



**GSE REFORM BILL INCLUDES HOUSING FUND.** H.R. 1427, introduced by Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), would create a new agency to oversee Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the Federal Home Loan Banks, and would establish an affordable housing fund financed by a portion of the GSEs' portfolios rather than their profits. The fund's first year would be devoted to Gulf Coast rebuilding. The bill is at <http://thomas.loc.gov> and National Housing Trust Fund

information is at [http://www.ruralhome.org/infoAnnouncements\\_NHTFUpdate.php](http://www.ruralhome.org/infoAnnouncements_NHTFUpdate.php) and <http://www.nhtf.org>.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES GULF COAST RECOVERY BILL.** The Gulf Coast Hurricane Housing Recovery Act of 2007, passed by the House Financial Services Committee on March 7, would make a number of changes, including extending the Disaster Voucher Program through January 1, 2008 and then transitioning voucher holders to the Section 8 voucher program. H.R. 1227 is available at <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

**HUD ISSUES SUPERNOFA.** FY 2007 funds for 38 programs are available, with varying deadlines. The Rural Housing and Economic Development deadline is May 23 and a webcast for applicants is scheduled for March 28, 1:30-3:30. See *Federal Register*, 3/13/07, pp. 11434-772. Visit HAC's site at [http://www.ruralhome.org/infoAnnouncements\\_2007SuperNOFA.php](http://www.ruralhome.org/infoAnnouncements_2007SuperNOFA.php) for deadlines and links now, and for updates as available. Forms, webcasts, and other information are on HUD's site, <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/fundsavail.cfm>. Contact the NOFA Information Center with general questions, 1-800-HUD-8929, or individuals specified in each program NOFA. HUD will rebroadcast a webcast on using grants.gov for electronic applications on March 14 (2:00 Eastern time) and, with a live question and answer period, on March 15 (3:30 Eastern), at <http://www.hud.gov/webcasts/schedule>. Slides and audio from HAC's February 5 webcast on grants.gov are available at [http://www.ruralhome.org/infoAnnouncements\\_2007SuperNOFA.php#audioweb](http://www.ruralhome.org/infoAnnouncements_2007SuperNOFA.php#audioweb).

**COMMENTS SOUGHT ON SUBPRIME LENDING STATEMENT.** The agencies that regulate lenders have drafted a document to address subprime mortgage lending. Comments are due May 7, 2007. See *Federal Register*, 3/8/07, pp. 10533-37, or <http://www.regulations.gov>. Contact Michael S. Bylsma, OCC, 202-874-5750.

**POLICY ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADOPTED.** The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation made some changes in its July 2006 draft. See *Federal Register*, 2/15/07, pp. 7387-89 or <http://www.achp.gov>. Contact Blythe Semmer, 202-606-8505, [affordablehousing@achp.gov](mailto:affordablehousing@achp.gov).

**DEFINITION CHANGE COVERS MULTIPHASE TAX CREDIT PROJECTS.** HUD has revised the definition of "effective date" for its September 28, 2006 designation of Difficult Development Areas and Qualified Census Tracts for the Low Income Housing Tax Credit. See *Federal Register*, 3/6/07, pp. 9961-63, or <http://www.huduser.org/datasets/qct.html>. Contact Michael K. Hollar, HUD, 202-402-5878, [Michael\\_K\\_Hollar@hud.gov](mailto:Michael_K_Hollar@hud.gov).

**EXPEDITED WAIVERS POSSIBLE FOR SOME PHAS.** Public housing agencies converting to asset management can request expedited waivers of HUD public housing regulations. See *Federal Register*, 3/1/07, pp. 9348-50. Contact Gregory A. Byrne, HUD, 202-475-8632.

**OMB RATES SHOP EFFECTIVE.** The Office of Management and Budget evaluated HUD's Self-Help Home-ownership Opportunity Program using its Program Assessment Rating Tool and gave it the highest possible rating, "Effective." See <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/expectmore/summary/10006237.2006.html>.

**DATA ON CHILDREN COLLECTED ONLINE.** The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Kids Count project includes Community Level Information on Kids (CLIKS), an online database with information about children's well-being in each state and in smaller geographies such as counties and school districts. Visit <http://www.aecf.org/kidscount>.

**AWARDS OFFERED.** The Environmental Protection Agency's National Awards for Smart Growth Achievement will go to public-sector entities using smart growth principles. Applications are due April 3. Visit <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/awards.htm>. *Affordable Housing Finance* magazine's Readers' Choice Awards recognize affordable housing projects completed in 2006 or 2007 and include a rural category. Deadline is April 30. Visit <http://www.housingfinance.com> or contact Donna Kimura, [dkimura@hanleywood.com](mailto:dkimura@hanleywood.com). July 15 is the deadline for the National Housing & Rehabilitation Association's historic rehabilitation awards. Visit <http://www.housingonline.com/TimmyAwards/tabid/725/Default.aspx> or contact Thom Amdur, 202-939-1753, [tamdur@dworbell.com](mailto:tamdur@dworbell.com).

**HAC REPORTS ON POPULATION LOSS COUNTIES.** *Turning Challenges into Opportunities: Housing and Community Development Strategies in Rural Population Loss Counties* illustrates strategies used in Great Plains states to serve needs, revitalize communities, and encourage in-migration. The report is free at <http://www.ruralhome.org> or \$6.00 from Luz Rosas, HAC, 202-842-8600, [luz@ruralhome.org](mailto:luz@ruralhome.org).