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DATE: January 31, 2001

**NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK: APRIL 16-22, 2001
CELEBRATE THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOME PROGRAM!!!**

**Enter the John A. Sasso National Community Development Week Awards Competition!!!
NCDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE- CORPUS CHRISTI, TX: (Draft Agenda) May 23-26, 2001.**

FEATURE ARTICLES

- ***Martinez Confirmed as New HUD Secretary***
- ***Senate Banking Committee Sets Agenda; No Major Focus on Housing and Community Development***
- ***Bush Tax Plan Gets Big Boost***
- ***Millennial Housing Commission Gets Underway***
- ***HUD News: HUD Releases Worst Case Housing Needs Report; HUD Releases Notice on Reimbursement of Lead-based Paint Clearance Tests to Grantees***
- ***NCDA NOTES: Calendar of Upcoming Conferences and Events; Annual Conference Draft Agenda***
- ***Job Opportunities/Attachments***

MARTINEZ CONFIRMED AS NEW HUD SECRETARY

The Senate voted 100-0 on Tuesday, January 23, to confirm Mel Martinez as the new Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development. Before joining the Bush Administration, Martinez served as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Orange, County Florida, a local government which serves 860,000 residents, and a member of NCDA.

During his confirmation hearing, Secretary Martinez told the Senate Banking Committee that as HUD's new leader he would focus on making HUD more user-friendly, fixing problem programs, especially the FHA single family program and HUD's management information systems, and pursue the goal of increasing homeownership among low-to-moderate income households.

Addressing the problem of predatory lending and establishing stronger partnerships with faith-based organizations also ranked among the main issues intends to focus on during his tenure at HUD.

Secretary Martinez also stated his support for spending \$1.7 billion over 5 years on investor-based tax credits to expand the construction and rehabilitation of single family housing in distressed neighborhoods across America, and touted the Bush Administration's plans to establish the "American Dream Down Payment Fund" to provide \$1 billion of matching grants over 5 years to mortgage lenders to help unassisted, low-income families become homeowners.

In the area of assisted multifamily housing, Secretary Martinez says his top priorities will be to obtain full funding for expiring Section 8 contracts and increasing the number of incremental Section 8 vouchers, as well as maintaining HOPE VI funding. He reacted to coolly, however, to the notion of using FHA surplus funds to develop a new affordable housing production program. He indicated that he plans to wait until GAO issues a report in February calculating the size of the surplus and its availability for housing production. With respect to HUD staffing, Secretary Martinez asserted that talk of cutting bureaucratic entanglements at HUD should not be interpreted to mean that he is in favor of staff cuts. In fact, he told the Senate Banking Committee that in order to improve the efficiency of the Department's service delivery and effectiveness of its monitoring activities more staff may have to be added. Martinez praised outgoing HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo for the effort he lead

to remove HUD from the GAO's high risk agency list and stated that he will only tweak but not abandon Cuomo's 2020 Management reform plan.

Due to his general lack of experience with HUD and the ways of Washington, many Washington observers believe that early on Secretary Martinez can be expected to delegate a great deal of authority to the Department's various assistant secretaries and rely heavily on the White House to set HUD's agenda. During his confirmation hearing, though, Mel Martinez was quick to point out that he had no intention of simply warming a seat. "I will be a very active secretary," he said.

SENATE BANKING COMMITTEE SETS AGENDA; NO MAJOR FOCUS ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Senator Phil Gramm (R-TX), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, outlined the agenda for the Banking Committee for the upcoming year during a press conference last week. If Gramm has his way there will be no major focus on housing and community development this year. Instead, Gramm proposes to focus primarily on banking and securities issues in the coming year and work on a major housing bill next year. Priorities for the Committee in the coming year include bankruptcy reform, reduction of fees collected by the Securities and Exchange Commission, promotion of trade through the World Trade Organization, and monetary policy. Gramm does plan to conduct some housing-related oversight hearings this year, including

oversight hearings of HUD, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and of the nation's public housing authorities.

In terms of a major housing bill for 2002, reports are that Gramm is looking at resurrecting Senator Wayne Allard's (R-CO) housing bill from last year, the "Local Housing Opportunities Act." NCD, NAHRO, NACCED, COSCDA, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors worked with Senator Allard on the McKinney Consolidation portion of the bill, which would block grant HUD's homeless assistance programs directly to state and local governments.

BUSH TAX PLAN GETS BIG BOOST

During the 2000 presidential campaign, then Texas Governor George W. Bush proposed a \$1.6 trillion dollar across the board tax cut over ten years. At the time, it was widely believed that Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, would react to coolly to such a plan. For the last four years, former President Bill Clinton and congressional Democrats have been able to rely on Greenspan's commitment to eliminating the federal debt as a bulwark against pricey across the board cuts in marginal tax rates favored by conservative Republicans. So much so, that House Speaker Dennis Hastert and other Republican leaders were publicly counseling the new president to abandon his tax plan in favor of a series of smaller and more popular targeted tax cuts that would be more likely to attract the support of moderate Democrats. But the whole climate of the debate over tax cuts changed dramatically last Thursday in the wake of comments from Alan

Greenspan endorsing a large across the board tax cut.

Testifying before the Senate Budget Committee on the overall health of the U.S. economy, Alan Greenspan confirmed that the U.S. economy had slowed dramatically in the last quarter of 2000.

He reported that, while still no where near a recession, the U.S. economy has exhibited close to zero growth in recent months. Still, Greenspan scrupulously pointed out that he felt tax cuts on the order advocated by President George W. Bush would do nothing to immediately improve the state of the economy. Instead, Greenspan based his support for broad tax cuts on the grounds that ever-increasing federal budget surplus estimates have "reshaped the choices and opportunities before us." He reassured the committee that he hasn't changed his mind at all about the importance of eliminating the federal debt. It's just that based on current economic projections, federal budget surpluses may grow so large in the next ten years that they would outpace the national debt by some \$400 or \$500 billion. If that happens, the U.S. Treasury would either have to start buying large amounts of private assets, like corporate stocks or bonds, or significantly increase federal spending. As a fiscal conservative, Greenspan favors tax cuts to new federal spending. And as an economist he is worried that too much direct government investment in the financial markets would result in political calculations driving what should be primarily economic decisions about where and how money is invested. Ultimately, Greenspan expressed that he is in favor of tax cuts that are 'backloaded' or designed to kick in at the

time government surpluses would presumably outpace the national debt.

Under the tax plan offered up by President Bush on the campaign trail, the current 15 percent tax bracket would be cut to 10 percent for the first \$6,000 of taxable income for singles, the first \$10,000 for single parents, and the first \$12,000 for married couples. The child tax credit would be doubled to \$1,000. The maximum tax rate for the middle class families would be cut to 25 percent (versus the current maximum rates of 28 and 31 percent), and the so-called marriage penalty would be greatly diminished by restoring the 10 percent deduction for two earner families, allowing them to deduct up to an additional \$3,000. The President also wants to cap the top tax rate at 33 percent (down from the current 39.6 percent), and Eliminate the inheritance tax. The Bush tax plan also contains provisions to promote charitable giving and education by extending the deduction for charitable contributions to the 80 million taxpayers that do not itemize and raise the cap on corporate giving, as well as increase the annual contribution limit on Education Savings Accounts from \$500 to \$5,000 per child.

When asked if he specifically endorsed the \$1.6 trillion dollar Bush tax plan, Greenspan declined to comment. Regardless, President Bush and congressional Republicans were clearly pleased by Greenspan's testimony. They felt that the influential Fed Chairman had just done for them what he did for Bill Clinton in 1993--provided essential cover for their plan to redirect U.S. fiscal policy.

On the other side of the political divide, Senate Democrats seemed stunned by what Greenspan

had to say. For months before, during, and after the 2000 presidential campaign they have been rebuffing Republican proposals for large tax cuts on the grounds that they were outsized budget-busters that would make it impossible to pay down the national debt. With Greenspan voicing qualified support for large tax cuts, it became clear to them that they had just lost one of their best arguments. The consensus view on Capitol Hill is that it's no longer a question of whether there'll be a big tax cut this year but just a matter of how big and who will get the lion's share of benefits. Democrats criticize the Bush plan for being too skewed toward the rich. According to independent estimates well over 60% of the tax savings under Bush's plan would go to the top 2% of income earners. Republicans counter that since top income earners pay most of the taxes it is only fair that they receive the most tax relief.

Whatever happens on taxes community development professionals should remain mindful that large tax cuts are likely to result in severe limits on the kind of discretionary federal spending that goes to CDBG, HOME, and other low-income support programs.

MILLENNIAL HOUSING COMMISSION GETS UNDERWAY

The Millennial Housing Commission met in Washington, D.C. on January 23 and 24 to outline its agenda for the coming year. The Commission was authorized by Congress in 1999 as part of the FY 2000 VA-HUD Appropriations bill. The mission of the Commission is to identify, analyze, and develop recommendations that highlight the importance

of housing, improve the housing delivery system, and provide affordable housing for the nation, including recommending possible legislative and regulatory initiatives. "The current housing system doesn't work....We've been charged by Congress to recommend legislation that will deal with how we finance mortgages, as well as how tax policy and legislation at all levels of government can help foster affordable housing," said former Congresswoman and Millennial Housing Commission Co-Chair Susan Molinari. "The Millennial Housing Commission is bringing together 22 of the nation's top housing specialists to hash out the problem over the next year and forward real changes to Congress," said Commission Co-Chair Richard Ravitch, who is also chairman of the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust. The Commission plans to hold six field hearings across the country to meet with local housing groups. The tentative meeting dates and locations are: Atlanta, March 12-13; Chicago, April 19-20; Los Angeles, June 4-5; New York, July 23-24; and Washington, D.C., September 19-21. The Commission also plans to hold additional field hearings in select cities (not yet named) and may hold some meetings in rural locations.

The Commission will have six task forces: tax policy, housing finance mechanisms, consumer-based assistance, production, preservation, and community linkages. The tax policy task force will examine new or modified approaches to tax incentives for affordable housing, while the housing finance mechanisms task force will focus on improving the way affordable housing is currently financed through the GSEs, FHA, conventional lenders, state and local housing finance agencies, and federal guarantees, such as Section 108. The consumer-based assistance

task force will examine ways to improve the current voucher system, while the production task force will examine strategies for producing new affordable housing at a reasonable price. The preservation task force will examine how to protect and preserve the current stock of affordable housing. Finally, the community linkages task force will examine how affordable housing can best support families making the transition from welfare to work, how to meld affordable housing with community revitalization strategies and how to link housing to other priorities, such as education and health care. The Commission is charged with reporting its findings to Congress within 18 months.

HUD NEWS

HUD RELEASES WORST CASE HOUSING NEEDS REPORT

HUD released its Report on Worst Case Housing Needs on January 19. Households considered to have worst case housing needs are those who pay more than 50 percent of their gross monthly income for rent -- or who live in severely inadequate housing. The report, "A Report on Worst Case Needs in 1999: New Opportunity Amid Continuing Challenges," said that the number of renters with worst case housing needs dropped by eight percent (approximately 440,000 households) between 1997 and 1999. Still, nearly five million renter households fall into the worse case housing category. This reduction resulted from the rise in incomes of these renter households, rather than an expansion in the number of rental housing units affordable to them. According to the report, despite the progress in reducing worst case needs, the shortage of affordable housing has

worsened. The number of units affordable to extremely low-income renters (those with incomes below 30 percent of the area's median income) dropped between 1997 and 1999 at an accelerated rate.

Other major finding of the report include: (1) Drops in worst case problems were fastest among Hispanics (-16) and non-Hispanic whites (-14). By contrast, worst case needs continued to rise between 1997 and 1999 among non-Hispanic blacks; (2) Regionally, worst case housing needs fell greatest in the Northeast (by 18 percent); (3) Nationally and within all regions but the South, needs fell most swiftly between 1997 and 1999 in non-metropolitan areas. Worst case housing needs fell least in central cities – the type of location where unassisted very low-income renters most often had severe problems; (4) Nationally, housing affordable to extremely low-income renters was in shorter supply than housing affordable to other income groups; (5) Losses of affordable rental units accelerated. The number of units affordable to renters with extremely low-incomes dropped by 750,000 (-13 percent) and the total number of units affordable to renters with very low-income incomes fell by 1.14 million (-7 percent) between 1997 and 1999.

The report includes several recommendations to law makers at all levels for improving the plight of renters with worst case housing needs. First, continue on a path of economic growth for the country so that low-income families can make income gains. Second, expand rental assistance opportunities for poor families, including increasing Section 8 assistance. Third, focus on producing more affordable rental units nationwide. Other recommendations include

strengthening the Earned Income Tax Credit, welfare-to-work programs, and economic development efforts to attract commercial investment and spur the creation of new jobs and businesses in under served areas. A copy of the report can be obtained through HUD's web site at <http://www.hud.gov>

HUD RELEASES NOTICE ON REIMBURSEMENT OF LEAD-BASED PAINT CLEARANCE TESTS TO GRANTEES

HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control released on January 12 it's *Notice of Availability of Funds for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) Grantees for Clearance Testing Required by HUD's New Lead Safety Regulation*. At the urging of NCDA and other national interest groups, the notice provides funding to grantees to help pay for clearance testing under HUD's lead-based regulation. HUD is setting aside \$11 million dollars to reimburse grantees for clearance tests, on a first-come, first-served basis. According to the notice, HUD will reimburse grantees up to \$150 per clearance test per unit. The attached notice provides more detailed information on the reimbursement process. If you have any further questions, please contact HUD at 202-755-1785, or Vicki Watson at NCDA, 202-887-5532.

BUSH ADMINISTRATION PULLS SUPER NOFA

The Bush Administration has pulled all notices and rules pertaining to functions of the federal government. It is understood that a

comprehensive review of all notices, rules and NOFA's will be conducted before any can be published in the Federal Register. It is not known, at this time, when this review will be completed. HUD was scheduled to release its Super NOFA on January 22, 2001, but it was pulled at the last moment.

DGMS UPDATE

Just when you thought it was safe to resign yourself to using IDIS forever, HUD management information system staffers informed NCDA members at the Winter Meeting that the Department has signed up a new contractor to begin work on its Departmental Grants Management System (DGMS). Along with replacing the antiquated IDIS grants management software, a completed and fully implemented DGMS is HUD's answer to a broader mandate from Congress that all the federal agencies use information technology to simplify and streamline their cumbersome and often repetitive grant application and monitoring procedures. According to HUD, a little over a week ago the TRW company signed a fixed price, performance-based contract to deliver a functioning DGMS to the Department and all its grantees. (Regular readers of *The Washington Report* will no doubt recall that HUD rolled out a non-functional DGMS prototype with much fanfare last year, only to have the project fall so far behind established deadlines that HUD felt compelled to find a new contractor.) Wisely, HUD staff declined to publicly state a target date for the second coming of DGMS. TONYA, Inc. has also been retained by TRW as a sub-contractor on the project. TONYA's role will be to provide expert advice on the kinds of routine tasks that grantees can be expected to demand of the DGMS program. HUD also

intends to run the system by its select group of pilot grantees before taking it nationwide.

In conjunction with the DGMS project, HUD has plans to launch a new page on its web site devoted entirely to grants management. The new grants management page will be a one-stop information resource for grantees, including everything from the latest Super NOFA and funding announcements, to program notices and rule changes. Of course, as soon as DGMS and/or the features of the new grants management page become a reality, we'll do our best to make sure you hear it here first.

NCDA NOTES

NCDA's FY 2001/2002 LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND BUDGET PRIORITIES

At this year's Winter Meeting, the Community Development, Housing, and Economic Development Committees recommended, and the Board of Directors approved, the legislative and regulatory priorities the Association would pursue for FY 2001 and for the 2002 Budget. To assist members with their advocacy work and their visits to their Congressional Delegations, we have attached the list to the newsletter. This list will also be posted on the web site.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK AND THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOME PROGRAM

National Community Development Week is April 16-22, 2001. This year NCDA is asking members to include recognition of the 10th

Anniversary of the HOME program during their celebrations. We like to think of the CDBG program as the “granddaddy” of the block grant concept, which provides local governments with a guaranteed stream of funds for a wide variety of activities. The HOME program was born out of that concept. This dedicated source of funds, specifically targeted to the housing needs of lower income persons, often works in tandem with the CDBG program.

As we have a new Congress and Administration, National Community Development Week is the **IDEAL** opportunity to alert Congress and the new Administration just how important these programs are. Select a day during CD Week to showcase the great works of the HOME program.

THE JOHN A. SASSO NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK AWARD

The National Community Development Week Campaign began in 1986 when NCDA’s Executive Secretary and founder, John A. Sasso recognized that in order to save the CDBG program from extinction because of an unfavorable environment for domestic programs, there was a need to ensure that Congress and the general public were aware of the positive impact of the program on cities across the country. The goal of National Community Development week is to encourage those who benefit from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to communicate with their Congressional representatives, and their locally elected officials the important role CDBG plays and the tremendous loss that would be felt should its funding be cut or eliminated.

To recognize John Sasso for his insight and

guidance that was the genesis of National Community Development Week, this year, 2001, NCDA will create a new award, presented to those communities that go to extraordinary lengths to showcase their CDBG programs during National Community Development Week— the **John A. Sasso Community Development Week Award**. This award will be presented annually, to those communities that demonstrate the commitment, passion, and dedication to the CDBG program through their Community Development Week activities, during NCDA’s Annual Conference. This year, the first John A. Sasso Community Development Week Awards will be presented at the Association’s Annual Conference, in Corpus Christi, Texas on May 23-26, 2001. For those communities who wish to enter the competition, the application requirements are attached to this news letter.

NCDA HONORS AUDREY NELSON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS AT ITS 2001 WINTER MEETING

At the annual awards luncheon, during its 2001 Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C., NCDA awarded three of its member communities with the Audrey Nelson Community Development Achievement Award. This award is presented to communities who have **exemplified outstanding achievement in service to low income people and neighborhoods through the use of their CDBG funds.**

The following projects are recipients of the 2001 Audrey Nelson Community Development Achievement Awards:

✓ Teens At Work, Inc. Fulton County, Georgia

Demonstrating a need for after school programs and safe playgrounds for children, the planning committee of Teens At Work, consisting of parents, stakeholders, community leaders, students and staff members, took on three major projects within the Tri-Cities community:

1. Science Education Playscape - This project was implemented to enhance children and youth interest in science and math.
2. Teen Center - This is a year round after-school program and summer camp. The program incorporated life skills training, social development, education enrichment and experiential challenges to enhance the youth's growth and development.
3. Educational Tutorial Learning Center - This center was established to address the low test scores in local elementary schools. Teens At Work also collaborates with other agencies to provide services designed to improve the children's academic performances in reading, writing and math. Parents attend monthly tutorial assistance and parenting classes to better understand their children's educational needs. The program provides children with a stimulating environment needed for academic achievement.

Since its inception, more than 3200 children and youth have benefitted from the after school program with 99% of the students graduating from high school. Teens At Work has provided more than 160 community service projects and assisted approximately 1500 families with food services in crisis. More than 1200 students

participated in self-improvement workshops offered by Teens At work.

**✓ Some Other Place/Henry's Place
Beaumont, Texas**

Since 1968, Some Other Place, Beaumont's mission in urban ministry, has attempted to address the emergency unmet needs of low/no income families and individuals of the Beaumont community and North Jefferson County. Realizing that many of these citizens "fall through the gaps" of social service programming, Some Other Place services between 7,000 to 10,000 families each year through the Emergency Service Program (i.e., rent and utility assistance, transportation, medication and clothing).

In January 1999, Some Other Place assumed responsibility for the operations of Henry's Place. Henry's Place was opened in 1996 by People Assistance Coalition to provide services to homeless individuals. The objective of Henry's Place is to provide a temporary safe haven to mentally ill homeless who can not, or will not, stay at the local shelter. Henry's Place also advocates for these individuals with the help of other social services providers in the area.

Many of these persons are drawn to Some Other Place and Henry's Place simply because of the compassion shown to them by the staff and volunteers. Here, they are able to receive the assistance they so desperately need and maintain dignity. Without Some Other Place, many would have no other recourse.

✓ The Riverside Artists Lofts Reno, Nevada

The rehabilitation of the vacant, historic Riverside Hotel into affordable living and working space for artists and their families (targeted to households at or below 50% median income) had a catalytic effect on the downtown Reno river-front corridor. This project provided a common focal point for all community constituencies to rally around, and strengthened resident, business and lender confidence in the revitalization of downtown.

From a historical perspective, the Riverside embodies the heritage of Reno and Nevada, and even the entire country. Today, the Riverside represents the product of a public/private partnership at its best. As the project gained momentum through the approval and funding process, so did the resolve of the community in accomplishing goals for affordable downtown housing, arts and culture, historic preservation and the revitalization of the downtown river-front corridor. It's not often that a building and all it stands for, brings a confirming smile to those that have the pleasure to become acquainted with it.

DWIGHT ROBINSON OF FREDDIE MAC RECEIVES NCDA'S "LUTHER ROBERTS, JR MEMORIAL AWARD"

Mr. Dwight Robinson, Sr. Vice President, Corporate Affairs for Freddie Mac and a longtime friend of the Association, received the Luther Roberts, Jr. Memorial Award at NCDA's Winter Meeting on January 19th. After a standing ovation, Mr. Robinson stated that he was honored to receive such an award, and for the first time he was "lost for words."

FORMS PROJECT TO BE EXPANDED ONTO WEB PAGE

At this year's NCDA Winter Meeting in Washington, DC, the Economic Development Committee sponsored a concurrent session on model forms and applications. The aim of the session was to allow participating members to compare notes on CD and housing related forms in order to see if they might not be able benefit from one another's program administration and management ideas. Due to the strong interest that was expressed in this topic, especially by many members who were not able to attend the 2001 Winter Meeting, the ED Committee decided to expand the session into a permanent, members-only searchable database function on the NCDA website. In the future, registered NCDA members will be able to log onto the website, click on a link leading to the database, and review or download model CD and affordable housing program forms submitted by members from all over the country.

Of course, this means that NCDA staff is continuing to seek submissions of CD and affordable housing related forms/applications for the proposed database. More specific, we are interested in receiving samples of:

- ✓ eligibility forms for CDBG funded assistance to individuals or community groups;
- ✓ CDBG public service program applications;
- ✓ housing rehabilitation and housing development program forms/applications;
- ✓ general CD/affordable housing program guidelines

- ✓ sub-recipient/non-profit monitoring instruments;
 - ✓ self-assessment forms and/or other HUD-required monitoring instruments;
 - ✓ and examples of NOFAs and RFPs for various types of housing and CD activities;
 - ✓ procedural forms for IDIS and other localized grant accounting or tracking systems are also welcome.
- ✓ ***Please note, there is also a particularly strong need for forms/application materials for economic development and related low-income business development initiatives .***

No samples of this kind were submitted for the Winter Meeting session. We are interested in seeing anything you may have.

Those who wish to submit materials are asked to adhere to the following guidelines:

- (1) Whatever you submit should be clearly labeled with the name of your community, the name of a contact person, and at least a basic title or description stating what kind of program or activity the form/application is used for.
- (2) Wherever possible, we encourage members to please submit their sample materials in electronic format, preferably MS WORD, WORDPERFECT, MSEXCEL, or COREL QUATTRO. By sending us your materials on disk or as an e-mail attachment, you make it

that much easier for us to efficiently download them into the database.

- (3) The final deadline for accepting submissions is close of business (5:00 PM EST) on March 21, 2001. Because we hope to have a working prototype ready for the annual meeting in May, 2001 there can be absolutely no exceptions.

Those that submit a form or forms may not find them on the database. As a logistical matter, we simply could never include all the various types of eligible materials that are out there.

Consequently, an 'Ad Hoc Committee on Model Forms and Applications' has been established to review all the submissions. Those that are selected by the committee will best reflect the needs and interests of the members. A special effort will be made to make sure that a broad array of materials is included.

If you are interested in submitting forms or serving on the ad hoc committee, please contact Romulus Johnson at 202-887-5526; or, by e-mail, romulus@ncdaonline.org If you would like to mail a hard copy version of a submission to NCDA, the mailing address is: 522 21st Street NW, Suite 120, Washington, DC, 20006.

SEARCHABLE ONLINE MEMBER DATABASE ADDED TO WEB SITE

NCDA members are now able to use the Association's website, NCDAonline.org, to locate one another's contact information. A new membership database function has been added to the Members Only web page. The database is based on the most current version of

the member directory and is searchable by last name, city, or state.

To use this function, log on to the website, go to the Members only page, and click on the link to Member Database. Soon, the database will be searchable by region as well as name, city, and state. And members will be able to use the database to update their contact information. As soon as these improvements are completed we will inform you of them.

NCDA NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

REGION IV ANNUAL CONFERENCE

March 10-13, 2001

Sheraton Birmingham Hotel

**2101 Richard Arrington, Jr., Drive North
Birmingham, AL 35203**

205-324-5000

REGION I WINTER/SPRING MEETING

March 29, 2001

Four Point Hotel

Waltham, MA

NCDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE-MAY

23-26, 2001

Omni Bayfront Hotel

900 North Shoreline Blvd.

Corpus Christi, TX

361-887-1600

Cut Off Date: May 1, 2001

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND ATTACHMENTS

Please see <http://ncdaonline.org/> to access the files below.

- ✓ FY 2001/2002 Legislative Priorities
- ✓ 2001 National Community Development Week Promotional Items Flyer and Action Plans
- ✓ Availability of Funds for Lead-based Paint Clearance Testing
- ✓ The John A. Sasso National Community Development Award Submission Criteria
- ✓ Annual Conference Draft Agenda