



HAC News

**HURRICANE FUNDING BILLS MOVE FORWARD IN HOUSE.** On March 21 the full House of Representatives passed H.R. 1227, which would provide a variety of types of housing relief to survivors of the 2005 hurricanes (see *HAC News*, 3/14/07). Some similar but not identical hurricane housing provisions are included in the FY 2007 supplemental appropriations bill, H.R. 1591, which passed the House Appropriations Committee on March 20. H.R. 1562, a tax relief bill allowing developers to put Low Income Housing Tax Credit projects in Gulf Opportunity Zones into service before January 1, 2011, passed the House Ways and Means committee. All three bills are available at <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

**OTS ADOPTS UNIFORM CRA REGULATIONS.** The Office of Thrift Supervision's Community Reinvestment Act regulations will change, effective July 1, to match those of the other three federal agencies that oversee private lenders. (See *HAC News*, 11/29/06.) See *Federal Register*, 3/22/07, pp. 13429-436 or <http://www.ots.gov/docs/7/777016.html>. Contact Celeste Anderson, OTS, 202-906-7990.

**RHED AWARDEES ANNOUNCED.** Recipients of FY 2006 funds from HUD's Rural Housing and Economic Development program are listed in the *Federal Register*, 3/19/07, pp. 12810-811, or <http://www.hudclips.org>. Contact Dr. Jackie L. Williams, HUD, 202-708-2290.

**HUD ANSWERS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT QUESTIONS.** A recent notice explains how VAWA applies to HUD programs and describes rules and guidance that HUD is considering. See *Federal Register*, 3/16/07, pp. 12695-700 or <http://www.hudclips.org>. Contact Aaron Santa Anna, HUD, 202-708-3055.

**FY 2007 median family income limits released.** Estimated median family incomes as determined by HUD are used to set the income limits for many federal programs, including HOME, CDBG, and some USDA programs. The FY 2007 estimates and income limits are available from HUD USER at <http://www.huduser.org/datasets/il/il07/index.html>.

**HUD ISSUES FINAL RULE ON FOIA FEE PROCEDURES.** The regulation explains how to request a waiver or reduction of fees from HUD under the Freedom of Information Act. See *Federal Register*, 3/15/07, pp. 12539-543 or <http://www.hudclips.org>. Contact Vicky Lewis, HUD, 202-708-3054.

**ALLOCATIONS FOR HOME, CDBG, ESG, AND HOPWA POSTED.** Dollar amounts available to states and localities in FY 2007 are online at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/about/budget/budget07/>.

**HUD POLICY MEMO GIVES CDBG FAIR HOUSING GUIDANCE.** HUD reminds grantees they can use CDBG funds to analyze impediments to fair housing and to provide fair housing services to residents. The February 9, 2007 memorandum is online at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/promotingfh/fairhousing-cdbg.pdf>.

**POLL SHOWS RURAL AMERICANS WANT AFFORDABLE HOUSING AGENDA.** A majority of Americans care about affordable housing and want the issue on the national political agenda, according to a Zogby poll released on March 21. The poll was commissioned by a coalition of organizations, including HAC, at the launch of the Housing America 2007 public awareness project. Local activities around the country (through April 9) will highlight the need for affordable housing. For event information, visit <http://www.ruralhome.org/pressreleasesview.php?id=202>.

**HOUSING ADVOCATE'S GUIDE PUBLISHED.** The 2007 edition of the National Low Income Housing Coalition's annual *Advocate's Guide to Housing and Community Development Policy*, describing programs, issues, and policy proposals, is free at <http://www.nlihc.org/template/page.cfm?id=46>. Printed copies are \$15 for NLIHC members and \$25 for non-members. Contact Carol Vance, 202-662-1530 x221, [carol@nlihc.org](mailto:carol@nlihc.org).

**CRA SCAM WARNING ISSUED.** The federal lending regulatory agencies warn that some consumers have received solicitations for a "Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Program" that entitles certain homeowners to cash grants or equity disbursements, although there is no such program. The alert is posted at <http://www.ffiec.gov/cra/pdf/csmrAlrtSol.pdf>. Contact [crahelp@frb.gov](mailto:crahelp@frb.gov) or 202-872-7584.

**REGISTER FOR HAC TRAINING ON HOME AND RENTAL PRESERVATION.** ♦ "Building Rural Communities Through CHDOs," for nonprofits, will be held May 8-10 in Des Moines, Iowa, with two tracks: an overview on the HOME program, and financial management for rural CHDOs. Organizations are encouraged to send multiple staff. Registration is free and travel scholarships are available for CHDOs and potential CHDOs. ♦ "Preserving Rural Rental Housing: A Practitioner's Conference" will be May 30-June 1 in St. Peters, Missouri, featuring expert advice on deals and resources, plus a tour of preservation sites. ♦ Access details and registration information at <http://www.ruralhome.org>. Contact Michael Spotts, HAC, 202-842-8600, [registration@ruralhome.org](mailto:registration@ruralhome.org).