WASHINGTON REPORT

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FEATURE ARTICLES

HUD-VA APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

With a vote of 256-159, last Wednesday (June 21, 2000), the U.S. House of Representatives passed the FY 2001 VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act (H.R. 4635). On the House floor, very few amendments were adopted to the bill that was previously marked-up and approved by the full House Appropriations Committee on June 7, 2001.

Under the provisions of the H.R. 4635, the total HUD budget is fixed at $30 billion, a modest increase of $33 million above the full Appropriations Committee mark for HUD and $2.5 billion below the President's request. Except in a few rare instances, attempts by members to add money to HUD's budget were either ruled out of order because they lacked suitable offsets or put the bill above its stated budget allocation.

CDBG and other HUD Community Planning and Development division formula grant programs remain designated as set-asides within a broader Community Development Fund. CDBG *is funded at $4.505 billion in FY 2001*, $295 million less than last year and $495 million less than the amount requested by NCDA and other national interest groups. Of the $4.505 billion amount appropriated by the House, *$4.214 billion is reserved for direct formula allocations to communities and states.*

HOME funding in FY 2001 is fixed at *$1.585 billion*, $15 million less than last year. There are *$22 million in set asides*. Fifteen million dollars is set aside for housing counseling and $7 million for HUD's IDIS/DGMS Working Capital Fund.

Total funding for **ESG/HOMELESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS** is level funded at *$1.02 billion* in H.R. 4635. The **Housing Certificate Fund** receives an increase of $1.899 billion to $13.275 billion. This sum includes $37 million for Shelter Plus Care renewals.

In a rare victory for those seeking increased funding for HUD programs, Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) succeeded in winning approval for an amendment to increase FY 2001 funding for **HOPWA** by $18 million to $250 million. Rep. Sue Kelly (R-NY) was able to transfer $1 million dollars from HUD's salary and expense line item to the Public Housing operating fund.

Under the category of major cuts and reforms, H.R. 4635 authorizes the complete de-funding of the President's Americorps program. The bill also contains no new special purpose grants or ear-marked set-asides. Based on these two factors alone, most veteran observers of the budget process view this VA-HUD bill as not much more than a place holder until the White House and Congressional leaders start their "real negotiations" later in the fall. Apart from the fact the Congress fails to fund key VA-HUD programs at the President's requested levels, it's clear to almost everyone that the President Clinton will veto any VA-HUD bill that zeros out Americorps and that members of Congress are unlikely to submit for final passage any VA-HUD bill that contains absolutely no earmarks whatsoever.

On the Senate side, appropriators for that body have more or less decided to push back beginning work on their version of the FY 2001 VA-HUD-IA funding bill until September. Considering that the Senate's 302(b) budget allocations for VA-HUD are even worse that the amount that guided activity in the House, NCDA and other national interest groups view the Senate delay as a golden opportunity to stress to members of Congress from both chambers the need to increase funding for CDBG, HOME, and HUD's other core programs for low-income Americans.

With federal budget surplus projections exceeding $200 billion for this fiscal year alone, we believe there is certainly ample money available to increase funding for these vital programs. We strongly urge all NCDA members and affiliates to contact their elected representatives and point out to them that rather than cutting CDBG and HOME they should increase funding for these important programs in FY 2001. We are requesting $5 billion for CDBG and $2 billion for HOME in FY 2001.

HUD Appropriations Chart

Program	FY 2000 Enacted Level	House Approved FY 2001 Level
Community Development Fund (a.k.a. CDBG Program)	$4.781 billion	$4.505 billion
Set-asides:		
CDBG formula allocation	Not a set-aside	$4.214 billion
Native Americans	$67 million	$67 million
Housing Assistance Council	$3 million	$3 million
Natl. Am. Indian Housing Council	$3 million	$3 million
Section 107 grants	$50 million	$39.5 million
Self-Help Housing Oppt. Program	$20 million	$20 million
Natl. Comm. Dev. Initiative	$20 million	$23.45 million
Resident Opp. & Social Serv.	$55 million	$55 million
Neighborhood Initiatives	$30 million	$10 million
Youthbuild	$43 million	$45 million
Economic development initiatives	$256 million	$10 million
Section 108 Loan Guarantees Limit	$1.261 billion	$1.217 billion
Credit Subsidy	$30 million	$28 million
Working Capital Fund(IDIS/DGMS)	$ -0-	$15 million
HOME Program	$1.6 billion	$1.585 billion
Set-asides:		
Housing Counseling	$15 million	$15 million
Working Capital Fund	$7 million	$17 million
Total Set-Asides	$22 million	$32 million
Homeless Assistance Grants	$1.02 billion	$1.02 billion
Section 202 (elderly)	$710 million	$710 million
Section 811 (disabled)	$205 million	$201 million
Housing Certificate Fund	$11.376 billion	*$13.275 billion
Public Housing Operating Fund	$3.138 billion	$3.139 billion
Public Housing Capital Fund	$2.9 billion	$2.8 billion
Lead-Based Paint Reduction	$80 million	$80 million
HOPWA	$232 million	$250 million
HOPE VI	$575 million	$565 million
Rural Housing & Economic Dev.	$25 million	$20 million
Natv. Amer. Housing Block Grants	$620 million	$620 million
Drug Elimination Grants	$310 million	$300 million
Brownfields Redevelopment	$25 million	$20 million
Fair Housing	$44 million	$44 million

*This includes $37 million for Shelter Plus Care renewals.

BUDGET SURPLUS ESTIMATE DOUBLED

At a ceremony in the White House rose garden on Monday, June, 26, 2000, President Clinton used an array of poster-sized charts and graphs to announce to reporters that the Administration's official projections for the size of the federal non-social security budget surplus had more than doubled to a colossal $1.87 trillion dollars over ten years. Just four months ago, the White House surplus projections leveled off at around $930 billion over ten years.

The reason for such a sharp increase in the official White House surplus estimate is plain enough: the U.S. economy is hot right now, very hot! And the increased level of economic activity is crowding the federal treasury with unexpected revenue.

President Clinton attempted to seize the opportunity afforded by the good news to break the logjam between the Administration and the Congress over conflicting prescription drug proposals and so-called marriage tax penalty relief plans. Mr. Clinton basically offered House and Senate Republican leaders an even trade: in an exchange for accepting his revised $79 billion proposal to add a prescription drug benefit to the Medicare program, he wold be willing to accept a much bigger marriage tax penalty relief bill than the $27 billion dollar effort put forth by himself and congressional Democrats earlier this year. The President indicated that he would probably be willing to go as high as $50 billion on a marriage penalty tax cut, but regardless of the specifics the two sides should at least start talking. Mr. Clinton also floated a proposal initially put forth by Vice-President Al Gore to take expenditures for the Medicare program off-budget, effectively creating a Medicare "lockbox" similar to the budget shield now protecting the Social Security trust fund.

The positive fiscal and economic news notwithstanding, the immediate response from congressional Republicans to the President's offer of a prescription drug-marriage penalty compromise was lukewarm at best. Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete V. Domenici (R-NM) is quoted as saying, "No horse trading," upon getting wind of the President Clinton's compromise offer. And House Republican leaders indicated that they remain determined to pass their $185 billion across-the-board marriage penalty tax cut bill in its current form, as well as their own version of prescription drug coverage for low-income seniors regardless of whether they receive input from the White House, or any votes from congressional Democrats.

Despite their strident, even confrontational tone, House and Senate Republican leaders were quick to point out that they weren't ruling out an end-game negotiation with the White House. It's just that, for now at least, they think its best to maintain "regular order," pass their proposals as is, and see if the President will veto them.

Exactly what the new budget projections will mean for the on-going FY 2001 appropriations process remains unclear. Thus far, none of the major appropriations subcommittees in the House or Senate have taken any steps to go beyond their 302 (b) allocations, but it is generally believed that once the bills are in conference, all bets are off in terms of being able to hold the line on spending.

SENATOR SANTORUM INTRODUCES AFFORDABLE HOUSING LEGISLATION

Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA) introduced S. 2733 – The Affordable Housing for Senior and Families Act – on June 15, 2000. Senator Sarbanes (D-MD) and Senator Kerry (D-MA) are co-sponsors of the bill. The bill contains a myriad of provisions aimed at expanding affordable housing opportunities for the elderly and the disabled.

The measure allows HUD to approve prepayments of section 202 mortgages, thereby allowing nonprofit organizations to build equity in their projects, which can be used to leverage funding for capital improvements or services for tenants.

The measure minimizes displacement of aging, frail seniors by authorizing competitive grants for the conversion of elderly housing (and public housing designated for the elderly) into assisted living facilities. Other provisions of the bill include the following:

- allows private non-profit organizations to administer tenant-based for assistance for the elderly**;**
- limits funding for tenant-based assistance under the Section 811 Program to 25% of the program's appropriation**;**
- authorizes $50 million annually, through FY 2004, for service coordinators under the Section 202 Program;
- allows FHA to provide mortgage insurance for "integrated service facilities " like ambulatory care centers**.**

Matching Grants to States and Localities to Preserve Affordable Housing

Title IV of the bill focuses on preserving the existing stock of federally assisted properties as affordable housing for low- and very low-income families by creating a matching grant program to assist state and local governments in preserving affordable housing. It provides matching grants to states and localities that have developed and funded programs for the preservation of privately owned housing that is affordable to low-income families and persons – and to minimize the involuntary displacement of tenants who are currently residing in such housing, many of whom are elderly or disabled persons and families with children. The matching grants can be used by states and localities for acquisition, rehabilitation, operating costs, and capital expenditures for housing projects that are HUD-insured, projects with section 8 project-based assistance, projects purchased by residents, or rural rental assistance projects. Section 402 of this title allows HUD to make grants to nonprofit organizations for operating costs, working capital, and organizational expenses to acquire eligible affordable housing for the purpose of preservation.

The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Banking and Urban Affairs on June 15. The Committee is expected to hold a hearing on this bill in July. With the short legislative year, look for many of the provisions of this bill to be incorporated into the FY 2001 VA-HUD appropriations bill.

SENATE TAKES UP TARGETED BROWNFIELDS RELIEF

Recognizing that comprehensive brownfields remediation is on a fast track to nowhere so long as it is coupled to a larger effort to reauthorize and finance the contro-versial Superfund Trust Fund program, a bi-partisan group of U.S. senators has intro-duced a stand-alone bill that is targeted at alleviating the slew of liability, site-assessment, and clean-up problems that are obstacles to the successful remediation of urban and rural brownfields.

Called "Brownfields Revitalization and Environmental Restoration Act of 2000" the bill is designated as S. 2700. The key provisions of S. 2700 fall into three broad areas: (1) brownfields revitalization funding; (2) brownfields liability clarifications; (3) and support for state brownfields remediation programs.

With respect to revitalization, S. 2700 authorizes $150 million, for fiscal years 2001-2005, for grants to local governments, states, and Indian tribes to inventory, assess and clean-up contaminated brownfields sites. This can be done either through the establishment of revolving loan funds or, in some instances, directs grants to property owners. The criteria to be used in awarding grants to states and local governments range from, the extent to which the money will be used to protect human health or spur redevelopment and job creation, to the preservation of open space and parks, and the representation of a fair distribution of money between urban and rural areas.

The liability clarifications advanced in the bill primarily have to do with "innocent" or "third - party relief." For example, a property owners whose land became contaminated solely because of the release of toxins from a contiguous or nearby site and did not cause or contribute to the release of those toxins, and demonstrates a willingness to provide cooperation and access for clean-up activities, will be granted liability relief. Moreover, prospective purchasers of property who are not responsible for contamination on a site, do not impede the clean-up of that site, and can be shown to have exercised due diligence and appropriate care with respect to hazardous substances on the site, are granted liability relief. So-called "innocent" landowners, new property owners who had no reason to know of contamination at the time of purchase, despite making appropriate inquiries into the prior owner-ship and use of a facility, are likewise granted liability relief. S.2700 spells out exactly what the legal standard are for establishing "appropriate inquiry"and "innocence."

Lastly, $50 million is authorized under S. 2700 for fiscal years 2001-2005 for grants to states and Indian tribes to either establish or enhance their clean-up programs. To be eligible for these funds state programs must meet or be making progress toward meeting such basic general criteria as the protection of human health and providing public involvement in the site assessment an clean-up process. The bill also contains language mandating federal deference to state clean-up programs in order to provide additional "certainty" to persons conducting brownfields clean-ups under state rules that they will be free from EPA enforcement actions that are over and above the state requirements. In return for exemptions federal enforcement regimes, States are obliged to keep a public record of their clean-up sites. This public record of brownfields sites is intended to provide average citizens with information about remediation efforts in their neighborhoods. The President is permitted to intervene on sites in state clean-up programs where it is determined that a site poses a relatively serious risk to the public health. Otherwise, if evidence is submitted showing that the site is being adequately handled by the state program, broad deferrals are provided for the listing of sites on the federal Superfund national priorities list..

The entire Republican and Democratic leadership of the Senate Environment and Public Woks Committee are pushing for final passage of S. 2700. This cohort includes Lincoln Chafee (R-RI), Chairman of the Senate Superfund Subcommittee, Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), Ranking Member of the Superfund Subcommittee, Bob Smith (R-NH), Chairman of the Senate's full Environment and Public Works Committee, and Max Baucus (D-MT), Ranking Member of the full Environment and Public Works Committee.

Under pressure from conservative legislators holding out for more liability relief and remediation assistance for larger Superfund toxic dump site owners, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott has reacted coolly to S. 2700, publicly threatening not bring it to the floor. Opponents of S.2700 generally believe that the best way they can get what they want on Superfund toxic dump site legislation is to hold legislation to clean-up smaller, less controversial brownfields sites hostage. It is hoped, however, that if S. 2700 attracts enough bi-partisan co-sponsors, then Majority Leader Lott will be forced to allow the bill to come up for a vote before the end of this congressional session. Indeed, Senators Chafee, Lautenberg, Smith and Baucus, are currently circulating a "Dear Colleague" letter asking their fellow senators to sign on as co-sponsors of S. 2700.

Along with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, NCDA is strongly urging all of its members to contact their U.S. senate delegations and express wholehearted support for S.2700 and, even more important, encourage your Senators to sign on to this vital, genuinely bi-partisan attempt to deal with brownfields.

LEAD-BASED PAINT UPDATE; GROUPS PROVIDE FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO HUD; INTEREST GROUPS MEET; NCDA URGES ITS MEMBERS TO CONTACT THEIR CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS

We have enclosed a copy of a letter that was forwarded to HUD as a follow-up to our June 7th meeting with them on the Lead-Based Paint regulation. In the letter, NCDA, NAHRO, ALHFA, NACCED and COSCDA ask HUD to consider the groups' recommendation to apply the regulation to units only where children under the age of six reside until adequate funds are made available to state and local governments to fully implement the regulation. In the letter, we agreed to HUD's proposition to provide waivers to those jurisdictions which do not have certified contractors available to conduct the activities required by the regulation. HUD also agrees to provide grantees with "compliance assistance," which effectively delays enforcement of the rule until some time in the future (a date has not been agreed to yet). We have asked HUD to provide a full definition of "compliance assistance." Finally, the groups asked HUD to reach agreement on the regulation on or before September 1, 2000.

Interest Groups Meet

NCDA, ALFHA, NACCED, NAHRO, and COSCDA met with several other national interest groups on June 27th to discuss the lead-based paint regulation. These groups included the National Housing Conference, the National Council of State Housing Agencies, the National Association of Homebuilders, the National Association of Realtors, and the National Apartment Association. The U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National Association of Counties were also present at the meeting.

After discussing a myriad of issues concerning the regulation, the groups decided to approach the Alliance to End Childhood Lead Poisoning to ask this organization to support the following:

(1) a cost study in the first year to track the true costs of implemention;
(2) $1 billion dollars in funding for lead hazard control;
(3) a clear waiver process for those jurisdictions who do not have access to certified contractors;
(4) a phased-in implementation for HOME/CDBG whereby the regulation would only apply to units with children under 6, in the first year, and then apply to all housing units once Congress has appropriated sufficient funding;
(5) free or low-cost training for localities, owners, contractors; and
(6) compliance assistance, which delays enforcement of the rule for one year

Since the Alliance for Childhood Lead Poisoning has been our most ardent foe on the Hill (and with HUD) regarding the regulation, the groups would like to try to gain support from this organization for our issues, and to reach a compromise that everyone can live with before September. If, ultimately, The Alliance doesn't agree to support our issues, we plan to hold a briefing on the Hill to educate congressional staff on our areas of concern, and develop a sign-on letter to members of Congress that expresses the concerns of a broad array of national interest groups. In the meantime, we are continuing our efforts to persuade both Congress and HUD to amend the regulation before September. The groups will meet again on July 11.

Call to Action

It is imperative we gain bi-partisan support for our concerns with HUD's lead-based paint regulation. In our meetings with Republican staff, we have been told that there must be support from Democrats in order to effect any change this year, including appropriations to pay for the cost of the regulation. A few of you have been very effective in gaining some Democratic support for some of our issues, and we thank you. However, time is running out and unless we garner support from both sides of the aisle, we can expect to see the regulation implemented in its present form, with no additional funds to pay for the cost of the regulation. **WE URGE YOU TO CONTACT YOUR CONGRESSIONAL MEMBER TODAY! PHONE – OR SEND THE ENCLOSED LETTER TODAY. MAKE SURE YOUR CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS KNOW THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS REGULATION ON YOUR CDBG AND HOME PROGRAMS.** A list of key congressional members is enclosed with this newsletter. These are crucial members to contact. However, we need you to contact *all of your congressional members*, whether they appear on this list or not. **WE NEED TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE LETTER YOU SEND TO YOUR CONGRESSIONAL MEMBER. PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTER TO VICKI WATSON AT NCDA, SO THAT WE CAN KEEP A TALLY OF THE LETTERS SENT.**

If you have any questions, please contact Vicki Watson at NCDA at 202-887-5532, or by e-mail at vicki@ncdaonline.org

FREDDIE MAC WILL HOLD PURCHASE...REHAB...REVITALIZE FORUMS

Freddie Mac will sponsor two forums again this year on the use of purchase-and-rehabilitation and in-fill construction programs as homeownership tools to stabilize and revitalize neighborhoods. The forums will be held in McLean, VA (outside of Washington, D.C.) on July 31, 2000, and in Jacksonville, FL on September 19, 2000. Interested participants must register by July 12th for the McLean Forum and by August 29th for the Jacksonville Forum. These one-day forums are free and will provide comprehensive information on financing packages, in-fill housing, working with lenders, rehab/construction management, and keys to neighborhood revitalization success. The enclosed brochure provides information on the forums, including registration information.

HUD NEWS

HUD/TREASURY RELEASE PREDATORY LENDING REPORT

On Tuesday June 20, 2000, HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo and Lawrence Summers, Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, released a joint report detailing recommendations on the legislative, regulatory, and other steps that need to be taken in order to curb the increasing occurrence of predatory lending in the home mortgage market.

Based on testimony gathered in field forums that were held in five different cities–Baltimore, Chicago, New York, Atlanta, , and Los

Angeles–the HUD-Treasury task force developed a four point plan to attack predatory lending practices:

- **Improve Consumer Literacy and Disclosures.** Creditors should be required to recommend that high-cost loan applicants get home mortgage counseling, disclose credit scores to all borrowers upon request, and give borrowers more timely and more accurate information as to loan and cost terms.

- **Prohibit Harmful Sales Practices in the Mortgage Market.** Practices such as loan "flipping" and lending to borrowers without regard to their ability to repay the loan should be banned. New requirtments should be imposed on mortgage brokers to document the appropriateness of a loan to for high-cost loan applicants, and lenders who report to credit bureaus should be required to provide "full-file" payment history for their mortgage customers.

- **Restrict Abusive Terms and Conditions on High-Cost Loans.** Congress should increase the number of borrowers in the sub-prime market covered by legislative protections; further restrict balloon payments on high-cost loans; restrict payment penalties and financing of points and fees; prohibit mandatory arbitration agreements on high-cost loans; and ban lump-sum credit life insurance and similar products.

- **Improve Market Structure**. Award CRA credit to banks and thrifts that promote borrowers from the sub-prime to the prime mortgage market, and deny CRA credit to banks and thrifts for the origination or purchase of loans that violate applicable lending laws.

Initial responses to the Report have been mixed. Several key lawmakers and consumer advocates interested in providing legislative remedies to predatory lending expressed disappointment with the report's recommendations and the way in which HUD and Treasury released the final document. For instance, staffers in the offices of Senator Paul S. Sarbanes (D-MD), Ranking Member of the Senate Banking Committee, and Representative John J. LaFalce (D-NY), Ranking Member of the House Banking Committee, expressed concern that the report's recommendations "did not go far enough to protect consumers" and could possibly undercut support for tougher language in the anti-predatory lending bill that their bosses were trying to build support for. For their part, consumer advocates grumble that the report's writers seemed to have been more interested in serving the needs of mortgage finance interests over the needs of low-income borrowers.

Apart from their disappoint with its recommendations, some other members of the task-force who were drawn from national consumer groups complained that the final document was being unveiled without their even having seen it, much less approve its recommendations.

In a future issue of *The Washington Report*, NCDA staff will provide a comprehensive assessment of the HUD-Treasury predatory lending report and present a list of tips on what community development professionals can do to protect their residents from abusive lenders. Copies of the report can be downloaded from the HUD website. Just direct your browsers to www.hud.gov., and
go to the HUD Highlights column and click on the hyperlink "HUD-Treasury To Curb Predatory Lending."

JURISDICTIONS MEET DEADLINE TO CLEAN-UP HOME DATA IN IDIS

In the last issue of the *Washington Report*, we reported that 73 jurisdictions had not began their HOME data clean-up effort in IDIS. We are happy to report that only one jurisdiction (which will remain nameless) has not started the process of cleaning up the data. This jurisdiction still has until July 31, 2000 to do so. Just a few weeks ago, 214 jurisdictions had not started this process. You guys are good! The HOME data in IDIS is crucial in providing Congress with accurate numbers that reflect the effectiveness of the HOME program. Thanks for your efforts to clean-up the data so quickly. We will all benefit from your hard work.

CDBG TIMELINESS CONFERENCES RESCHEDULED

Due to scheduling conflicts with HUD staff and other conferences, the three remaining timeliness conferences have been rescheduled.

July 20	Washington, DC Large Entitlements
August 17-18	Chicago, IL Regions 5-8
August 28-29	San Francisco, CA Regions 9-10

REGISTER NOW FOR HUD'S HOME 2000 CONFERENCES

HUD is sponsoring three HOME regional conferences this year. These conferences will examine PJ performance issues and provide information to improve local program operations. At each conference, participants will be able to choose among three concurrent tracks of workshops: Construction Management, Preserving Your Investment in Affordable Housing, and Building CHDO Capacity. Up to three senior staff members from each PJ may attend the conference in their region. The registration fee for each conference is $95.00 per person. The Eastern region conference will be held in Washington, D.C. on July 11-12; the Central region conference will be held in San Antonio, TX on September 19-20; and the Western region conference will be held in Berkeley, CA on November 14-15. Register today! The conferences are filling up quickly. You can register online for the conferences at http://www.hud.gov/cpd/home/homeweb

NCDA NOTES

At the 200 NCDA Annual Conference in New Orleans, the Board of Directors authorized substantial changes in the membership fee for receiving *The Washington Report*. To learn more about these important changes, please see the attached memo on **Electronic vs. Hard Copy Distribution of** *The Washington Report* from NCDA Executive Director, Chandra Western.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Since the last Winter Meeting in January, NCDA staff have been making a concerted effort to attract advertising from community development and affordable housing technical assistance providers, as well as other kinds of professional service vendors related to housing and community development, onto the *NCDAonline* Yellow Pages. Unfortunately, we have not had much success thus far. Regardless, we are committed to making a success of this project. Therefore, in July, Romulus Johnson will be making another big push to communicate the benefits of advertising in the *NCDAonline* Yellow Pages to CD/affordable housing TA and professional services providers across the nation.

It would be a great help to us if members could contact Romulus Johnson via e-mail (romulus@ncdaonline.org), or telephone [(202) 887-5526], with any contact information about local or regional TA providers they have had positive experiences with. Who knows, if the service contractors did good work for you, chances are your colleagues can also benefit rom their assistance. This really is a win, win situation for everyone: TA providers and vendors get great exposure and your fellow members get access to the kind of technical expertise that can help them run better programs and provide better service to the community. We strongly encourage and eagerly await your help with this important endeavor.

NCDA EXECUTIVE SYMPOSIUM: OCTOBER 12-15, 2000 TUCSON, AZ

The 2000 NCDA Executive Symposium will be held in Tucson, AZ at the Westward Look Resort. Please contact Jan Shapin at CDTI in Newport (401-849-7053) for more details.

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICES

June 28, 2000. Public Housing Assessment System Physical Condition Scoring Process. This notice provides additional information to public housing agencies and members of the public about HUD's process for issuing scores under the Physical Condition Indicator of the Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS). This notice takes into consideration public comment received on the June 23, 1999 notice and reflects the changes made to the PHAS regulations published on January 11, 2000.

June 28, 2000. Notice of Availability of Funding and Requests for Proposals for Guaranteed Loans Under the Section 538 Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program. This notice announces the time frame and submission requirements and deadlines to submit proposals for the section 538 Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program.

June 27, 2000. National Flood Insurance Program; Inspection of Insured Structures by Communities. This final rule establishes an inspection procedure under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to help verify that structures comply with the community's flood plain management ordinance and to ensure that property owners pay flood insurance premiums commensurate with their flood risk. The inspection procedure requires owners of insured buildings to obtain an inspection from community flood plain management officials as a condition of renewing the Standard Flood Insurance Policy on the building. FEMA will undertake the inspection procedure on a pilot basis in two communities, Monroe County, Florida, and the Village of Islamorada located in Monroe County. A decision to implement the inspection procedure in other NFIP communities outside Monroe County, Florida only after completing the pilot inspection procedure within the selected communities and after an evaluation to determine the procedure's effectiveness.

June 26, 2000. Notice of Opportunity to Apply to Serve on the U.S.-Israeli Bi-National Commission on Housing and Community Development. This notice announces the opportunity for individuals to apply to serve on a U.S.-Israeli Bi-National Commission on Housing and Community Development and announces the selection and eligibility requirements.

June 21, 2000. Request for Proposals (RFP); Farm Labor Housing Technical Assistance Grants. This RFP announces the availability of funds and the time frame to submit proposals for Farm Labor Housing Technical Assistance grants. Section 516 of the Housing Act of 1949 authorizes the Rural Housing

Service (RHS) to provide financial assistance (grants) to eligible private and public nonprofit agencies to encourage the development of domestic and migrant farm labor housing projects.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ATTACHMENTS
To access these files, please go to NCDAonline (http://ncdaonline.org).

- **Letter to HUD on the Lead-Based Paint Final Regulation**
- **Sample Lead-Based Paint Letter; List of Congressional Contacts**
- **Memo from Chandra Western on Electronic vs. Hard Copy Distribution of *The Washington Report***
- **Membership Update**
- **Executive Symposium**