



NEWS

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FOR RELEASE:
September 15, 2004
FHFB 04-36

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FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE BOARD'S FY2005 BUDGET BOOSTS SPENDING ON SAFETY AND SOUNDNESS OVERSIGHT

The Federal Housing Finance Board today adopted a Fiscal Year 2005 budget that will significantly strengthen its oversight of the Federal Home Loan Banks for safety and soundness and their housing-finance mission, Chairman Alicia R. Castaneda said.

“The Finance Board is showing once again its commitment to being a strong and effective financial regulatory agency, complete with the tools it needs to supervise and regulate the Federal Home Loan Banks,” Castaneda said.

The Finance Board on Wednesday unanimously adopted a FY2005 budget of \$36.4 million, a 17 percent increase over its current budget of \$31.1 million.

The budget includes a 27 percent increase in funding for the Office of Supervision, going from \$12.4 million to \$15.7 million. Total staffing in the Office of Supervision will rise from a budgeted 80 in the current fiscal year to 96 in FY2005, including the hiring of seven additional examiners and four bank examination specialists.

For the entire agency, budgeted staffing will increase from 130 to 147.

“This budget concentrates on the additional staff, infrastructure and other resources needed to ensure the safety and soundness of the Federal Home Loan Banks,” Castaneda said. “I believe in a course of constant improvement for the Federal Housing Finance Board, and this budget reflects exactly such a course of action.”

The FY05 budget also anticipates a relocation of the agency from its current offices at 1777 F Street, NW. The Finance Board has signed a letter of intent to lease space at 1625 I St., NW.

Terms are still being negotiated. Relocation is planned for July 2005.

The Finance Board is also establishing new dental and vision coverage for employees, with a budgeted cost of \$150,000.

The Federal Housing Finance Board is a non-appropriated agency that assesses the Federal Home Loan Banks for the costs of its operations.

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