

E-NEWSLETTER

Bi-Monthly Update for Participating Agencies from the Community Development Block Grant Division



ISSUE XXXI

OCTOBER — NOVEMBER 2008

IMPORTANT DATES

October

Monday

10/20/2008

Funding Proposal
Training for CDC
Divisions (location:
CDC-Commission
Room, time: 9:30-
11:30am) and
County Depts.
(location: CDC-
Commission Room,
time: 1:30-3:30pm)

Thursday

10/30/2008

Online QPR
Training Begins



November

Sunday

11/02/2008

Daylight Savings Time

Tuesday

11/04/2008

Election Day

Tuesday

11/11/2008

Veterans Day-CDC
Office Closed

11/26/2008

Online QPR Training
Ends

Thursday

11/27/2008 -

Friday 11/28/2008
Thanksgiving Holiday-
CDC Office Closed

New CDC Homeless Database Paves the Way for Other Urban Counties

According to the 2007 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, on any given night there are an estimated 68,608 homeless people throughout Los Angeles County. In an effort to alleviate what some may argue to be a crisis in the streets, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved the *Homeless Prevention Initiative* (HPI). Eighty million dollars in one-time general funds have now been budgeted for a Housing and Homeless Program Fund (HHPF) to aid in the fight against homelessness in the County.

As part of this effort, the Community Development Commission (CDC) developed a new database system that would enable the collection of data to track and

evaluate the success of the County's HPI. CDC staff took up this challenge, putting in countless hours of system design, development, and testing to create a new state-of-the-art homeless database capable of tracking financial expenditures, contract per-



formance, and client service counts on a project-by-project basis. With this new level of program accountability and the accuracy of the data collected and maintained, CDC staff are confident that the

County can accurately assess and evaluate the effectiveness of the new homeless services programs under the County's HPI.

As new homeless service providers are brought under contract, they will be trained on the new system to ensure input consistency and accuracy. In addition to the project activity and contract data, the system will also facilitate funding request payments, thereby expediting ongoing projects for the agencies involved. Although HPI is in its early stages, the new database system will pave the way for the County of Los Angeles and other large urban counties interested in gathering and analyzing data in the effort to find solutions to the homeless issues we face as a nation.

Save the Date:

City Quarterly Meeting

November 19, 2008

CDC Commission Room, 10:00am - 12:00pm



Current Agenda Items:

- County Green Building Requirements
- GRID Alternatives Solar Program

Please let us know of any agenda items that you would like to have addressed at the meeting. Contact Gloria V. Ramirez, Grants Planning Specialist, at (323) 890-7188 or via e-mail at Gloria.Ramirez@lacdc.org.



Washington Update

Americans are certainly feeling the tough economic effects of the current mortgage crisis. As the economy slows and lending institutions are handling higher numbers of foreclosures, the market for new loans becomes tighter and more expensive for potential home buyers, general consumers, and business investors. The result is what some describe to be a “downward pressure” on economic growth. It all started as the rates of high subprime and adjustable rate mortgages began to climb leaving thousands of homeowners in the middle of default and foreclosure activity.

In light of this economic crisis, Washington did not take long to react. After some negotiation between Congress and the White House, the *Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008* (H.R. 3221) was enacted on July 30, 2008. H.R. 3221 provides \$3.9 billion in emergency Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the *Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP)* to assist states and local governments in the redevelopment of abandoned and

foreclosed homes in response to the foreclosure aftermath.

On September 26, 2008, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the formula allocations. HUD’s formula determined the amount of funding jurisdictions received, as well as how it is to be targeted based on the number and percentages of foreclosures, subprime mortgages, and defaults or delinquencies. As part of the new *NSP*, the Los Angeles Urban County will receive \$16.8 million for targeting assistance to the areas with the greatest need. Based on this strategy, the CDC will develop programs that will assist those communities hardest hit, creating economic and housing stability for the area residents.

The CDC hoped for a much larger allocation to have a greater impact on foreclosed properties and to create new housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents in Los Angeles County. However, additional funds may still become available through the State and through the leveraging of other funds in the near future. The CDC also plans to work with participating agencies and other non-profit organizations to ensure that the allocation is effectively used to address those areas of the County impacted the most. Stay tuned as the CDC’s CDBG Division updates interested participating agencies on the implementation of the *NSP*. Our participating cities will be receiving more information the week of October 13, 2008.

Information at Your Finger Tips: HUD Offers the CDBG Toolkit on Crosscutting Issues on the Web



We are definitely in the age of widespread electronic information and with this in mind, HUD recently launched its interactive “Toolkits” series. Offering a variety of electronic information on HUD programs, each toolkit works as its name implies, a tool of reference information. The *CDBG Toolkit on Crosscutting Issues*, in particular, is an exciting new web resource tool, which allows grantees to find information on financial management, environmental, labor standards, acquisition, relocation, and fair housing, right at the web user’s fingertips. This Toolkit is a complete guide for CDBG grantees and subgrantees searching for applicable statutory requirements, regulations, notices, HUD handbooks, and other useful material. Instead of

searching all over the web, you can now go to this location and find the regulation or notice needed to address your questions. You will also find web links to various departments, such as the Labor Relations Office, to assist in the review of new policies or regulatory changes. Over the past year, the Office of Block Grant Assistance (OBGA) has provided training on several of these sessions, demonstrating the usefulness of the Toolkit. The feedback on the Toolkits has been overwhelmingly positive and thus, led to the decision to post these materials for use. OBGA has posted three (3) toolkits so far and expects to post others as soon as possible. The *CDBG Toolkit on Crosscutting Issues* can be found at: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/communitydevelopment/toolkit/index.cfm> or by simply typing the words: “Toolkit on Crosscutting Issue” on HUD’s Homepage Search/Index feature.