



PRESIDENT NOMINATES PRESTON FOR HUD. On April 18, President Bush nominated Small Business Administration head Steve Preston to replace Alphonso Jackson as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Preston's biography is available at <http://www.sba.gov/aboutsba/administrator/index.html>.

SECTION 538 DEMO WILL GUARANTEE BOTH CONSTRUCTION AND PERMANENT FINANCING. RD is implementing this demonstration for the second year. Applicants who received Section 538 obligations between October 1, 2007 and April 4, 2008 can request a continuous guarantee by April 25. Deadlines for later rounds are July 11 and September 29. See *Federal Register*, 4/21/08, pp. 21305-07 or http://www.ruralhome.org/infoAnnouncements_2008RDNOFAs.php. Contact an RD state office.

AHP MORTGAGE AID PROPOSED. The Federal Housing Finance Board is proposing to authorize Affordable Housing Program homeownership set-aside programs to refinance or restructure nontraditional or subprime mortgages. Comments are due June 16. See *Federal Register*, 4/17/08, pp. 20552-64 or <http://www.regulations.gov>. Contact Karen Walter, FHFB, walterk@fhfb.gov, 202-408-2829.

EPA ISSUES FINAL RULE ON LEAD-SAFE RENOVATION PRACTICES. The rule, which takes effect in April 2010, covers most housing constructed before 1978 and other buildings constructed before 1978 if frequently used by children. It establishes requirements for training and certifying people and firms, and for work practices and recordkeeping. States, territories, and tribes may apply to administer the requirements. See *Federal Register*, 4/22/08, pp. 21691-769 or <http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm>. Contact Colby Lintner, EPA, 202-554-1404, TSCA-Hotline@epa.gov. A new brochure, *Renovate Right: Important Lead Hazard Information for Families, Child Care Providers, and Schools*, along with other publications including some in Spanish, is free at <http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovaterightbrochure.pdf> or from EPA, 1-800-424-LEAD.

RD TO SIMPLIFY INCOME LIMITS FOR SECTION 502 GUARANTEE ELIGIBILITY. Instead of the current income limit structure, there would be one limit for households with one to four members and one for those with five to eight. The limits for households with more than eight people would not change. Comments are due May 12. See *Federal Register*, 4/10/08, p. 19443 or <http://www.regulations.gov>. Contact David Chaput, RD, 202-720-1456.

GUIDANCE ISSUED ON FORECLOSURE SALE BIDS FOR PROPERTIES WITH SECTION 502 GUARANTEES. Administrative Notice 4350 (April 11, 2008) explains what amount lenders are expected to bid. AN 4350 is available at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/regs/an_list.html or from RD offices.

FEDERAL REGISTER DOCUMENTS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE A DAY BEFORE PUBLICATION. PDF versions of documents that will appear in the next day's *FR* are posted at <http://federalregister.gov/page2.aspx>. Federal agencies sometimes post such documents on their own websites also. The daily *FR* and back issues continue to be available in PDF and HTML text at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/>.

HUD REPORT SAYS CHRONICALLY HOMELESS POPULATION SHRANK FROM 2005 TO 2006. Its *Second Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress* shows little change in the number or demographics of the general homeless population and an 11.5% drop in the number of chronically homeless persons counted by participating Continuums of Care, possibly attributable to improved services or improved data gathering. The report is available at <http://www.hudhre.info/documents/2ndHomelessAssessmentReport.pdf>.

GUIDE TO GREEN REHAB FOR MULTIFAMILY PROPERTIES PUBLISHED. *Green Rehabilitation of Multifamily Rental Properties: A Resource Guide*, published by Bay Area LISC and Build it Green, is free at <http://www.bayarealisc.org> or \$20 from Bay Area LISC, 415-397-7322, jsomers@lisc.org.

GAPS GROWING IN INCOMES AND LIFE EXPECTANCY. The gaps between the richest and poorest families, and between the richest and middle-income, are growing at an accelerating rate in most states, according to *Pulling Apart: A State-by-State Analysis of Income Trends*, by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and the Economic Policy Institute, free along with state fact sheets at <http://www.cbpp.org/4-9-08sfp.htm>. ♦ The Congressional Budget Office reports that, although life expectancy in the U.S. is generally increasing, disparities are growing between people with high and low incomes and between those with more and less education. *Growing Disparities in Life Expectancy* is free at <http://www.cbo.gov/doc.cfm?index=9104> or from CBO, 202-226-2809.

STATE-LEVEL HOUSING RESEARCH COLLECTED ONLINE. A new State Internet Research Repository created by the National Low Income Housing Coalition contains reports, slideshows, and more from NLIHC's state partners. Visit SIRR at <http://www.nlihc.org/template/page.cfm?id=139>.