



U.S. HUD's Regulatory Barriers Clearinghouse

NLC would like to let the state leagues know about a web-based forum that offers information about ways to create more affordable housing opportunities in each league's member municipalities. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) runs the **Regulatory Barriers Clearinghouse (RBC)** web site (www.regbarriers.org) to support state and local governments, state municipal leagues, and others seeking information about laws, regulations, and policies affecting the development, maintenance, improvement, availability, and cost of affordable housing. The searchable database offers real-world solutions that are already in place in communities throughout the nation – often with links to the enabling regulatory language. Need a fresh approach to zoning restrictions? Fees and dedications? Fair housing? Planning and growth restrictions? These are just a few of the topics covered in depth on the site.

When visiting the Regulatory Barriers Clearinghouse, there is a sign up for the RBC listserv at rbc@huduser.org, which enables users to be part of discussions on important affordable housing issues and to find out how other states and communities are resolving similar issues. Besides the searchable database of publications, local laws, regulations, and policies, plus the listserv, other services offered by the RBC include:

A toll-free number (1-800-245-2691, option 4) staffed by housing professionals familiar with regulatory barrier issues and the clearinghouse collection of affordable housing documents;

- A submission section that enables practitioners to share their experiences in identifying and overcoming regulatory barriers to affordable housing;
- An electronic newsletter that highlights successful barrier removal strategies and policies, including a brief list of sources for further information; and
- A discussion board that facilitates information sharing in the context of an on-line community.



NLC shares HUD's hope that "by sharing development ideas from throughout the country, we will expose other communities to solutions that can assist them in increasing their affordable housing stock."

For more information, please contact Bonnie Mann, Affordable Housing Project Coordinator at NLC (202-626-3125 or mann@nlc.org) or the toll-free number at HUD's Regulatory Barriers Clearinghouse that was previously mentioned, 1-800-245-2691.

League Letter by E-Mail

To receive *League Letter* by e-mail, please send an e-mail to Lesley-Ann Rennie at rennie@nlc.org and include "League Letter" in the subject line.