NCDA
WASHINGTON REPORT

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

DATE: May 12, 2000

NCDA Annual Conference, May 31-June 3, 2000, New Orleans, LA
National Homeownership Week: June 3 - 10, 2000

FEATURE ARTICLES

HOUSE AND SENATE RELEASE FY 2001 SUBCOMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS

The start of the FY 2001 appropriations process is officially underway. The House and Senate Appropriations committees released the FY 2001 spending levels (known as the 302(b) allocations) for each of their subcommittees on Thursday, May 4. These spending levels provide a mark for the subcommittees to use in allocating spending among the Federal agencies under their jurisdiction. As rumored, the spending level for the Department of Defense increased in both the House and Senate.

The House Appropriations Committee set a spending level of $288.4 billion for the Department of Defense, a $20.4 billion increase from last year's level of $268.6 billion. The Senate Appropriations Committee set a FY 2001 spending level of $287.4 billion for defense, an increase of $18.8 billion. While defense spending gained a large increase, the non-defense agencies received slight increases or cuts. Labor-HHS-Education gained the most of all of the non-defense agencies with a $2.8 billion increase recommended by the House Appropriations Committee and a $4.3 billion recommended by the Senate Appropriations Committee. VA-HUD-Independent Agencies was one of seven non-defense subcommittees receiving cuts by either the House Appropriations Committee or Senate Appropriations Committee, or in VA-HUD's case, both. The House Appropriations Committee recommended a spending level of $78 billion for VA-HUD, a $400 million decrease from the FY 2000 spending level of $78.4 billion. The Senate Appropriations Committee recommended a $77.8 billion mark for VA-HUD, a $600 million decrease from last year. It is certain that some of the non-defense allocations will have to increase in order for President Clinton to support the appropriations measures. "There isn't a way in the world these bills are going to be approved by the president," said Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV).

This is an election year, so there is great pressure to pass the appropriations bills by October 6, or sooner, so that Congress can adjourn on time. "We've got to get out of here by September 30, and we're going to do that," Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK), Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, recently commented. If appropriations bills aren't completed by September, expect Congress to pass continuing resolutions to keep those agencies without signed appropriations bills funded at their FY 2000 spending level. Congress needs to leave town to campaign for the November elections. The Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction, Foreign Operations, and Transportation bills are moving forward, with all marked-up in either subcommittee or full committee on the House and Senate side. We've been told that the VA-HUD bill will begin to move in both chambers in late May.

In terms of the VA-HUD bill, Senator Bond (R-MO), Chairperson of Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on VA-HUD-IA, and Rep. Walsh (R-NY), Chairperson of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on VA-HUD-IA continue to support full funding for VA medical benefits and for HUD's Section 8 contract renewals. Both appear to be supportive of elderly housing and housing production as well. However, both sides have commented that it will be very difficult to increase HUD's budget this year.

NCDA has learned that the $6.2 million to renew 40 Shelter Plus Care and Supportive Housing Program that were not funded through HUD's FY 1999 Continuum of Care application process will likely be attached to the Senate Agriculture appropriations bill. Similar language was included in the House emergency supplemental appropriations bill. Presently, since the Senate does not plan to move an emergency supplemental bill, the language for the renewal funding will likely have to be added to the House Agriculture appropriations bill in order to be conferenced.

FY 2001 Subcommittee Allocations

Subcommittee	FY 2000	House Allocation	Senate Allocation
Agriculture	$14.3 billion	$14.4 billion	$14.9 billion
Commerce-Justice-State	$35 billion	$35.4 billion	$34.7 billion
Defense	$268.6 billion	$288.4 billion	$287.4 billion
District of Columbia	$430 million	$410 million	$440 million
Energy and Water	$21.1 billion	$21.7 billion	$22.5 billion
Foreign Operations	$13.5 billion	$13.3 billion	$13.4 billion
Interior	$15.1 billion	$14.7 billion	$15.5 billion
Labor-HHS-Education	$95.7 billion	$98.5 billion	$100 billion
Legislative Branch	$2.45 billion	$2.36 billion	$2.50 billion
Military Construction	$8.4 billion	$8.6 billion	$8.6 billion
Transportation	$13.7 billion	$15 billion	$13.3 billion
Treasury-Postal	$13.6 billion	$14.1 billion	$14.3 billion
VA-HUD-Independent Agencies	$78.4 billion	$78 billion	$77.8 billion

HUD ISSUES RULE TO DECONCENTRATE PUBLIC HOUSING

On April 17, 1999, HUD released a proposed rule to “deconcentrate poverty and promote integration in public housing.” This proposed rule revises the final rule on Public Housing Agency Plans, published on October 21, 1999. Specifically, the rule requires PHAs to deconcentrate poverty and affirmatively further fair housing in the public housing program and to affirmatively further fair housing in the Section 8 voucher program.

HUD plans to achieve de-concentration by bringing higher income tenants into lower income develop-ments and lower income tenants into higher income developments. The rule requires PHAs to determine an overall average income for tenants in their family developments; characterize each building as higher income or lower income, based on whether the average income in the building is above or below the overall average; and require that lower income families be admitted to higher income buildings and higher income families be admitted to lower income buildings. The PHA must skip families on the waiting list, if necessary, to reach a lower income family to whom it will offer the unit in a higher income development and vice versa.

HUD is requiring each PHA, as part of its PHA plan submission, to include a statement on the PHA's de-concentration policy.

A PHA must meet the requirement of affirmatively furthering fair housing by carrying out its PHA Plan in conformity with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Beyond the basic requirement of nondiscrimination, however, an agency should affirmatively further fair housing to reduce racial and national origin concentrations. HUD plans to challenge any PHA Plan that does not reduce racial and national origin concentrations in developments or buildings, perpetuates segregated housing, or creates new segregated housing. PHAs must prove to HUD that it is providing the full range of housing opportunities to applicants and tenants or that it is implementing affirmative efforts.

In a recent meeting of local government interest groups, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) expressed concern that the rule "will not only fall well short of its goal, but will have an adverse impact on those that it purports to help; low-income families, racial/ethnic minorities, and Public Housing Authorities (PHAs)." NAHRO has several other concerns with the rule. According to NAHRO, HUD has failed to demonstrate that there is indeed a problem of income concentration in public housing. NAHRO would like to see HUD perform a detailed de-concentration analysis of public housing before issuing this rule. Second, NAHRO sees the rule as adversely affecting low-income families and racial/ethnic minorities and PHAs because the rule does not allow families to choose where they want to live. NAHRO points out that the rule fails to look at other factors that goes into a families choice of where to live, such as close proximity to employment, schools, and family. Also, according to NAHRO, the rule will hurt low-income families because it requires PHAs to skip low-income families on a PHA's waiting list to provide a unit in a "low-income" building to a high-income family, thereby allowing the low-income family to continue to sit on the waiting list. HUD will accept comments on this proposed rule until June 1, 2000.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GROUPS SEND LETTER TO HUD ON GSE GOALS

The U.S. Conference of Mayors, National Association of Counties, Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies, and NCDA forwarded a joint comment letter to HUD on May 8 on its recently released rule on affordable housing goals for the Government-Sponsored Enterprises (GSE), principally Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae. A copy of the letter is enclosed with this newsletter.

In the letter, the groups outlined major areas for HUD to focus on in implementing its rule. First, the groups signal their support for increased affordable housing goals for the GSEs, from 42% to 48% in 2000 and to 50% for 2001 to 2003. The four groups also support the idea of awarding bonus points to GSEs to increase their activity in underserved markets. In the letter, the groups ask HUD to modify the proposed rule to give GSEs credit for purchasing tax-exempt single- and multifamily- housing bonds issued by local and state housing agencies, and for purchasing Low-Income Housing Tax Credits. Currently, Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae purchase approximately 25% of the tax-exempt bonds issued by states and local governments. The measure of credit for the GSEs toward any or all of the goals would be the number of units assisted. The letter further encourages HUD to give credit to GSEs for purchases of single- and multifamily loans in Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities because these areas contain distressed neighborhoods in which reinvestment is sorely needed. The GSEs should also be given credit for assisting in projects with expiring Section 8 contracts, either through the restructuring or refinancing of mortgages and credit enhancements or risk sharing arrangements for modified or refinanced mortgages. The groups would also like to see the GSEs more involved in the subprime market.

MAYORS TO TAKE UP KEY HOUSING AND CD RESOLUTIONS

This year at the 68th Annual Conference of Mayors in Seattle, mayors from across the nation will vote on resolutions to stake out the U.S. Conference of Mayors official stance on a number of major housing and community development related issues that are currently before the Congress or in need of concerted federal action. NCDA Executive Director Chandra Western and Senior Legislative Counsel Vicki Watson have assisted in providing input on three resolutions. Chandra Western provided input on those resolutions related to the CDBG and HOME programs, and Vicki Watson worked very closely with Conference of Mayors staff on a resolution dealing with HUD's new Lead-Based Paint abatement regulation.

The CDBG and HOME resolutions reiterates the testimony of Roslyn Phillips of April 13, 2000 to formally urge the President, Congress, and the HUD Secretary to increase the baseline appropriation for CDBG in the in FY 2001 federal budget to $5 billion in order to accommodate the increase in newly eligible entitlement communities; put an end to the proliferation of set-asides that dilute the availability of block grant funds going to local government; and to ensure that statutorily appropriated technical assistance funds are used by HUD only for that end. With respect to the HOME program resolution, the nation's mayors are asked to support a statement declaring that Congress and the Administration should appropriate $2 billion for HOME in the FY 2001 and, again, ensure that statutorily appropriated grantee TA funds are not used by HUD for any other purpose.

If the Mayors adopt the resolution on HUD's new lead abatement rule, mayors will be on record as urging Congress, the President, and the Secretary of HUD to provide full appropriations to local governments for the cost of implementing the new regulation, and to delay the enactment of the rule until such time as the necessary funds are actually available. Morever, the mayors are asked to request waivers from HUD for communities where there exists a lack of trained and certified lead-based paint abatement contractors, and to exempt housing units where the elderly reside and no children are present, as well as limit the applicability of the new regulation only to housing units assisted with CDBG and HOME dollars in which children under the age of six reside.

The 68th Annual Conference of Mayors begins on Friday, June 9th, 2000 and closes on Tuesday, June 13th. These and other housing and community development resolutions covering such diverse topics as, seeking an increase in the per capita caps on private activity bonds and the low-income housing tax credit, endorsing a bill to in Congress to modernize the Community reinvestment Act, and legislation consolidating the McKinney Homelessness assistance programs, will be voted on by the mayors before the conference closes. The general consensus is that the prospects for final passage of all the CD and housing resolutions are very high.

WHITE HOUSE WILL TRY TO COAX BANKS TO HELP POOR

In a recent speech to the Consumer Bankers Association, Treasury Secretary Lawrence

Summers announced that later this week the Administration will introduce legislation calling for subsidies to banks, thrifts, and credit unions for offering low, or no-fee checking accounts, automated-teller machines, and online banking services in poor neighborhoods. Dubbed "The First Accounts Campaign," is meant to promote financial literacy in poorer communities. President Clinton has expressed concern that approximately 10 million U.S. households, mostly poor and minority, often times elderly and disabled, don't have bank accounts. Instead, the poor are forced to rely on high cost, low-service check cashing services for their financial service needs. In part, these consumers have lost access to mainstream banks because of the rash of closings in poor neighborhoods and rural towns that has accompanied merger mania in the banking industry.

Ed Yingling, senior lobbyist at the American Bankers Association, believes it is "highly unlikely" that legislation of this sort will move so late in the year. During the debate over last year's Financial Services Modernization Act, consumer groups failed in their attempts to attach an amendment to the bill ordering all banks to offer low-cost accounts to low-income clients. However, bankers look more favorably on this latest Clinton proposal because it would offer them financial incentives for improving their service to poor neighborhoods. Consumers Union legislative counsel Frank Torres said that his group is very supportive of the "First Accounts" initiative but, he went on to add, "[i]t's a shame that we actually have to pay the banks to do this."

LEAD-BASED PAINT UPDATE

NCDA, NAHRO, ALFHA, and COSCDA are working on a joint letter to send to Congress and HUD this week on the Lead-Based Paint regulation. In the letter, all four groups ask for a delay in implementation of the lead-based paint final regulation until the cost of the regulation can be determined and sufficient funding provided by Congress to pay for the additional cost of the regulation on CDBG and HOME grantees.

In the letter, the four groups also voice their concerns over certain portions of the regulation, the lack of certified contractors to perform the lead hazard reduction work, the impact of the regulation on elderly homeowners, and the impact of the regulation on the timely expenditure of CDBG and HOME funds. In the letter, the groups recommend that HUD provide waivers to those jurisdictions experiencing difficulty in obtaining certified contracts. The groups also recommend that once the rule is implemented that HUD apply the regulation only to units where children under the age of 6 reside, not to all units assisted with CDBG and HOME, as is currently proposed in the regulation. This would eliminate the elderly (other than those with children living in their homes) and other categories from having to comply with the regulation, and reduce the number of units that have to be inspected for lead-based paint. NCDA and the U.S. Conference of Mayors have drafted a Lead-Based Paint resolution to garner support from the mayors on these issues. The resolution will be presented to the mayors at their June meeting in Seattle, WA.

In other news pertaining to the regulation, HUD told NCDA recently that it will release another set of Q & As in the next few weeks. HUD also plans to hold meetings with NCDA and other national interest groups in June to re-visit the regulation and discuss possible areas of compromise in terms of changes to the rule. HUD has told NCDA directly that it might be willing to delay enforcement of the rule for a year.

The Denver (May 23-25) training session has been cancelled due to low registration. HUD is not planning to cancel any other training sessions at this time. For a complete listing of the training sessions, please go to NCDA's website at www.ncdaonline.org

LARGE BANKS MAY IMPROVE SUBPRIME MARKET

As greater profits are realized from the subprime lending market**,** larger banks will target more of their business activities to this share of the overall market. With large banks becoming more involved in this part of the market, more federal over-site and therefore regulation of their business practices will occur. In essence, big banks, or prime lenders, may actually be the group that will assist HUD, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in their efforts to combat predatory lending practices.

Subprime lenders usually serve homebuyers with less than perfect credit histories (the low- to moderate-income and minority people community development practitioners provide assistance serve) by charging higher interest rates to cover the lender's additional risk According to Freddie Mac, up to 30 percent of subprime borrowers have credit records good enough to qualify conventional mortgages, if only they could get better terms and rates. Due to the growth in the subprime market and the enormous profits being realized, conventional lenders and underwriters are slowly moving into this arena. According to HUD the number of subprime loans went from 100,000 in 1993 to 900,000 in 1999, producing a nearly $1 billion industry. The booming, virtually full-employment economy economy has enabled more people, particularly those who until recently could not qualify for loans in the conventional market, to be able to qualify in the subprime market. We can expect that as more of hose who previously only qualified in the subprime market no longer accept subprime products, they will look to prime lenders for their lending services.

According to Peter Zorn of Freddie Mac, FHLMC is working with prime lenders to develop criteria for underwriting subprime loans as an initial step in reigning in abuses in the industry. By providing uniformity in business practices, Freddie mac hopes to make predatory lending a thing of the past. Subprime lending not only affects mortgage lending, but also home improvements, auto loans and debt consolidation loans. According to Bob Mooney of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), FDIC will soon meet with industry groups to develop strategies to combat predatory lending practices. FDIC may even start considering the impact of predatory loans on low-to- moderate income communities during lenders' CRA evaluations. And since large banks will be reviewed more often, this safeguard can realistically have a big impact on bringing some stability and uniformity to the subprime market, regardless of who the players are.

CANDIDATES TACKLE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CHALLENGE

In what most veteran political observers consider to be a fairly uncharacteristic move for a Republican presidential nominee, Texas Governor George W. Bush rolled out his strategy to expand affordable housing opportunities for low-income Americans at a press event in Battle Creek, Michigan on April 17, 2000.

Recently released studies by HUD on the nation's worst case housing needs shows that some 5.4 million households are desperately in need affordable housing assistance. (Households with worst case needs are defined as unassisted renters with incomes below 50 per cent of the local median, who pay more than half of their income for rent or live in severely substandard housing.) There are now 600,000 more households with worst cases housing needs than there were in 1991.

The Bush affordable housing proposal consists of three basic components which are all geared toward one specific end: increasing homeownership among the poor. The major initiatives that constitute Bush's affordable housing strategy are as follows: a "Renewing the Dream" Investor-Based Tax Credit; using the Section 8 certificate program to overcome the 'down-payment barrier'; and encouraging savings among the poor through Individual Development Accounts.

In order to spur the private sector to produce more affordable single-family housing, the Bush camp advocates the establishment of a five-year, $1.7 billion "Renewing the Dream" Investor-Based Tax credit. This initiative would provide a tax credit of up to 50 per cent of the project costs for redeveloping single-family housing, or building new homes for low-income buyers. Coupled with an array of as yet unspecified incentives to encourage states and local governments "to cut the regulations and red tape that are a major barrier to the rehabilitating homes and neighborhoods," the Bush camp asserts that the "Renewing the Dream" Tax Credit can reasonably be expected to result in the rehab or construction of 100,000 affordably priced single-family dwellings over five years.

Citing statistics that show that even though the national homeownership rate is at an all time high of 67 per cent less than 43 per cent of African-Americans and Hispanics own their own home, as compared with 73 per cent of whites, the Bush camp has crafted a proposal to address the "down payment barrier." Studies show that for most first-time, low-income homebuyers the up-front down payment and closing costs represent the single greatest obstacle to their being able to purchase a home. Governor Bush says that, if elected, his administration would support legislation allowing public housing authorities to provide current Section 8 rental subsidy recipients to receive up to a year's worth of vouchers in a lump-sum payment to cover the down-payment and closing costs on a house. Current Section 8 eligible renters would also be permitted to use vouchers to subsidize their monthly mortgage payments at a rate inversely proportional to their income. The higher their income grows the lower their mortgage subsidy would become. Families receiving down-payment assistance and/or on-going mortgage subsidies would be required to complete homeownership and financial management programs.

Finally, a George W. Bush administration would try to encourage savings among low-income families with Individual Development Accounts (IDAs). The Bush IDA program would provide a 50 per cent tax credit to financial institutions that match deposits of up to $300 annually by individuals making less than 60 per cent of the area median income. Moreover, participating banks would receive credit under the Community Reinvestment Act for 10 per cent of the matched contributions. Charitable state tax credits would also be made available to encourage individual and corporate contributions to non-profit organizations that make matching grants and conduct financial education, monitoring, and administration for the IDA program. Recipients of matching grants would have full access to all IDA funds and could withdraw them tax-free to buy a first-home, start a new business, or pay for educational expenses.

It deserves to be pointed out that neither Bush's Section 8 housing payment support scheme or IDAs are new concepts on Capitol Hill. In fact both already exist in some form or another as small demonstration programs of the Clinton-Gore Administration, and an expanded IDA initiative is included as part of Representative J.C. Watts' (R-OK) Community Renewal Act urban revitalization legislation, which is currently working its way through the U.S. House of Representatives. The Bush campaign has not released any documentation showing that the Governor has any plans to increase the availability of multi-family affordable housing units.

In contrast to Governor Bush, and to the chagrin of many of his liberal supporters, Vice President Al Gore's campaign hasn't even held any events yet to explain what kinds of steps he would take as president to improve access to affordable housing for low-income Americans. There is, however, some brief mention of affordable housing on the Vice President's official campaign website.

Currently, the heart of Al Gore's affordable housing strategy is the Clinton-Gore Administration's FY 2001 budget request for 120,000 new Section 8 vouchers and a promise to support a sizeable expansion of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, as well as propose new initiatives to strengthen the Clinton Administration's existing "Play-by-the Rules" Homeownership Zones program.

From the perspective of affordable housing advocates, both Governor Bush and Vice President Gore have a long way to go with respect to proposing even credible strategies for alleviating the nation's worts case housing needs. The National Low income Housing Coalition describes Governor Bush's proposal as "a nice try, but not even close!" And the Forth-Worth Star telegram in Texas characterized a recent report from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs proclaiming that "the Department's programs do not consistently reach Texans with the greatest need" as a "scathing indictment of the state's inability to meet its most pressing low-income housing needs"under George W. Bush's watch.

As for the Vice President, a number of Washington progressives and liberals see his unwillingness to step up to the plate with more bold initiatives as an ominous sign that affordable housing will be "as a low a priority in a Gore White House as it has been under President Clinton." A May 8th Op-Ed piece by Tom Oliphant in the Boston Globe chastises the Vice President for not saying anything about housing, even though a number of prominent big city mayors and liberal U.S. Senators have "prodded and cajoled" him to do so.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP WEEK

HUD, along with the National Partners in Homeownership, encourage grantees to celebrate National Homeownership Week from June 3 - June 10. This week celebrates home-ownership through events such as homebuyer fairs, seminars and workshops, official proclamations, open houses, etc. HUD will send a Planning Guide to all of its grantees within the next couple of weeks for assistance in planning your homeownership week activities.

CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR REMINDER

U.S. House of Representatives

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

U.S. Senate

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 above calendar represents the dates when members of Congress will most likely be in their home districts. These dates are excellent opportunities to contact your delegations on issues concerning community development and housing. Encourage your non-profit community to send them postcards. Present them with a framed, national CD Week poster. Let them know that increased funding for CDBG, HOME and Homelessness programs are top priorities in their districts. If at all possible, schedule an event (ribbon cutting, reception, opening, etc.) and invite a member to speak. This is an election year and a very short Congressional work year. Let them know what is important at home. If member communities need any assistance in providing "materials," please don't hesitate to contact any member of NCDA's staff. We still have posters and some post cards available for sale.

HUD NEWS

HUD TO RELEASE PROPOSED RULES FOR COMMENT

Brownfields Redevelopment. CDBG recipients hope to have more flexibility to redevelop brownfields under a proposed rule HUD expects to release in July. The new regulation would give grantees more leeway in meeting the elimination of slums and blight national objective. Economic obsolescence of buildings and the presence of environmental contaminants would be considered blighting influences.

Anti-pirating. In June, HUD expects to issue a proposed rule for public comment prohibiting states and localities from using CDBG funds for "job pirating" activities. Such activities might include specifically providing infrastructure for new industrial facilities as a means of luring companies and jobs from neighboring jurisdictions.

HUD ANNOUNCES DELAY OF CONVERSION TO DGMS

Late last week, HUD's Office of Grants Management announced that the deadline for converting all entitlement grantees from IDIS to the new web-based Departmental Grants Management System is being pushed back from June 30 to September 30, 2000. No specific explanation was given for the delay. However, preliminary reports from pilot communities involved with testing out the various DGMS modules indicate that the production schedule has been long overdue for some time now. Despite our best efforts to get more information about what this delay might mean for the shape of DGMS conversion when the system is ready, officials at HUD head-quarters remain very tight-lipped. Of course, as soon as we know more you'll know more.

HUD ASKS HOME GRANTEES TO CLEAN-UP THEIR DATA IN IDIS

HUD has asked NCDA to ask grantees who have not already done so to clean-up their HOME program data within IDIS by June 30, 2000. In the next few weeks, HUD plans to send letters to approximately 214 communities that have not cleaned-up their HOME data within IDIS.

HOME is one of the most well-respected and well-supported federal programs on the Hill. This is due to the fact that the former CMI system enabled Congress to document the progress and benefit of the program. It is imperative that HUD receive the same results through IDIS. Sound, up-to-date information will more accurately reflect the success of each participating jurisdiction's HOME program efforts and will allow Congress to continue the program's benefits and continue to fund the program at higher levels every year. If you have any questions regarding the data clean-up, please contact HUD's Technical Assistance Unit at 1-800-273-2573 or by e-mail at IDIS_Data_Cleanup@hud.gov

NCDA NOTES

CD WEEK PROMOTIONAL ITEMS STILL AVAILABLE

Even though the "officially" proclaimed National Community Development Week celebration was during the week of April 24-30, many of you are planning events later in the spring. If you haven't ordered your CD Week promotional items, there is still time to do so. NCDA still has posters and post cards, however, not many. T-shirts, coffee mugs, and tote bags are available as well, but must be ordered well in advance of scheduled events. If you have any questions or concerns about CD Week items, please contact the ever diligent Tamika McRae at 202-293-7587. She will do her best to get your items to you when you need them.

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. NCDA has extended its deadline for hotel reservations until May 30, 2000. There are still plenty of rooms available for those who wish to attend. 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. See the attached agenda.

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICES

May 9, 2000. Implementation of the Equal Access to Justice Act. The Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight (OFHEO) is publishing a final regulation that implements the Equal Access to Justice Act (Act). The Act provides for the award of fees and other expenses to eligible individuals and entities that are parties to adversary adjudications before the Federal government. The regulation establishes procedures for the filing and consideration of applications for awards of fees and expenses in connection with adversary adjudications before OFHEO.

May 8, 2000. Housing Demonstration Program. The Rural Housing Service (RHS) announces the availability of housing funds for fiscal year 2000 for the Rural Housing Demonstration Program. For FY 2000, RHS has set aside $3 million for the Innovative Demonstration Initiatives and is soliciting proposals for a Housing Demonstration program under section 506(b) of title V of the Housing Act of 1949. Under this section, RHS may provide loans for innovative housing units and systems which do not meet existing published standards, rules, regulations, or policies. The intended effect is to increase the availability of affordable Rural Housing for low-income families through innovative designs and systems.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ATTACHMENTS

To access the attachments below, please log on to NCDAonline (www.ncdaonline.org).

- GSE Letter to Congress
- Annual Conference Agenda and Registration Form
- CD Week Posters and Post Cards Order Form