



HAC News

FULL YEAR "JOINT RESOLUTION" PLANNED FOR 2007 SPENDING. The new 110th Congress convenes January 4 and is expected to work quickly on a minimum wage increase, lobbying and ethics reform, and several other Democratic priorities. Action is pending on Democratic leaders' recent announcement that they will push a year-long continuing resolution or joint resolution for 2007 appropriations. More like a streamlined omnibus appropriations bill

than a standard CR, this resolution will probably set most USDA, HUD, and other programs at 2006 levels until October 1, the beginning of fiscal 2008. No details are yet known, but some programs may get increases. No earmarks would be included. The latest CR (H.J. Res. 102), passed in December, funds 2007 federal programs through February 15. The President's proposed budget for fiscal 2008 will be out in early February.

CDFI FUND OFFERS BANK ENTERPRISE AWARDS. FDIC-insured institutions can apply for grants to aid CDFIs and distressed communities. Deadlines are March 15, 2007 for FY 2007 and March 13, 2008 for FY 2008. See *Federal Register*, 1/3/07, pp. 189-96 or <http://www.cdfifund.gov>. Contact 202-622-6355 or cdfihelp@cdfi.treas.gov.

LOW-INCOME CREDIT UNIONS ELIGIBLE FOR LOAN FUNDS. The National Credit Union Administration will accept applications throughout 2007 for its Community Development Revolving Loan Fund program. See *Federal Register*, 12/20/06, p. 76376 or look for 2007 information at <http://www.ncua.gov/CreditUnionDevelopment/Programs/FinanceGrants.htm>. For an application write to NCUA, Office of Small Credit Union Initiatives, 1775 Duke St., Alexandria, VA 22314-3428. Contact Tawana James, 703-518-6610.

KELLOGG FOUNDATION ACCEPTING PROPOSALS FOR RURAL PEOPLE, RURAL POLICY. This initiative is intended to build and strengthen networks to advocate and act in the rural policy arena. Nonprofits and public agencies can apply by January 22 for grants of \$100,000 over five years. For details see <http://www.wkkf.org/rprp>.

HUD PROPOSES SMALL CITIES CDBG CHANGES. Comments are due March 5 on proposed changes to HUD's implementation of the program in Hawaii and updates to other parts of the regulations. See *Federal Register*, 1/3/07, pp. 62-66 or <http://www.regulations.gov>. Contact Stephen Rhoadside, HUD, 202-708-1322.

HUD SUGGESTS CHANGE FOR MIXED-FINANCE PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT. To simplify the process for such programs, including HOPE VI, HUD proposes to allow PHAs to certify completion of some documents that currently must be submitted to HUD for review. Deadline for comments is February 26, 2007. See *Federal Register*, 12/27/06, pp. 78013-19 or <http://www.regulations.gov>. Contact Dominique Blom, HUD, 202-401-8812, ext. 4181.

WAIVERS EXTENDED FOR HUD PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING PROGRAMS. Most waivers of regulations and other requirements published October 3 and November 1, 2005 and March 13, 2006 for people displaced by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma are extended through December 31, 2007; some have different end dates. Program administrators must notify HUD if they will use the waivers. See *Federal Register*, 12/27/06, pp. 78021-31 or <http://www.hudclips.org>. Contact PIH Disaster Relief Officer, HUD, 202-708-4016 ext. 4245.

HAC POSTS USDA HOUSING PROGRAMS' FY 2006 TOTALS. Year-end reports for individual programs are at <http://www.ruralhome.org/infoObligations.php> and ongoing monthly reports will be posted there. To sign up for e-mail notices when data are posted, visit <http://lists.ruralhome.org> or contact Janice Clark, HAC, janice@ruralhome.org. For questions or comments about the data, contact Lance George, 202-842-8600, lance@ruralhome.org.

MORE IMMIGRANTS CHOOSING RURAL AMERICA, REPORT SAYS. Lower costs of living, less crime, and job opportunities attract newcomers, according to a report from the Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire, which concludes that rural places must be included in immigration debates and need more support. *New Immigrant Settlements in Rural America: Problems, Prospects, and Policies* is free at <http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu> or from Amy Seif, 603-862-4650. A USDA Economic Research Service article on the same subject, with links to related resources, is at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/June06/Features/MeatProcessing.htm>.

NLIHC CONFERENCE IN FEBRUARY. Early registration ends February 9 for the National Low Income Housing Coalition's policy conference and lobby day, February 26-27, Washington, DC. <http://www.nlihc.org>, 202-662-1530, conference@nlihc.org. More upcoming events are in HAC's online calendar, <http://www.ruralhome.org/events.php>.

HAC SEEKS NEW WESTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR. Longtime Western director Susan Peck is retiring as of January 5, so HAC's Western office will be closed until a new director is hired. For Western office business in the interim, contact Montika Moton, montika@ruralhome.org, 202-842-8600, 1025 Vermont Ave., NW, Suite 606, Washington, DC 20005. Job descriptions & application information for the Western and Southwest Regional Director positions are at <http://www.ruralhome.org>. Send applications to jobsHAC@ruralhome.org; no phone calls, please.