



HAC News

HOUSE PASSES 2008 AND 2009 FUNDING. On September 25 the House approved a bill that includes a Continuing Resolution for FY 2009; emergency supplemental funding for FY 2008; and FY 2009 appropriations for the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs. The CR would fund most federal programs at FY 2008 levels until March 6, 2009, with some exceptions. USDA Section 521 Rental Assistance would be funded at \$997 million, the amount needed to renew all expiring contracts, compared to \$482.1 million in FY 2008. Section 502 guarantees would receive as much as needed to cover the same amount of mortgage principal as in FY 2008. The CR also directs HUD to renew all expiring Section 8 contracts. The bill's emergency appropriations for FY 2008 include \$59 million for USDA rural housing in 2008 disaster areas and \$38 million in Katrina and Rita disaster areas, as well as disaster housing funds for HUD. H.R. 2638 is available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/approp/app09.html>. The Senate is expected to act on the measure soon.

RURAL RENTAL TRANSFERS BILL INTRODUCED IN SENATE. On July 30 Senator Jon Tester (D-Montana) introduced S. 3363, which would expedite transfers of ownership of Section 515 rural rental properties. Its counterpart, H.R. 3873, passed the House in January (see [HAC News, 1/30/08](#)). Both bills are available at <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

GREEN HOUSING PROVISIONS INCLUDED IN HOUSE ENERGY BILL. H.R. 6899, passed on September 16, including incentives for energy efficiency in HUD and FHA housing, and more, is available at <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

NOTICE ON ALLOCATION OF CDBG FORECLOSURE FUNDS EXPECTED SEPT. 29. A report from the National Association for County Community and Economic Development, posted at <http://njcda.net>, indicates HUD will not follow the CDBG process to distribute \$3.9 billion in Neighborhood Stabilization funds provided by the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008. HAC will post more information at <http://www.ruralhome.org> when available.

FEMA REVIEWING OVERPAYMENT CLAIMS FOR KATRINA AND RITA ASSISTANCE. FEMA has terminated its procedures for recouping overpayments of disaster housing assistance in connection with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and is withdrawing all recoupment notices. It will review claims and will institute new proceedings where warranted. See *Federal Register*, 9/5/08, pp. 51831-32 at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a080905c.html. Contact John Quintanilla, FEMA, 540-686-3603.

CORRECTIONS MADE TO USDA'S IRP RULES. A direct final rule corrects contradictions between the servicing and processing regulations for the Intermediary Relending Program and is effective November 3 unless RD receives adverse comments by October 20. See *Federal Register*, 9/19/08, pp. 54305-07 or <http://www.regulations.gov>. Contact Lori A. Washington, RD, 202-720-9815, lori.washington@wdc.usda.gov.

FHA INSURANCE FOR MANUFACTURED HOMES TO CHANGE. Comments are due November 14 on a revision to make manufactured homes eligible for FHA insurance if installed under Model Installation Standards. See *Federal Register*, 9/15/08, pp. 53345-50 or <http://www.regulations.gov>. Contact Peter Gillispie, HUD, 202-708-2121.

CONTINUUM OF CARE DEADLINE EXTENDED, NOFA REVISED. Applications are now due October 16. See *Federal Register*, 9/15/08, pp. 53263-64 or <http://www.hudhre.info>. Contact the e-snaps Help Desk, 1-877-6esnaps.

AMERICORPS REGULATIONS AMENDED. See *Federal Register*, 9/17/08, pp. 53752-62 or http://www.nationalservice.gov/home/register_notices/index.asp. Contact Amy Borgstrom, CNCS, 202-606-6930.

FHFA LIMITS GOLDEN PARACHUTES. The new Federal Housing Finance Agency requests comments by October 31 on factors to be taken into account in limiting golden parachute payments to executives of Fannie

Mae, Freddie Mac, or the Federal Home Loan Banks. See *Federal Register*, 9/16/08, pp. 53356-59; 9/19/08, p. 54309; and 9/23/08, p. 54673 or <http://www.regulations.gov>. Contact Alfred M. Pollard, OFHEO, 202-414-3788.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO NEXT PRESIDENT COLLECTED IN *SHELTERFORCE*. Topics include fair housing, homeownership, and – written by HAC staff – rural housing. The magazine is free at <http://www.shelterforce.org> or \$18 for a one-year print subscription, 973-763-0333.

USDA RURAL DEMOGRAPHER CALVIN BEALE DIES AT 85. Beale, who developed the Rural-Urban Continuum Codes often used to indicate a county's degree of rurality, also served on HAC's Research Advisory Panel. HAC's remembrance is online at http://www.ruralhome.org/infoAnnouncements_bealememorial.php.

NEW ADDRESS FOR HAC'S MIDWEST OFFICE! On September 29 the office will move to 10100 NW Ambassador Drive, Suite 310, Kansas City, MO 64153-1362. Other contact information will not change: phone 816-880-0400, fax 816-880-0500, email midwest@ruralhome.org.