

Preservation bill hearing set, materials on HAC's site. The House Subcommittee on Housing will hold a hearing April 25 on H.R. 5039, the rural rental housing preservation bill (see *HAC News*, 4/4/06). HAC has been invited to testify. Watch <http://www.ruralhome.org> for updates, including whether the hearing will be webcast at <http://financialservices.house.gov>. HAC's summary of the bill, statement, and press release are at <http://www.ruralhome.org/pressreleasesview.php?id=185>.

RHS issues Section 525 NOFA. Nonprofits and Indian tribes are eligible for supervisory and technical assistance grants. Deadline is May 17. See *Federal Register*, 4/17/06, pp. 19682-90 or <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/nofas>. Contact Nica Mathes, RHS, 202-205-3656, nica.mathes@wdc.usda.gov.

VA launches multifamily program. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis for Federal Financing Bank loans with VA guarantees to develop multifamily housing with supportive services for homeless veterans. Priority will go to areas with the greatest need. See *Federal Register*, 4/12/06, pp. 18813-21 or <http://www1.va.gov/homeless>. Contact VA staff at 202-273-7462 or Multifamily.Loan@va.gov.

HOPE VI NOFAs published. HOPE VI Revitalization and Main Street grant applications are due July 10. See *Federal Register*, 4/11/06, pp. 18495-560, or <http://www.hudclips.org>. Contact HUD at 1-800-HUD-8929.

OTS adopts community development definition. For its Community Reinvestment Act rules, the Office of Thrift Supervision has adopted the same definition of community development, including "distressed or underserved" middle-income nonmetro places, as the other three federal agencies that regulate lenders, which adopted it in 2005 (see *HAC News*, 7/27/05). Public comments are due June 12 on OTS's guidance on this topic. See *Federal Register*, 4/12/06, pp. 18807-13 and 18614-18 or <http://www.ots.treas.gov/docs/7/776019.html>. Contact Celeste Anderson, OTS, 202-906-7990.

Comments invited on GSE regulatory plan. Comments are due May 5 on the 2006-2011 strategic plan of HUD's Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, which regulates Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. See *Federal Register*, 4/7/06, pp. 17899-900 or <http://www.ofheo.gov>. Contact Susan S. Jacobs, HUD, 202-414-3821.

EPA extends deadline for comments on lead paint renovation standards. Submissions are now due May 25 instead of April 10. (See *HAC News*, 1/11/06.) See *Federal Register*, 4/6/06, pp. 17409-10 or <http://www.epa.gov/lead>. Contact Colby Lintner, EPA, 202-554-1404, TSCA-Hotline@epa.gov.

Section 515 and 514 tenant data available. USDA RD's Fair Housing Occupancy Report shows that as of January 2006, 94% of residents have very low incomes. Average household income is \$10,036 and, for those receiving Rental Assistance, \$7,961. In Section 515 units, 59% of all tenants are elderly or disabled and 17% of all tenants are cost-burdened. Data are in an unnumbered letter dated March 22, 2006, available at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/regs/ul/ulmarch06.pdf> or from RD offices.

National League of Cities' National City Network features affordable housing in April. Visit <http://www.nationalcitynetwork.org> for discussions, news, video programs, and links to reports and analyses.

Bank LIHTC investments explained. Articles in the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's *Community Development Investments* publication explain the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program and why banks might use it. Visit <http://www.occ.treas.gov/cdd/spring06/index.htm> or call OCC, 202-874-5556.

Publications aim to help provide resident services. Documents on services for affordable housing residents prepared by Enterprise Community Partners are available at <http://www.practitionerresources.org/topic.html?c=302>. Additional resources are on the websites of the Corporation for Supportive Housing, <http://www.csh.org>, and the National Resident Services Collaborative, <http://www.residentservices.org>.

Higher energy costs affect rural economies. USDA's *Amber Waves* notes that rising home heating costs impact both urban and rural areas, while gas prices have greater effects on rural residents who must drive and rural economies that depend on tourism or commuters. The magazine is free at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/April06> or \$49.95 for one year from 1-800-363-2068.

Early registration ends April 21 for rental preservation training. HAC's *Preserving Rural Rental Housing: A Practitioner's Conference* on May 24-26 in Seattle features practical advice and a site tour. Conference rate hotel reservations must be made by May 2. Details are at <http://www.ruralhome.org/servicesTraining.php>. Contact Susan Peck, HAC, 415-381-1706, susan@ruralhome.org.