



HAC News

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE HOLDS RURAL HOUSING HEARING. On May 8, the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity heard testimony from seven witnesses about rural housing program funding and authorization. HAC Executive Director Moises Loza's testimony covered the FY 2008 budget, preservation of Section 515 rental housing, and bills to authorize HUD's Rural Housing and Economic Development program (H.R. 1982) and HAC (H.R. 1980). Links to testimony and HAC's press release are at <http://www.ruralhome.org>.

COMMITTEE APPROVES FHA CHANGES AND NEW HOUSING FUND. The House Financial Services Committee on May 3 passed H.R. 1852, introduced by Reps. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) and Barney Frank (D-Mass.) to reform and revitalize the Federal Housing Administration. The bill would help provide mortgage loans for low- and middle-income families by authorizing zero downpayment loans, directing HUD to serve higher risk borrowers who would otherwise turn to predatory and high priced mortgages, and raising loan limits so that FHA can serve high cost housing markets. It would also use FHA's profits to increase funding for HUD's housing counseling program and to create a new affordable housing fund. H.R. 1852 is available at <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

USDA OFFERS SECTION 515 PRESERVATION AND REVITALIZATION FUNDS. The Multi-Family Housing Preservation and Revitalization Restructuring Program (MPR) is intended to help owners restructure Section 515 loans to preserve properties. Debt deferral is the primary tool available, and several others are possible. Deadline for pre-applications is May 30. See *Federal Register*, 4/30/07, pp. 21211-16 or <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/nofas/index.html>. Contact Carlton Jarratt, RD, carlton.jarratt@wdc.usda.gov, 804-561-0665.

SECTION 515 NEW CONSTRUCTION FUNDS AVAILABLE. RD has \$25.7 million available for Section 515 Rural Rental Housing new construction, including setasides. Deadline is June 29. See *Federal Register*, 4/30/07, pp. 21207-11 or <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/nofas/index.html>. Contact an RD state office.

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR VETERANS' TRANSITIONAL HOUSING. Nonprofits, state and local governments, and tribes are eligible for capital grants under VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program to expand existing transitional housing projects or develop new ones. Deadline is June 28. See *Federal Register*, 5/4/07, pp. 25351-54 or <http://www.va.gov/homeless/page.cfm?pg=3>. Contact program staff at 1-877-332-0334 (toll-free).

YOUTHBUILD APPLICATIONS INVITED. Nonprofits, government agencies, and others are eligible for three-year grants to train disadvantaged youth while improving housing. Apply through grants.gov by July 3. See *Federal Register*, 4/26/07, pp. 20874-85 or <http://www.doleta.gov/sga/sga.cfm> or <http://www.grants.gov>. Contact Donna Kelly, Department of Labor, 202-693-3934. For details about a public meeting for applicants on May 30 in Arlington, Virginia, visit <http://www.dtiassociates.com/youthbuild/Home.cfm>.

HUD PROPOSES TO LIFT CAP ON LIHTC VOUCHER RENTS. HUD may return to a previous rule for project-based vouchers in Low Income Housing Tax Credit properties, allowing owners of units in high-poverty or low-income tracts to receive PBV rents instead of capping rents at the lower LIHTC levels. Comments are due July 2. See *Federal Register*, 5/1/07, pp. 24079-81 or <http://www.regulations.gov>. Contact David Vargas, HUD, 202-708-2815.

MANUFACTURED HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS SOUGHT. HUD requests proposals for changes to its manufactured home standards (the HUD Code), procedures, and enforcement. No deadline is stated. See *Federal Register*, 5/4/07, p. 25327 or <http://www.hudclips.org>. Contact William W. Matchneer III, HUD, 202-708-6409.

RD STUDYING SECTION 515 OWNERSHIP TRANSFERS. An April 25 unnumbered letter asks RD state offices to provide information about FY 2006 transfers for an analysis of the types of transfers occurring, third-party funds being used for rehab, and state office workload and training needs. The letter is available at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/regs/ul/ulapril07.pdf>. Contact Melinda Price, RD, 614-255-2403, melinda.price@wdc.usda.gov.

STUDY ESTIMATES HIGH COST OF SUBSTANDARD HOUSING'S IMPACT ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH. Research for the North Carolina Housing Coalition estimates the direct medical costs and indirect costs (special education, missing school and work days, etc.) at \$95 million for North Carolina children's illnesses, disabilities, and diseases that can be at least partly attributed to environmental and cultural factors commonly found in substandard housing. It does not include emotional effects or adults' health costs. *The Economic Cost of Substandard Housing Conditions Among North Carolina Children* is free at <http://www.nchousing.org/NC%20Sub%20Housing%20Costs%20Final%20Draft.pdf>.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON HUD PRESERVATION RELEASED. Legislative proposals for preserving HUD-funded rental properties, by the multilateral National Preservation Working Group (convened by the National Housing Trust), are posted at <http://www.nhtinc.org>.