



HUD GIVES THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY'S CDBG PROGRAM TOP MARKS

Great News! Between March 31 and April 3, 2008, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) conducted its annual onsite monitoring review of the Los Angeles County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The results of the review were excellent and found the County's CDBG Program to be in full compliance with Federal requirements, with no concerns or deficiencies identified during the visit.

HUD routinely monitors its CDBG Program recipients to examine their records and procedures to verify compliance with applicable Federal regulations and to evaluate the Program's effectiveness. During this year's review, HUD focused on areas such as progress/timeliness, compliance with national objectives, eligibility, and the thoroughness of our subrecipient review process. Approximately 20 projects were selected for this in-depth monitoring.

In examining Program progress, the County was commended for meeting HUD's most recent timeliness test established for ensuring the commitment and expenditure of CDBG funds. During the review of our online reporting systems, the County was again praised for maintaining an excellent financial and reporting system, which effectively tracks subrecipient objectives and achievements against scheduled deadlines. Overall, HUD was very impressed with our CDBG Program, commending the County for its exemplary performance.

While we are very proud of the results of this latest monitoring review, it is also important to acknowledge that we could not fully accomplish our goals without the efforts, support, and achievements of all of our participating agencies, so congratulations on a job well done! The County's CDBG Program has completed another successful year of service.

HOUSING FORECLOSURES, CDBG TO THE RESCUE?

To address the nation's ongoing mortgage crisis, numerous bills have been introduced in both the Senate and the House, specifically focusing on stemming the tide of foreclosures occurring throughout the country. Many of the bills have proposed additional emergency CDBG funds so that local governments can buy and repair foreclosed homes and then make them available to primarily low- and moderate-income persons as either homeownership or rental opportunities.

Through the legislation process, many bills have been amended, some folded into other bills, while others have been proposed and then withdrawn. Currently, there is one (1) bill H.R. 5818, introduced by Representative Maxine Waters, that was passed by the House on May 8, 2008, and would provide \$7.5 billion in loans and \$7.5 billion in grants to States, large metropolitan cities, and urban counties. The bill provides funds for the purchase and rehabilitation of distressed properties; however, it is unknown yet if the bill's funding would be allocated as additional CDBG funds.

Regardless of whether a bill is passed that includes additional CDBG funds, the interesting fact that remains is the importance of the CDBG Program and how it's often relied upon to address national and local emergencies. This latest legislative effort also confirms what we already know about the severity of the mortgage crisis and how it has impacted communities across the country. California and Los Angeles County are leading the nation in the number of foreclosures and any bill which can address this crisis would be a welcome help for our communities.

We will keep you posted on the status of the bill and what affect it will have on the Los Angeles Urban County if additional CDBG funds are appropriated. In the meantime, you may track the bill through the following website: <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

June

All Agencies: Mandatory Financial Training in late June early July 2008 (Details to Follow)

6/20/2008

First Day of Summer



July

7/4/2008

Independence Day - Observed
(CDC Offices Closed)

7/7/2008

All Agencies: Submission of 4th Quarter
07-08 Web-Based QPRs are Due



7/9/2008

Cities: City Quarterly Meeting (10:00 A.M.)
CDC - Commission Room