorities for this session of Congress.

According to the Administration's official descriptions of the proposal, if authorized APICs would provide government backed loan guarantees to privately held and operated investment companies that specialize in investing in large- scale businesses in low- and moderate-income areas. Though privately owned and operated, in order to qualify for the government capital subsidies, APICs would have to agree to joint oversight of their boards and investments by HUD and the Commerce Department's Small Business Administration. The idea is to blend HUD's expertise at large-scale economic development and community revitalization with SBA's experience with venture capital firms in order to guide private investment dollars into the nation's low-income communities.

Although local governments are expected to benefit indirectly from the new investment generated by APICs and would be able to participate in an APIC as a voting member of the board, because of the essentially private nature of the investment companies they would not be able to exercise any effective control over investment decisions and development projects. In short, APICs is designed not so much as a tool for locally directed community development, but as a resource for getting the private sector involved in funding job-creating for-profit ventures in low-income communities

The Clinton Administration's estimates that the $20 million in credit subsidies it is seeking authorization to use would guarantee about $556 million in privately held debt. It is estimated to leverage about $278 million in private equity for targeted investment in poor urban and rural areas, resulting in more than $830 million of annual new investment in low-income communities.

CENSUS BUREAU OFFERS FREE PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS TO NATION'S COMMUNITIES

As part of an intense effort to make sure that everyone who needs to be counted is counted, the U.S. Census Bureau has set up an *How America Knows What America Needs Campaign* to assist local governments with raising awareness among their citizens about the importance of filling out and returning their official census forms, as well as answering the questions of enumerators, should they happen to knock on their doors.

In 1980, 75 per cent of American households completed and returned their census forms. By the 1990 census that number had taken a sharp drop to sixty-five per cent of households nationwide. The Census Bureau has issued a *'90 Plus Five* challenge to the nation's cities to reverse this trend. Basically, each community is being called upon to match its 1990 mail-in response rate and then improve it by five percentage points. For this component of the *How America Knows What America Needs Campaign*, starting in late March, the Census Bureau will use its official web site (http://www.census.gov) and other appropriate communications tools to inform local government officials on a daily basis about the initial mail-in response rate of their communities. That way they can keep track of whether or not they are reaching the *'90 Plus Five* goal.

To support the effort at increasing the accuracy of its enumerated count, the Bureau is making available a *Because You Count* CD-ROM toolkit full of suggestions for promotional events, prototype fliers, letters, posters, artwork, etc. that can be used to educate hard to reach populations about the importance of being counted. The *Because You Count* CD-ROM is available for free in a variety of languages. To order your free CD-ROM toolkit or to learn more about other ways the Census Bureau can support your local efforts to make sure all your citizens are counted, log on to the Census Bureau's special website for local government officials at http://www.HAWKWAN.com or call 1-877-6HAWKAN.

With the U. S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities, NCDA is making a special plea to the nation's community development professionals to play an active role in the millennial census campaign. CD professionals serve many of the people that belong to the hardest to reach populations. In order to ensure that the Congress recognizes the scale of the need for services for low-to moderate income Americans, at the very least, we must make sure that they are counted.

HUD NEWS

LEAD-BASED PAINT HAZARD CONTROL PROGRAM FUNDS AVAILABLE

Announced as part of the FY 2000 SuperNOFA, HUD has approximately $59 million available through its Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant Program. State and local governments are eligible to apply for this funding. **Applications are due to HUD by May 17, 2000.**

Funds may be used for the following activities:

(1) performing dust testing, hazard screens, inspections, and risk assessments to determine the presence of lead-based paint;

(2) conducting blood testing of children under the age of six;
(3) conducting lead hazard control, which may include: interim control of lead-based paint hazards, abatement of lead-based paint hazards,
(4) carrying-out temporary relocation of families and individuals;
(5) performing blood lead testing and air sampling to protect the health of the hazard control workers, supervisors, and contractors;
(6) undertaking minimal housing rehabilitation activities that are specifically required to carry out effective hazard control;
(7) conducting clearance dust-wipe testing and lab analysis;
(8) engineering and architectural activities that are required for, and in direct support of, lead hazard control;
(9) providing lead-based paint worker or contractor certification training and/or licensing to low- income persons;
(10) providing free training on lead-safe, essential maintenance practices to homeowners, renters, painters, remodelers, and apartment maintenance staff working in low-income private housing;
(11) providing cleaning supplies for lead-hazard control to community/neighborhood-based organizations, homeowners, and renters in low-income private housing;
(12) conducting general or targeted community awareness, education or outreach programs on lead hazard control and lead poisoning prevention;
(13) procuring liability insurance for lead-hazard control activities;
(14) supporting data collection, analysis, and evaluation of grant program activities;
(15) conducting planning and coordination activities to facilitate local implementation of HUD's Lead-Based Paint final rule;
(16) conducting applied research directed at cost effective methods for lead-hazard control;
(17) purchasing or leasing equipment having a per unit cost under $5,000; (18) purchasing or leasing up to two X-ray fluorescence analyzers for use by the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant Program;
(19) preparing a final report at the conclusion of grant activities;
(20) using up to 10% of the grant award for administrative costs;
(21) program planning and management costs of sub-grantees and other sub-recipients.

These funds cannot be used for lead hazard control activities in public housing or project-based Section 8 housing.

A minimum 10% match is required and match can take the form of cash, in-kind contributions, and federal CDBG funds (no other federal funds, besides CDBG, can be used as a match resource). To obtain an application kit from the SuperNOFA Information Center, call 1-800-HUD-8929. You may contact Ellis Goldman, Director, Program Management Division, Office of Lead Hazard Control at 202-755-1785, ext. 112 for further information and technical assistance. HUD will hold a satellite broadcast on this program in April. Contact your local HUD field office or Ellis Goldman for further information. Applicants can apply for grants from $1 million to $4 million. Multiple units of local government may apply as part of a consortium, but the application must identify a single lead unit of local government as the applicant.

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." See the March 4 issue of the *Washington Report* for the 2000 Congressional Calendar to assist you in preparing your own calendars for the year.

CD WEEK POSTERS AMD PROMOTIONAL ITEMS ON SALE NOW!!!

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 ANNUAL CONFERENCE MAY 31–JUNE 3, 2000 IN NEW ORLEANS

The NCDA 2000 Annual Conference is being held in New Orleans on May 31- June 3, 2000 at the Hyatt Regency Super Dome. This conference promises to be an exciting event. Join us for sessions on Lead Based Paint, Working with Your State Housing Finance Authority, Addressing the Issue of Predatory Lending and How the 2000 Census May Impact the CDBG and HOME Formulas. Also, please come to hear HUD's perspective on new program initiatives and see what the City of New Orleans has done to revitalize its neighborhoods.

REGION IV STAGES ANNUAL MEETING IN JACKSONVILLE

In conjunction with the Florida Community Development Association, the Southeast/Caribbean Region of NCDA (Region IV) held a successful annual conference in sunny Jacksonville, Florida last week. The meeting lasted from Sunday, March 12 through Tuesday, March 14, and was held at the Radisson Hotel, which is situated right alongside the beautiful Jacksonville Riverwalk. The National Association was represented by NCDA President Para Rosario, Executive Director Chandra Western, and Romulus Johnson, NCDA's Legislative Assistant. Speakers included HUD Deputy Secretary Saul Ramirez and Ken Williams, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Grant Programs.

A definite highlight of the meeting was Monday afternoon's project tour. In addition to seeing a number of the Jacksonville Community Development Division's innovative housing and neighborhood revitalization projects, attendees were treated to a buffet reception and impromptu tour of Alltell stadium, home of the Jacksonville Jaguars, the NFL's most successful expansion team ever!

EXECUTIVE SYMPOSIUM DATES CHANGED

Due to conflicts with other national and regional meetings, the dates for this year's Executive Symposium in Tucson, AZ have been changed to **October 12-15, 2000.** The original dates were October 27-30, 2000. Please make a note of this change. We are sorry for any inconvenience this might cause.

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. 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.**

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

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICES

March 16, 2000. Allocation of Funds Under the Capital Fund; Capital Fund Formula; Final Rule. This final rule implements, as required by statute, a new formula system for allocation of funds to public housing agencies for their capital needs. This final rule follows publication of a proposed rule on September 14, 1999, which was developed through negotiated rulemaking, and takes into consideration, public comment, received on the proposed rule.

March 9, 2000. HUD's Regulation of the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac). Through this proposed rule, the Department of Housing and Urban Development is soliciting comments on proposed new housing goal levels for the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) (collectively, the Government Sponsored Enterprises, or GSEs) for calendar years 2000 through 2003.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ATTACHMENTS

To access the documents below, please go to NCDAonline ***(http://www.ncdaonline.org).***

- NCDA 2000 National Community Development Week Promotional Items Flyer
- National Community Development Week Action Plans
- Timeliness Workshop Draft Agenda and *"Save This Date"* Flyer
- Lead-Based Paint Training Schedule
- NCDA Q and A on Lead-Based Paint Final Rule