

Tenth Anniversary Declaration HOME Investment Partnerships Program

**Mel Martinez, Secretary
US Department of Housing and Urban Development**

The HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) is marking its tenth year as one of the most effective federal housing block grant programs ever created. Its success is due to HOME's ability to empower communities to design housing strategies to meet their own local needs and priorities.

This extraordinary program creates partnerships at the state and local level to provide decent, safe, and affordable housing for low- and moderate-income persons. Today, local communities and non-profit organizations across the nation are joining with the Department to celebrate the achievements of the HOME program, now in its tenth full year. As Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, I ask you to join HUD, scores of housing organizations, and over 1,000 state and local governments across the nation to recognize its achievements.

Since President George H. W. Bush signed the HOME block grant into law as part of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, it has become a model for addressing critical housing needs. HOME gives communities flexibility to undertake the broadest range of affordable housing activities – from housing rehabilitation to rental housing production to assistance for individual homebuyers. From major metropolitan cities to small communities, HOME has been the driving force – and often the critical source of revenue – in forging unique housing partnerships among states and localities, private industry, and nonprofit organizations. In addition, HOME requires that participating jurisdictions match 25 cents for every dollar received in program funds. This mobilizes community resources in support of affordable housing.

It is appropriate that 2001 be declared the official celebration of the tenth anniversary year of this unique block grant program. All of us at the Department encourage communities large and small, urban and rural, to take note of HOME's many accomplishments, highlight the good works they have achieved to date, and continue to build on the proven success of this unique block grant program.



Mel Martinez
Secretary