NCDA
WASHINGTON REPORT

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Celebrate National Community Development Week; April 24-30, 2000
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FEATURE ARTICLES

HUD FY 2001 BUDGET HEARING UPDATE

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies held a hearing to discuss the Administration's FY 2001 budget request for HUD on March 30. HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo testified on behalf of the Department, and, as is customary, all of HUD's assistant secretaries and senior policy makers were in attendance to answer any technical questions.

Subcommittee Chairman Christopher "Kit" Bond (R-MO) opened the hearing by pointing out that this would likely be the last time Secretary Cuomo will testify before the Committee. The Chairman then turned his attention to the President's formal FY 2001 HUD budget request.

Chairman Bond expressed strong support for virtually all of HUD's proposed increases to its core programs–particularly CDBG, HOME, the Section 202 elderly housing program, and Section 8 housing certificate fund. On the other hand, he threw cold water on prospects that the Committee would finance any of the new boutique initiatives in the FY 2001 HUD budget. Senator Bond feels that the Department has so much trouble effectively operating and monitoring its core programs that it shouldn't be diverting its limited resources to new initiatives like the APICs and Regional Connections proposals. "HUD is still so mismanaged," said Chairman Bond, "that if it were a private corporation, the SEC would suspend trading in its stock." Senator Bond was especially irked by what he felt was HUD's desire to blame the Congress for the nation's affordable housing crisis, while at the same time showing itself to be utterly incapable at effectively using the resources that Congress has appropriated for dealing with the housing shortage. As an example, he cited the fact that HUD is currently sitting on some 100,000 unused Section 8 vouchers even as it asks the Congress to approve 120,000 more for FY 2001.

Secretary Cuomo responded to Senator Bond's chiding by reminding him that GAO has recently given HUD kudos for making"credible progress" toward getting its financial house in order, and observing that the problems the Clinton-Gore administration is encountering at HUD were some twenty and thirty years in the making, therefore, it is unfair to expect the agency to be turned around overnight.

The Chairman's annoyance with HUD's seemingly perennial management shortcomings notwithstanding, still, it is fair to say that the tone of the Subcommittee hearing was very positive where increases to the HUD budget are concerned. Before slipping out briefly to cast his vote on the Senate's FY 2001 Budget resolution, Senator Bond even went so far as to announce to the entire hearing room that he was working on an amendment to the resolution to ensure that $6 billion additional dollars is set aside in the FY 2001 federal budget to deal with the problem of expiring Section 8 contracts.

The other major issue that dominated this otherwise brief hearing was HUD's strategy for dealing with predatory lending practices in the so-called sub-prime real estate market. Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), the ranking member on the Subcommittee, aggressively questioned Secretary Cuomo and FHA Commissioner Bill Apgar about what HUD plans to do about the increasing problem of shady real estate agents, housing appraisers, contractors, and mortgage lenders preying on low-income people with schemes that leave them either heavily in debt at exorbitant interest rates or foreclosed out of their homes altogether. (Apparently, first-time, low-income home buyers in the city of Baltimore have been especially hard hit by unscrupulous mortgage lenders and appraisers that target poor neighborhoods with an elaborate real estate scam called flipping. A property is flipped when a crooked appraiser over-values it for the purpose of getting an unsuspecting first time home buyer to take out a loan for it which is far in excess of the house's true value or what the purchaser can afford in order to ensure that the property will be foreclosed on. Then the mortgage lender the appraiser is in league with resells the property again to another unsuspecting buyer, leaving a line hapless former homeowners with ruined credit, big debt, and no house.)

The HUD Secretary and FHA Commissioner agreed to work closely with Senator Mikulski and the Subcommittee staff to over the next eight weeks to produce a list of legislative remedies to prevent flipping and other dubious real estate industry practices that disproportionately harm low-income home buyers. Senator Mikulski hopes to insert language into this year's HUD appropriations bill that will allow FHA, HUD, and the Federal Reserve to more easily prevent predatory lending and punish those who engage in real estate fraud. Indeed, throughout the hearing the Senator stridently expressed her determination to see that HUD and Congress go after the "scum!" who prey on the poor.

HOUSE APPROVES FY 2001 BUDGET RESOLUTION

On a near straight party-line vote, Republican leaders in the House barely managed to win approval for their version of a resolution setting the spending parameters for the FY 2001 federal budget. The decisive vote took place in the wee hours of the morning on Friday, March 24. The final tally was 211-207, with only two Democrats crossing the aisle to vote for the measure. Five Republicans opted to vote against it. All attempts to attach amendments to, or introduce substitute measures for, the overall budget framework agreed to by House and Senate Republican leaders earlier in the month were beaten back. (For more details on the House-Senate FY 2001 budget framework, please see the archived March 17, 2000 edition of *The Washington Report*).

The House FY 2001 budget resolution (H. Con Res 290) sets a limit of $596.5 billion on all discretionary federal spending, an increase of roughly 2 percent or $10.5 billion over FY 2000 levels. The measure also directs Congress to cordon off all Social Security surplus revenue for the retirement trust fund. As adopted, H Con Res 290 would commit between four and ten billion dollars in FY 2001 on-budget surplus to paying down the national debt, and creates a $40 billion dollar reserve fund over five years to pay for any legislation Congress might enact to add a prescription drug benefit to the Medicare program.

By program area, the breakdown is as follows: Defense spending receives a $17.4 billion or six percent increase, which would require other discretionary accounts to absorb a six percent or $6.9 billion reduction from last year's levels. Responding to complaints from conservatives that the amount of gimmicks used in last year's budget got completely out of hand, the resolution also limits 'advance' appropriations to no more than the $23 billion included in the FY 2000 budget. The use of directed scoring, a process by which the Congress instructs the Congressional Budget Office what on budget price to attach to specific items, is likewise barred .

Undeniably, the most controversial components of the resolution are the sections calling on Congress to earmark $50 billion a year over five years to finance up to $150 billion in new tax cuts or debt reduction-- all in addition to $10 billion in new tax cuts slated for FY 2001 alone. The House has also included reconciliation language in H Con Res 290 instructing the Ways and Means Committee to report four bills reducing tax revenue, and two bills reducing the publicly held national debt by $30 billion during FY 2001.

The closeness of the vote last Friday gave clear confirmation that Republican leaders' hopes of having a relatively smooth budget process this year have been completely dashed. Deep fissures emerged in committee and private negotiations between Republican fiscal conservatives and their leadership. Earlier in the week, many key conservatives were denouncing the budget resolution as bloated with too much discretionary spending and falling short on tax cuts and debt reduction.
Republican moderates, on the other hand, felt their conservative colleagues were simply being unrealistic by setting parameters that would generate tax and appropriations bills President Clinton would be sure to veto. Although, the House Republican leaders were eventually able to get the vast majority of their caucus to support H Con Res 290, Hill watchers are suggesting that all bets are off in the Senate, where divisions between key Republicans over the budget are even more severe than in the House.

SENATE REACHES COMPROMISE ON BUDGET RESOLUTION AND CONSIDERS NEW TAX BILL

For several weeks the Senate Budget Committee has been unable to mark up its FY 2001 budget resolution because of fierce opposition by a group of conservatives led by Senator Phil Gramm (R-TX), the chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. But on Tuesday, March 28, a compromise was achieved. Senator Gramm and the other Republican hold-outs were blocking the mark- up because they felt that the budget framework agreed to by Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS), Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete Domenici (R-NM), House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) and House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich (R-OH) allowed for too much new discretionary spending and not enough wiggle room for larger tax cuts.

Gramm and his band of resistors finally agreed to stop blocking the Budget Committee's work on the resolution after Chairman Domenici agreed to add language barring the use of a number of accounting tricks that were used in the FY 2000 budget. Even more important, Senator Gramm forced Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) to agree to put the breaks on any FY 2000 supplemental legislation that is introduced into the Senate, and to place firm limits on the amount of emergency money that can be added to the normal fiscal 2001 appropriations bills. (Learn more about the status of FY 2000 supplemental funding legislation in the article below.)

Now that the Senate's Republicans are all of one accord, the FY 200l budget resolution is expected to be passed by a strict party-line vote this Thursday. Thus far, we know that the Senate budget resolution closely matches the resolution approved by the U.S. House of Representatives on Friday, March 24. Not unlike their House colleagues, Senators have set the total federal budget at $1.8 trillion dollars, with $596.5 billion reserved non-entitlement discretionary spending. Though the Senate does aside more for tax cuts than the House: $190 billion over five years, an increase of $40 billion over the House mark up. And while the Senate plan puts aside $20 billion dollars for a new Medicare prescription drug benefit plan, in contrast, the House resolution commits $40 billion dollars for this purpose.

Restrictions on the use of Social Security surplus funds for the retirement trust fund and a plan to obligate some $10 billion in projected FY 2001 non-social security, on-budget surplus revenue for the sole purpose of reducing the nation debt is also included in the Senate resolution. In total, the allocations envisioned in the Senate's budget plan limits increases in spending on defense and other domestic discretionary programs to just a little less than what would be needed to keep pace with inflation.

Further complicating the budget outlook for this year, Senate Finance Committee Chairman William V. Roth (R-DE) introduced another "marriage penalty" tax package on Tuesday, March 28. Intended as the Senate counterpart to the $182 billion dollar marriage penalty tax relief bill that was passed by the House in February, Senator Roth's legislation would cost an estimated $240 billion over ten years. The 'Roth marriage penalty' bill includes provisions to provide tax relief to all married couples, even those who do not currently encounter any tax penalty, by doubling the standard deduction for married couples to twice that of single filers, expanding the 15 percent tax bracket to increase the number of married couples paying the lowest rate, and increasing the number of low-income married couples who qualify for the earned income tax credit. The bill also includes a measure to offer relief to middle income families that pay the Alternative Minimum Tax.

Prospects for attracting votes from Senate Democrats for either the budget resolution or the marriage penalty tax plan being put forth by Senator Roth are extremely slim to non-existent. President Clinton has already made it plain that he is ready to veto the House marriage tax penalty bill because it is "too big" (Senator Roth's bill exceeds the House version by some $58 billion dollars.), and most Hill watchers believe that the FY 2001 budget framework being put forth by House and Senate Republican leaders is likely to generate appropriations bills that draw repeated veto threats from the White House, veto threats that Congressional Democrats will be keen to sustain. Indeed, when asked by a reporter about the hope expressed by other Republican leaders that the FY 2001 budget resolution might still produce a smooth appropriations process, the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, C.W. Bill Young (R-FL), is quoted as saying: "I don't think it's realistic."

EMERGENCY SPENDING BILL FACES UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Even as the U.S. House of Representatives was in the midst of debating a $9.2 billion fiscal year 2000 emergency supplemental appropriations bill (H.R. 3908), Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) was reiterating his call for the spending bill to be scrapped and its ever increasing number of funding provisions folded into the regular FY 2001 appropriations process. Senator Lott's remarks, and news reports that putting the breaks on a Senate version of fiscal year 2000 supplemental spending legislation is the cornerstone of a deal he struck to win committee approval for the Republican leadership's FY 2001 budget resolution, are combining to fuel speculation that the drive to enact a FY 2000 supplemental spending is well on its way to an early death.

Speaker Dennis Hastert only stoked the flames of doubt more when he reversed himself earlier in the week on "FOX News Sunday" by suggesting that it may be best if the House bill were broken up and some of its key components moved into "regular order." Up until this week, Speaker Hastert and the White House were, at least publicly, in agreement that "swift action" needed to be taken on H.R. 3908 in order to help stanch the flow of illegal drugs into the country and to provide relief for victims of hurricane Floyd. Among H.R. 3908's major outlays are: $2.2 billion to support U.S. peace keeping forces in Kosovo; $1.7 billion to help the government of Colombia combat drug trafficking; $1.6 billion to help the Pentagon meet higher fuel costs; and 2.2 billion to replenish federal disaster relief funds.

The President's original emergency spending request was for $5.3 billion. But since the bill began being worked on in the House, its price tag has grown markedly, and a number of House members have made plain their intentions to introduce amendments for even more FY 2000 supplemental spending which could raise the level to $13 billion. Preliminary estimates indicate that when it's all said and done the final House mark for the bill be could more than double what the President originally requested. It is this rapid, seemingly unchecked growth in the size and cost of bill that is inspiring strident opposition to it among conservative Republicans in the Senate. But despite Senator Lott's insistence that any FY 2000 supplemental spending bill is on the fast track to nowhere, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Ted Stevens (R-AK) says that his committee will definitely mark up a Senate counterpart for H.R. 3809 by Friday, March 31, 2000.

NCDA recently learned that Representative La Falce (D-NY) managed to attach language to the FY 2000 emergency supplemental spending bill that would provide a one-year emergency renewal for those permanent supportive housing and shelter-plus-care projects under HUD's FY 1999 Homeless Grants Assistance NOFA that were not re-funded, and which expire in calendar year 2000. Originally introduced as H.R. 3613, Representative La Falce's amendment requests that $6 million in unobligated funds from HUD's Section 8 account be used to fund grant renewals for the forty or so programs that HUD did not refund. If the supplemental bill fails to move, La Falce will likely reintroduce H.R. 3613 as stand-alone legislation or reattach it to another appropriations bill making its way through the Congress.

AUTHORIZATION BILL FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS EXPECTED IN THE SENATE

NCDA Continues to Meet with Senate Staff. Senator Allard (R-CO), Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Housing and Transportation, is expected to introduce a broad housing authorization bill later next month. NCDA has been working with Senator Allard's staff to include language in the bill to consolidate HUD's homeless assistance programs. In a meeting on March 20, Senate staff indicated to NCDA and other national interest groups that besides McKinney consolidation, the bill will include language to prohibit set-asides within CDBG. It also likely to contain language to increase the Fair Market Rent in an effort to allow Section 8 vouchers to be used in tight rental markets, a strong concern for Senator Allard.

Although not statutory language, the bill will include a "sense of the Congress" statement endorsing a 50% increase in the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and the Private Activity Bond Cap. It will also require HUD to provide timely notice to each community's Chief Elected Official about an owner's opt-out of the Section 8 program, and reiterate the original flexibility of the Moving-to-Work Program. Senator Allard is concerned by HUD's escalating micro-management of the program.

Although the Allard bill is expected to contain many of the same provisions that are in H.R. 1776, the counterpart authorizing bill in the House, the Senator's staff noted that the Allard bill probably not include language to authorize HUD's America's Private Investment Company (APIC) initiative. This initiative must be authorized by June 30, 1999 in order to receive it's FY 2000 appropriation of $20 million. If the Senate does eventually move to authorize APIC, his staff indicated that Allard will recommend the program be located within the Department of Treasury and not within HUD.

The Subcommittee on Housing and Transportation will hold hearings on the Allard housing bill this spring. NCDA and the other local and State interest groups have been asked to testify.

THE 2000 CENSUS AND ITS POSSIBLE IMPACT ON THE CDBG FORMULA

Unless you've been on sabbatical in Outer Mongolia, you are aware that the United States Government will undertake its decennial census this year. Beginning April 1, 2000 the counting of America begins. The census counts are important, not only as a means to understand ourselves as a nation–who we are, how old we are, where we work and live, etc.--but also because the population counts will determine how federal funds are allocated to states and local governments. The more accurate the count, the more representative the apportionment of federal funds.

Community Development Practitioners are well aware of the problems with the 1990 census count. It is widely believed that hundreds of thousands, if not millions of people were "missed." And, as often is the case, those who were not counted were the same people that we as CD practitioners serve and advocate for. Non-English speaking people, minorities, homeless people and the elderly often make up the largest segment of the population that is missed. It is also true that this segment also makes up, to a large extent, the low- and moderate-income persons seek to help. That is why it is so important for this census to provide better, more accurate counts. With populations increasing, the numbers of people relocating and immigrating, the need to know who we are and where we are is imperative, if we as a nation will be relying on census data to make policy and funding decisions. Moreover, we know that funding decisions are often based on a formula, which includes a population measure that is determined by a national standard, and in the case of the U.S. Government that standard is the most recent decennial census. Therefore, to get the most accurate representation of the population and funding levels, an accurate census is a must.

For NCDA's members, the significance of accurate population counts and formula programs primarily relate to funding for CDBG, HOME, and homelessness programs. Because the CDBG program is 25 years old and its formula has remained virtually unchanged since its inception, the 2000 census is likely to spur a move to see that ***the formula*** be revisited in the near future. In fact, Secretary Andrew Cuomo has already expressed an interest in lowering the population threshold for entitlement communities to 25,000, and Senator Phil Gramm (R-TX) is on record as opposing the current use of "age of housing stock" as a CDBG formula factor. Indeed, it is almost a certainty that the CDBG formula will be "re-examined" after the census comes out, if not before.

Just to provide a little background: the current CDBG formula was first used in allocating FY 1978 funds. It is a dual formula, which means that grant amounts are calculated for each eligible jurisdiction using two different formulas. The community then receives the larger of the two formula amounts in CDBG funds. For entitlement communities, the first formula (A) is based on size of population (weighted at .25), number of persons in poverty (weighted at .50), and number of overcrowded housing units (weighted at .25). The second formula (B) is based on the number of housing units built before 1940 (weighted at .50), the number of persons in poverty (weighted at .30) and the population changed– a measure of the community's growth lag (weighted at .2).

Why this information is important?

The Bureau of the Census, is a non-political, statistical data gathering agency, whose only function is to collect and analyze data. It does not make any policy decisions. With each decennial census, the Census Bureau does, however, look at the data and make rational assumptions and recommendations on its findings. This is not done in a vacuum. For the past five census counts a commission has been formed to determine the most useful and reasonable extrapolations to make about the U.S. population based on the information that was collected. This year is no different.

What is important for us to remain mindful of is the fact that, the very factors that make up the CDBG formula are the exact same statistics that the Census Bureau collects during its count. We already know about the great populations shifts from the Northeast to the Southwest. Also, a lot of pre-1940 housing no longer exists. Since the Census Bureau will only be providing 'objective' recommendations to OMB and Congress, we, as community development practitioners need to be able, on the spur of the moment, to tell OMB and Congress what makes the most programmatic sense with respect to how 2000 census data is used to change the definition of terms like "entitlement community" and, even more crucial, how or if the CDBG formula should reflect recent demographic changes in the nation.

This information is being provided to NCDA members so that they can begin to reflect on what they will need to know when and if they are called upon by the nation's policy makers for their views on how or even if the CDBG formula should be changed. Naturally, we will keep you apprized of any new developments that arise relating to this issue.

HUD NEWS

HUD Asks Grantees to Clean-Up IDIS Data. HUD's Office of Affordable Housing has asked NCDA and other interest groups to remind grantees to clean-up their HOME data in IDIS in order to improve the accuracy of the HOME program information. It is imperative for HUD to have the most accurate data available on the HOME program in order to report the program's accomplish-ments to Congress. The better the accomplishments, the better the chance of receiving increased funding for the program. Over the past six months, HUD has devoted a significant amount of time and resources to the review and correction of HOME program data in IDIS. Only slightly more than 300 of the 542 HOME participating jurisdictions have completed HUD's data clean-up request. HUD's goal is to have all 542 jurisdictions compliant by May 2000. We ask that you take the time to clean-up your HOME program data in IDIS. If you have any questions, please call Vivian Baldwin at (800) 273-2573 or by e-mail at IDIS_Data_Cleanup@hud.gov

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.

CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS

The NCDA Board of Directors will meet on June 1 during the Annual Conference in New Orleans. This is a call for items to added to the agenda. If you have any requests, please get them to NCDA's staff by May 12, 2000.

REGION I HOLDS SPRING MEETING

On March 24, 2000, Region I or the New England Region held is Annual Winter/Spring meeting in the beautifully historic city of Newton, Massachusetts. NCDA staff Chandra Western and Vicki Watson were invited to provide the Washington Update to the group of 100 members and other Community Development practitioners across the region. Region 1 President Nancy Remington did an outstanding job as Mistress of Ceremonies, with her very able assistant Stephen Gartrell representing the host city. Also present were several HUD officials and the New England Office Director Jim Barnes. The one-day meeting was chocked full of interesting and exciting sessions, not in the least were the best practices awards, the lead-based paint and what must have been the most challenging, the IDIS/DGMS update.

Region I will also be holding a more in-depth meeting this fall in Portland, Maine during the first week in November. If Region I members were unable to attend this last meeting, the fall meeting promises to be even more enlightening.

REGION V GETS RE-ESTABLISHED

On March 25-28, in Rockford, Illinois, NCDA's Region V held its first meeting in a decade. Thanks largely to the efforts of Barbara "Babs" Richardson, Community Development Director of the City of Rockford and with the unequivocal support of Rockford's Mayor Charles Box, this "first" meeting was a resounding success. Over sixty representatives from communities across the region attended the meeting. There were even some attendees from states outside, but adjacent to the region in attendance. The three and one-half day event included, a projects tour, a HOME training through NCDA's NAHTI contract, a Washington Report provided by NCDA staff Chandra Western and Vicki Watson, as well as a briefing from the Regions Senior Community Builder on Secretary Cuomo's intent to dispatch Community

Builders for use in local planning efforts. [We're still not sure what this means.] But, by far the highlight of the evening was the trip to Box's, the Mayor's restaurant, for the regions best Bar-B-Que.

Barbara Richardson is committed to re-establishing NCDA's Region V as a force to be reckoned with. In fact she is so committed that the City of Rockford will again host the 2001 meeting, sometime in early April.

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 29, 2000. Changes to Admissions and Occupancy Requirements in the Public Housing and Section 8 Housing Assistance Programs. This final rule implements changes to the admission and occupancy requirements for the public housing and Section 8 assisted housing programs made by the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. These changes concern choice of rent, community and self-sufficiency in public housing, and admission preferences and determination of income and rent in public housing and Section 8 housing assistance programs. This final rule follows a proposed rule published on April 30, 1999, and takes into consideration the public comments received on the proposed rule.

March 22, 2000. Multifamily Housing Mortgage and Housing Assistance Restructuring Program (Mark-to-Market). This final rule implements the Mark-to-Market Program through which section 8 rents for multifamily projects with HUD-insured or HUD-held mortgages will be reduced. Currently, the program is operating under the authority of an interim rule that took effect on October 11, 1998. The purpose of the program is to preserve low-income rental housing affordability while reducing the long-term costs of Federal rental assistance, including project-based assistance, and minimizing the adverse effect on the FHA insurance funds. A separate final rule will be published for those sections of the interim rule that govern renewal of section 8 project-based assistance contracts for projects outside of the Mark-to-Market Program.

March 17, 2000. FY 2000 Notice of Funding Availability for the Assisted Living Conversion Program (ALCP) for Section 202 Projects. This NOFA announces the availability of $50 million in FY 2000 funding for conversions of units within existing Section 202 projects into licensed Assisted Living Facilities. The application deadline is July 17, 2000.

FY 2000 Notice of Funding Availability for Service Coordinators in Multifamily Housing. This NOFA announces the availability of $25 million to allow multifamily housing owners to hire service coordinators to assist elderly residents and residents with disabilities to obtain needed supportive services from the community, in order to enable them to continue living as independently as possible in their apartments. The application deadline is July 17, 2000.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ATTACHMENTS

To access the information below, please go to NCDAonline.

- NCDA 2000 National Community Development Week Promotional Items Flyer
- National Community Development Week Action Plans
- NCDA Annual Conference Brochures and Registration Forms