
CD EXCHANGE

465 Main Street – Lafayette Court – Buffalo, New York 14203 – www.hud.gov

Volume 3

Issue 4

(716) 551-5755

April/ May 2007

HUD's 2007 Continuum of Care SuperNOFA Announced

By Vicki Vigorito

Word spreads quickly when HUD's SuperNOFA is released, and phones started buzzing March 13th!

This year's budget nationally for competitive Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs equals \$1.25 billion dollars.

The deadline for Continuum of Care applications is Friday, June 8, 2007.

Local government officials should be prepared: Continuum representatives will be approaching you soon for certification of consistency with your Consolidated Plans!

Application forms are no longer printed in the NOFA. Continuum of Care forms and a "Q & A Supplement" to the NOFA can be found at HUD's website, at the following address:
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/fundsavail.cfm>

Again this year, the requirement that Continuum of Care applications be submitted electronically has been deferred. Continuum of Care applications remain as hard-copy submissions in 2007. Each year, though, the eventuality of submissions processed electronically through E*Grants looms larger, so all Continuum of Care participants are

advised to register now at Grants.Gov. There is an immediate benefit to registration: individuals can sign up for email notification of funds availability across the entire Federal government. You might be surprised to learn the wide spectrum of grants that are available and meet your search parameters! (More details available at Grants.Gov.)

A required item in all NOFA applications is the HUD Logic Model, which puts to paper the Federal government's increased emphasis on performance and results in grant programs. It serves as a planning tool prior to receiving an award, and then serves as a tracking tool once projects are underway. Continuum of Care applicants will submit a hard copy of the Logic Model as part of their complete application and then, when grants are awarded, HUD will coordinate with awardees so they will have an active electronic version of the Logic Model to update (just like the applicants who submitted through E*Grants).

The best advice that can be given to applicants is to THOROUGHLY review application requirements so no mandatory charts or forms are overlooked. The application is more chart-driven than in the past, in line with an eventual shift to electronic submission, so be especially careful about completing all required charts.

Need more information?

Instructional Webcasts for the Continuum of Care are available through HUD.GOV, live and in the archive. Logic Model training was given on March 20th, now archived, and upcoming webcasts will include CoC Supportive Housing Program

and Shelter Plus Care sessions on March 27th, with a CoC follow-up on April 19th.

OPEN LETTER:

Fair Housing Month April 2007

During the month of April 2007, our Country celebrates Fair Housing Month. Why April? Because it was on April 11th, 1968, that the Federal Fair Housing Act was signed into law, just one week after the assassination of one of the greatest advocates for fair housing and equal opportunity for all, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Fair Housing Act is one of our Country's most important pieces of legislation. It extends constitutional protections for all citizens and works in securing fairness and equal opportunity for all Americans. The Federal Fair Housing Act guarantees equality in housing through its prohibition of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, or disability.

The passing of this Legislation was a fitting memorial to Dr. King's life work. We mark the anniversary of Dr. King's tragic and untimely death this month, mindful of the many civil rights advocates like Dr. King who fought for fairness in America. As we humbly follow in their footsteps and continue to work together to further Fair Housing, we are mindful of the bright promise of the future of all Americans.

This year's Fair Housing Month message is: Fair Housing is not an Option; It's the Law.

Our Office encourages all communities to celebrate Fair Housing

Month by drafting proclamations, planning housing fairs, conducting seminars and promoting education and outreach.

If you or your community is sponsoring an event, please call the HUD Buffalo Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Office and inform us of your activities. We would love to know what you are planning and could offer assistance in making your plans come to fruition. The FHEO Office can be reached at (716)551-5755, extension 5600.

Sincerely,

Andrij O. Pryshlak
Director FHEO Buffalo

Vale Housing Revitalization Project of Schenectady New York Wins HUD Secretary's Award

As part of the annual Best in American Living Award, U.S. HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson, in partnership with Professional Builder magazine and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), announced winners of the HUD Secretary's Award for Excellence at the 63rd annual NAHB International Builders' Show in Orlando, Florida in February 2007. The three winners are: Delaware Street Project in Indianapolis, Indiana, Block Build Project in Elgin, Illinois, and Vale Housing Revitalization Project In Schenectady, New York.

A community of partners that included local and state governments, residents, and nonprofit organizations developed the Vale Housing Revitalization Project in Schenectady, New York. Their plan to improve homeownership opportunities in a blighted neighborhood led to a unique strategy of converting three abandoned two-unit houses into

single-family homes for large families, which proved to be feasible and cost effective. All three renovated homes were sold to families with incomes below 80 percent of the area median income. The homebuyers received counseling assistance on purchasing and maintaining a home, closing costs and downpayment assistance, and access to affordable lending products.

More information about the Secretary's Awards Program is available at www.huduser.org/research/secaward.htm.

REPORTING PROGRAM INCOME IN IDIS

By Margie Dziwulski

Program income as described by the both the CDBG and HOME Regulations is defined as gross income received by the recipient or a subrecipient directly generated from the use of the program funds. The receipt and use of program income must be entered into IDIS in order to accurately present the accomplishments completed by the recipient or subrecipient

The following screen allows grantees to create receipts in IDIS.

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09/29/99 10:44          CREATE RECEIPT          C04MI01
LOGGED ON GRANTEE: BERKS COUNTY
RECEIPT FOR GRANTEE: BERKS COUNTY

RECEIPT PROGRAM CODE: B          (N, B, S, H)
FISCAL YEAR: 1999 ESTIMATED AMOUNT: _____
SOURCE TYPE: UC          (NC, UC, DC, SG, HS, HH)
FUND TYPE: PI          (P I, RL, RE, SF, RC)
AMOUNT: $20.00
RECEIPT TYPE: HP          (HP, IU, ED)

HUD ACTIVITY ID: _____
MATRIX CODE: _____
GRANTEE RECEIPT NUMBER: _____
REMARKS: _____

RECEIPT NUMBER:
RECEIPT STATUS:
ASSOCIATED GRANT NUMBER:

PI FUND NOT FOUND, ENTER ESTIMATED AMOUNT TO CREATE FUND
F4 = MAIN MENU F7 = PREV F6 = CLEAR
  
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Grantees must remember that program income is receipted in the program year it is received. Therefore, when entering program income received today, the Fiscal Year above should be your current program year. The most common types of program income are general program income labeled as PI in the fund type and revolving loan funds labeled as RL in the fund type.

Program income labeled as PI must be used prior to drawing down funds from the U.S. Treasury. PI available to be spent from a grant program (either CDBG or HOME) will appear as a source of funds when drawing down for that particular grant program. However, if the activity is already funded from two types of funds (pots), you will not see the PI available on the create drawdown screen. For example: if an activity is already funded with both CDBG EN and CDBG AD, you will not see CDBG PI as an option. In this case, you should fund the activity from PI through the Activity Funding screen. Then, all three "pots" will appear on the create drawdown screen.

CDBG regulations allow recipients to place program income in a revolving loan account(s). This program income is treated differently from PI and does not have to be used prior to drawing funds from Treasury. If you have an economic development revolving loan fund and a housing rehabilitation revolving loan fund, you should be receipting funds using RL along with a valid matrix code such as 18A for economic development or 14A for housing rehabilitation. Although RL shows as one "pot," IDIS can differentiate between revolving loan funds used for the same matrix code. RL funds should be used to fund activities that are undertaken using revolving loan funds and that each economic loan should be entered as a separate activity so that jobs created as part of that loan can be individually tracked.

Please remember that ALL program income especially revolving loan funds

received by a recipient or a subrecipient must be receipted in IDIS and the use of these funds must also be entered into the system.

38 HUD Grants Announced in the 2007 SuperNOFA

By Linda Moore

The long-awaited FY 2007 SuperNOFA, a notice of funding availability for 38 grant programs, was recently published. The general section, which describes general requirements that apply to all 38 programs, was published in the January 18, 2007 Federal Register. Program specific information for each of the 38 programs, including both program requirements and submission deadlines was published in the March 13, 2007 Federal Register.

In addition to the homeless grant funding opportunities, there are several grant opportunities that may be of particular interest:

- Community Development Technical Assistance CD-TA Programs – funding varies according to size of service area, needs, scope, etc. Applications must be received by grants.gov by 5/25/2007. Webcast assistance provided on 4/3/2007 from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM.
- Housing Counseling Programs – Applications must be received and validated by grants.gov by 5/17/2007. Webcast assistance provided on March 28, 2007 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.
- Lead Based Paint Hazard Control Grant Program and Operation Lead Elimination Action Grant Program (LEAP) – Applications must be received and validated by grants.gov by 5/18/2007. Webcast assistance

provided on March 29, 2007 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

- Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant Program – Applications must be received by grants.gov by 5/30/2007. Webcast assistance provided on March 29, 2007 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM.
- Rural Housing and Economic Development (RHED) Program – up to \$300K grants for innovative housing and economic development activities in rural areas. Applications must be received and validated by grants.gov by 5/23/07. Validation can take up to 72 hours. Webcast assistance provided on 3/28/2007 from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM.

Please remember that these grants (unlike CoC grants) must be submitted electronically through www.grants.gov. You must be registered with grants.gov before you can apply for grants online. First time users of www.grants.gov are required to complete a five-step registration process, which can take two to four weeks to complete. Information on the registration process is available at: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/reqbrochure.pdf>. Since HUD intends for CoC applicants to apply electronically in FY 2008, we highly recommend that prospective FY 2008 CoC applicants complete the grants.gov registration in 2007. Registrations are only valid for a year and must be renewed prior to expiration. Renewal is a quick and simple process.

Anyone interested in applying for a grant that must be submitted electronically should familiarize himself or herself with the HUD's Desktop User's Guide for Submitting Electronic Grant Applications. This guide is updated regularly and is available at: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/desktopusersguide.pdf>

Grants.gov customer support is available by phone at 800-518-GRANTS

(4726) from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM EST
Monday through Friday, or by email at:
support@grants.gov

2006 Homeless Grant Awards Implementation Phase

By Peggy Meini

Upstate New York applicants in the 2006 Continuum of Care Competition have received over \$26,740,000 in funding to assist in helping end homelessness. The Buffalo Office's Homeless Team is diligently working on getting this money onto the streets as soon as possible. Recipients of the Shelter Plus Care (SPC) Program should be receiving their grant agreements in the very near future, which will enable them to lease units to assist homeless persons with disabilities. Supportive Housing Program (SHP) recipients should have received a package containing the Technical Submission documents. The Technical Submission is the next phase that SHP recipients need to complete so that they can receive the funding to put their programs into action. Grantees might need to contact their local municipalities to assist them in completing an environmental review. Should anyone have any questions regarding the implementation of the 2006 awards please contact your HUD representative for assistance.

Invitation to Participate in the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR)

The Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) is a report to the U.S. Congress on the extent and nature of homelessness in America. The AHAR is one of HUD's most important reports for understanding national trends on homelessness, including information about the demographic characteristics of homeless persons, service use patterns, and the capacity to house homeless persons. The AHAR is a pioneering report that is based primarily on Homeless Management Information System data. HUD invites Continuums of Care (CoC) to participate in this important report. During the next few months, CoCs with at least 65 percent HMIS bed coverage for emergency shelter or transitional housing programs in 2006 will be contacted to participate in the AHAR. Any CoC that meets this HMIS-bed coverage threshold or is interested in participating in the AHAR should contact Abt Associates at AHAR@abtassoc.com. Communities participating in the AHAR will receive targeted technical assistance to help them:

- Understand and use their HMIS data;
- Identify and address HMIS data quality issues;
- Improve their bed inventory information; and
- Develop a comprehensive picture of homelessness in a community.

Increasing participation of CoCs in the AHAR is critical and will improve the ability of planners, policy makers and legislators both locally and nationally to make informed funding and policy decisions. Make a difference by making your community part of the AHAR this year!

Central & Western NY Home Contractors Participate in Lead Hazard Control Training

Nearly 70 home improvement contractors from five Upstate New York cities are participating in "Contractor Connections", a lead hazard control program funded by a \$2 million HUD grant.

Designed to increase the number and capacity of lead safe work practices contractors and workers in Buffalo, Jamestown, Niagara Falls, Rochester and Syracuse, Contractor Connections is a free seven-day training program for home repair and improvement contractors. "Contractor Connections offers an economic opportunity for existing and new home improvement businesses to grow and expand," said Andrew J. McLellan, Grant Director at Environmental Education Associates, the administrator of this HUD grant.

"Housing stock in many communities contains lead paint hazards. Local community development, housing agencies and health departments have identified hundreds of houses in need of lead hazard control," McLellan said. "One problem they faced in the past was a lack of qualified lead hazard control contractors. Our goal for Contractor Connections is to provide these communities with a minimum of 75 newly trained and qualified contractors in the next three years. We are well on our way to reaching that goal."

Contractor Connections' "Class of 2007" totals 69 contractors - including 24 from Buffalo, five from Jamestown, nine from Niagara Falls, 20 from Rochester and 11 from Syracuse.

The first half of the Contractor Connections program involved an

orientation and a two-day business development training. Contractors from Buffalo, Jamestown and Niagara Falls geared up to receive the EPA certified lead abatement training at EEA's Buffalo training facility on March 15, 16, 22 and 23. Rochester-based and Syracuse-area contractors will attend the EPA certified lead abatement training at EEA's new training facility in Rochester on March 29, 30 and April 5 and 6.

For more information, contact: Patricia Nelson, Resource Development Specialist at (888) 436-8314 Ext. 184 or Alisa Raab, Grant Manager at Ext. 125.

Excerpted from agency press release.

Telling Your Story:

Elmira's Riverside Florist Building Rebuilding Downtown

The city has selected Michael and Regina Mitchell, owners of Copy Express on West Water Street, to redevelop the nearby Riverside Florist building. Under their plan, the first floor would be retail space, the second floor office space and the third and fourth floors would each have two apartments. Doing business as Riverside Suites, the couple will buy the nearly 6,000-square-foot building from the city and use Restore New York Program grant funding and a \$50,000 loan from the CDBG revolving loan fund to help pay for renovations that include a new roof, installation of an elevator and heating, ventilation and air conditioning work.

"It's a million-dollar project in downtown Elmira, thanks to \$403,000 in Restore New York money," an exuberant John Burin, city manager, told Elmira City Council members at their bi-weekly workshop. "Everything is coming into

place." As a result of the city receiving the grant money and the redevelopment proposals offered for the site, more interest from out-of-town has been expressed in downtown, he said.

"We also have owners of other properties in downtown Elmira stepping up to the plate with renovation plans," Burin said. "Hopefully, this will kick off something positive. It's more money that's been spent in downtown since the arena on a single project."

Please contact your HUD Buffalo Community Planning and Development Representative at 716-551-5755, if you have any comments or questions about the stories that appear in this publication.