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FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH. President Obama’s proclamation is available at http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/02/01/.

ADMINISTRATION BUDGET TO BE PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 14. The process of developing federal funding levels for fiscal year 2012 will begin when the Obama Administration issues its budget proposals in less than two weeks. Watch for details on HAC’s website, http://www.ruralhome.org.

HUD OFFERS FUNDS FOR ASSISTED LIVING, SERVICE COORDINATORS, AND RESEARCH. ♦ The Assisted Living Conversion Program aids private nonprofits that own properties with specific types of federal assistance, including Section 515 with Section 8, or Section 202. Deadline is March 29. Contact Katina Washington, Katina.X.Washington@hud.gov, 202-708-3000. ♦ Service Coordinators in Multifamily Housing funds are available for specified types of HUD-assisted properties. Deadline is March 24. Contact HUD field staff. ♦ The Transformation Initiative: Natural Experiments Grant Program supports scientific research that makes use of natural experiments to evaluate the impacts of local, state, and federal policies. HUD is particularly interested in helping policymakers spend effectively and efficiently, but will consider other projects as well. Deadline is February 21. Contact Michael T. Morse, Michael.T.Morse@hud.gov, 202-402-5901. ♦ All HUD NOFAs are posted at http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/fundsavail.cfm and http://www.grants.gov.


HUD PROPOSES PROTECTIONS FOR SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY. Owners and operators of HUD-assisted and FHA-insured housing would be prohibited from discriminating against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. The notice explains that a separate rule will add the same protections to HUD’s Native American housing programs. Comments are due March 25. See Federal Register, 1/24/11 or http://www.regulations.gov. Contact Kenneth J. Carroll, HUD, 202-708-2333.


HUD REPORTS WORST CASE NEEDS INCREASED 20% FROM 2007 TO 2009. Worst case housing needs – defined as very low-income renter households who paid more than half their monthly income for rent, lived in severely substandard housing, or both – were 7.10 million in 2009 (41% of very low-income renters), up from 5.91 million (37%) in 2007. Every racial/ethnic group experienced increases, with Hispanics having the largest increase. The report suggests the rise is tied to the economic recession and homeownership crisis. Worst Case Housing Needs 2009: A Report to Congress is free at http://www.huduser.org.


MISSED THE LAST HAC NEWS? The January 19 issue of the HAC News may not have reached all print subscribers because of a mailing glitch. It is available (along with other back issues) on HAC’s website, http://www.ruralhome.org. HAC apologizes for any problems.