



HAC News

JUNE IS NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH. For details visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>, <http://www.hud.gov>, and <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/05/20080529-7.html>.

HURRICANE RECOVERY FUNDS INCLUDED IN SENATE SUPPLEMENTAL. The House and Senate have passed different versions of H.R. 2642, an FY 2008 supplemental appropriations bill. The Senate bill, passed by a veto-proof margin on May 22, includes \$146 million in housing and CDBG funds for Hurricane Katrina and Rita recovery. The House is expected to vote this week on the Senate's version. President Bush has threatened to veto both bills; see <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/legislative/sap/110-2/index-date.html>. The bills are at <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

SENATE APPROVES NAHASDA REAUTHORIZATION. S. 2062, reauthorizing the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act, passed the Senate unanimously on May 22. It does not address a controversial provision in H.R. 2786, passed by the House on September 6, 2007 (see *HAC News*, 9/12/07), that would deny funds to the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma unless the Freedmen, descendants of former slaves, are restored to tribal citizenship. A conference committee will need to reconcile the bills. A *Time* magazine article explaining the Freedmen issue's background is at <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1635873,00.html>.

COMMITTEE QUESTIONS PRESTON. The Senate Banking Committee held a hearing May 22 on Steven Preston's nomination as HUD Secretary. Written statements and a video are available at <http://banking.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Home>.

CIRCULAR A-133 SUPPLEMENT ISSUED. On June 5 OMB will release its 2008 supplement to Circular A-133 regarding audits of nonprofits, states, and local governments. Comments will be accepted until October 31. On or after June 5, see *Federal Register*, 6/5/08, or http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/grants_circulars.html, or purchase a copy from the Government Printing Office, 202-512-0132.

USDA MOVING TO REDUCE RENTAL ASSISTANCE ERRORS. A letter from Housing Programs Administrator Russell Davis to HAC expresses concern about errors, due largely to incomplete documentation in tenant files. To reduce errors, RD issued an unnumbered letter dated February 28, 2008 entitled "Fiscal Year 2006 Management Control Reviews," which includes attachments for property managers to use; will revise the project occupancy chapter in HB-2-3560; and is considering penalizing managers for problems. The letter and handbook are available at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/regs/> or from RD offices. Contact Stephanie White, RD, 202-720-1615.

REGULATORS RELEASE LIST OF NONMETRO PLACES FOR CRA CREDIT. On May 30 the federal agencies that regulate banks and thrifts released the 2008 list of distressed or underserved nonmetro middle-income geographies where bank revitalization or stabilization activities will receive CRA consideration as "community development." The agencies' press release is at <http://www.occ.gov/ftp/release/2008-60.htm> and the list is at <http://www.ffiec.gov/cra>.

COMMENTS REQUESTED ON BANK ENTERPRISE AWARDS. The CDFI Fund invites opinions by July 7 on its BEA program, including how banks and thrifts use BEA funds. See *Federal Register*, 6/4/08, pp. 31917-18 or <http://www.cdfifund.gov>. Contact CDFI Fund staff, cdfihelp@cdfi.treas.gov, 202-622-6355.

SECTION 202/811 STANDARDS REVISED. A final rule allows use of HUD funds for dishwashers and clarifies project design and cost standards' applicability to Section 811 group homes. See *Federal Register*, 5/23/08, pp. 29983-85, <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-11619.pdf>. Contact Yvonne Jefferson, HUD, 202-708-3000.

PUBLIC COMMENT REQUESTED ON LEED 2009. The U.S. Green Building Council is accepting comments by June 22 on revisions to its LEED green building certification system, available at <http://www.usgbc.org>.

GUIDE TO EMPLOYER-ASSISTED HOUSING PUBLISHED. *Understanding Employer-Assisted Housing: A Guidebook for Employers*, which includes a small-town case study, is published by Homes for Working Families and the Metropolitan Planning Council and is free at <http://www.homesforworkingfamilies.org/solutions/housing/> or from Megan McAtee, mmcatee@homesforworkingfamilies.org, 202-580-6220.

Nominations open for rural housing awards! Save the dates for the National Rural Housing Conference 2008: Working for Change, Building Our Future! The conference will be held December 3-5, 2008 in Washington, D.C. Watch for registration information in the *HAC News* and at <http://www.ruralhome.org/Conf2008/index.php>. At the conference, HAC will present awards for national and local rural housing work and, for the first time this year, for work by a publicly elected official. Nominations are due September 15. For details visit <http://www.ruralhome.org/Conf2008/awards.php> or contact Lilla Sutton, HAC, 202-842-8600, lilla@ruralhome.org.