

MEMO OF MEMBERS

The Weekly Newsletter of the National Low Income Housing Coalition

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Capitol Hill

VA/HUD Appropriations Schedule in Senate

The Senate is in recess until October 14, and its first order of business upon returning will be consideration of the President's \$87 billion supplemental funding request for Iraq and Afghanistan. After that, the Senate expects to consider the remaining appropriations bills—including the VA/HUD bill that includes the Section 8 program renewal language—sometime the week of October 20.

The prevailing view is that of all the appropriations bills remaining in the Senate, the VA/HUD bill has the best chance of being considered as a stand-alone measure, as opposed to being wrapped into an omnibus bill. A stand-alone measure would be a much more favorable environment for Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-MD) to offer his Sense of the Senate amendment reaffirming the Senate's commitment to full funding of the voucher program. While a Sense of the Senate is not legislative language (which would be mandatory), it does lend weight to enforcement of an issue. In this case, the amendment would give notice to the HUD Secretary that any and all of HUD's carry-over funds from previous fiscal years are to be spent to fully fund all Section 8 renewals. This week, Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME) joined Senators Sarbanes and Susan Collins (R-ME) as a sponsor of the Sense of the Senate.

In the House of Representatives, the VA/HUD Appropriations bill is awaiting conference with the Senate, having passed the House in late July. When the bill was considered in the House, Representatives Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) and Nydia Velazquez (D-NY) were successful in offering an amendment to increase the funding for the voucher program by \$150 million. Now, Mr. Nadler and Ms. Velazquez are circulating a letter to all Members of the House urging them to sign a letter to the VA/HUD Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members in both the House and Senate, urging their support for full voucher funding. The letter notes that the Congressional Budget Office recently released new figures indicating that the Bush Administration and the House Appropriations Committee underestimated the cost of vouchers. It further notes that the funding shortfalls facing the voucher program are expected to be far greater than previously predicted. The letter urges conferees to do all they can to fully fund the voucher program in the final version of the VA-HUD measure, including retaining both the \$150 million increase from

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HUD

Regulatory Barriers Clearinghouse

HUD officials have asked NLIHC members to participate in its Regulatory Barriers Clearinghouse (RBC), which HUD launched late in 2002. The clearinghouse is intended to serve as an information-sharing database that advocates can use to discuss problems and solutions to state and local regulatory barriers to affordable housing. It will offer "best practices" on how local communities are addressing regulatory barriers in several content areas, including zoning, building and housing codes, rent controls, and planning and growth restrictions. RBC includes a website, a toll free number staffed by HUD professionals, and a newsletter that offers 'real world' strategies. Visit www.regbarriers.org for more information.

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POINT OF VIEW

by Sheila Crowley, President

In early September 5, the *LA Times* posted a story about a mother and her five-year son living in a nice house in San Francisco with a Section 8 voucher ("Dot.com bust helps homeless"). After years of doubling up and homelessness, the family finally came to the top of the voucher waiting list. And because of the dot.com bust in the Bay Area, there were more rental vacancies than there had been in a long time. So this family finally was able to have a home. Now that she is no longer homeless, the mom expects to be able to work regularly. For the moment, she and her son are reveling in having freshly painted walls, closets, and a back yard. The voucher pays the difference between her \$50 minimum rent payment and \$1,800 a month rent for the house. The article notes that San Francisco's voucher payment level was higher than is usual because HUD previously had granted an exception to the voucher cost limit for San Francisco to help voucher holders compete in its tighter rental market.

Apparently, the article elicited some backlash objecting to the size of the subsidy, including several letters to the editor. HUD Assistant Secretary Michael Liu, in cautioning PHAs to keep voucher costs down at the recent conference of the Council of Large Public Housing Agencies, referenced media accounts of how generous the Section 8 subsidy is.

On September 13, Mr. Liu issued a memo rescinding the authority of HUD Field Offices and HUD Headquarters (does he

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the House bill and the provision from the Senate Committee's bill to use HUD's carry-over funds.

NLIHC members are encouraging their Senators and Representatives to sign on to the Sense of the Senate and the Nadler/Velazquez letter, respectively. A call to action is available at www.nlihc.org.

GSE Regulators Markup Cancelled

Late Tuesday, October 7, House Financial Services Committee Chair Michael Oxley (R-OH) cancelled the October 8 markup of H.R. 2575, which would change the way Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are regulated. These housing government-sponsored entities are currently regulated under the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight (OFHEO) within HUD, and the legislation would move oversight to the Department of the Treasury. The cancellation occurred after the Treasury Department voiced its opposition to the new draft of the legislation.

Treasury Department officials said they objected because they didn't feel that H.R. 2575 as redrafted by the Finance Committee was strong enough to protect the financial health of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. "It is not a credible bill," Treasury Undersecretary Wayne Abernathy is quoted as saying in *Congressional Quarterly (CQ)*.

The differences centered around the authority that the Treasury Department would have been given under the new draft. In a recent hearing before the House Financial Services Committee, Treasury Secretary John Snow testified that the Bush Administration wanted both regulatory authority as well as the authority to approve any new line of business for the GSEs. The new draft gave Treasury the regulatory authority, but HUD would have retained its current authority to approve what businesses Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac can enter into in fulfilling their mission to expand homeownership. "We don't want Treasury in the business of approving or not approving what Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae do in the housing area," Barney Frank (D-MA), Ranking Member of the Financial Services Committee, told *CQ*.

During the markup, Democrats had planned to offer a number of amendments that would improve upon the affordable housing goals currently mandated for Fannie and Freddie. These goals are required of Fannie and Freddie by statute to operationalize their mission of expanding affordable housing. Another markup of H.R. 2575 has not been scheduled in the House.

In the Senate, Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs

Committee Chair Richard Shelby (R-AL) has scheduled a hearing for October 16 on efforts to improve the regulation and oversight of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac as well as the Federal Home Loan Banks. Witnesses are Mr. Snow, HUD Secretary Mel Martinez, and representatives from Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Home Loan Bank System.

House Would Increase FHA Loan Limits

On October 7, the House passed H.R. 1985, the FHA Multifamily Loan Limit Adjustment Act of 2003. The bill was introduced by Representative Gary Miller (R-CA) and had the support of Representatives Barney Frank (D-MA) and Maxine Waters (D-CA), Ranking Members of the House Financial Services Committee and Housing and Community Opportunity Subcommittee, respectively. The bill passed the House Financial Services Committee in July.

The bill addresses a problem that many developers assert keeps them from developing affordable housing: that the FHA loan limit is too low to allow them to build affordable multifamily developments in high-cost areas. Currently, FHA loans can be increased up to 110% of the statutory base limit, and HUD can approve limits up to 140% of the statutory base limit on a project-by-project basis. H.R. 1985 would allow limits to be increased to as much as 170% of the statutory base limits.

A companion bill, S. 1714, was introduced by Senator Jon Corzine (D-NJ) on October 3. The bill has been referred to the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee. *Congressional Quarterly* reports that the bill is likely to be included in the American Dream Downpayment Act, S. 811, which is scheduled for markup in the Senate on October 14.

Nussle Releases Waste, Fraud, and Abuse Statement

Representative Jim Nussle (R-IA) held a press conference on October 2 on "waste, fraud and abuse" in government spending. As Chair of the Budget Committee, Mr. Nussle is responsible for ensuring that committees complied with a FY03 budget resolution that charged the U.S. General Accounting Office and Congressional Committees to report on and identify ways to reduce waste, fraud, abuse in program areas under their jurisdiction. Each committee was to submit their findings to the Budget Committee by September.

The budget resolution charged committees to look at mandatory spending programs; however, much of the focus was on discretionary programs. The report released by the Budget Committee in late September iden-

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Housing in the Elections

Regional Advocates Come Together

The Illinois Statewide Housing Action Coalition (SHAC) is organizing a U.S. Senate Candidates' Forum on Housing, Jobs and Poverty, scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, in Springfield, IL, and will include Democrat and Republican primary candidates. SHAC is partnering with the Chicago Jobs Council, Chicago Rehab Network, Illinois Community Action Association, Illinois People's Assembly/Illinois Coalition for Community Services, and Work Welfare and Families to organize the forum. These sponsoring organizations want candidates who speak at the forum to make their positions and attitudes known on the issues that most directly impact people who struggle to make ends meet.

An Illinois Senate seat is open because Senator Peter Fitzgerald (R) is retiring at the end of this term. "This race is shaping up to be one of the most watched Senate races in the country, and we want to make sure that the candidates know that the homeless and low income population of this state intend to play a major role in deciding who Illinois sends to the Senate," said Bob Palmer of SHAC.

In other state voter engagement news, North Carolina advocates recently met to form a coalition of housing organizations that will focus on registering, educating and mobilizing low income citizens, noting the opportunities to shape the outcome of several important elections in North Carolina. A number of Missouri groups will meet on October 20 to discuss ways to recruit other housing advocates who will participate in the registration, education and mobilization of the people they serve. Statewide advocacy groups in Rhode Island are also laying the groundwork for a Rhode Island drive and will meet on October 15.

NLIHC is working with its member organizations to raise housing affordability as an issue in the 2004 election cycle. Across the country, advocates are preparing for voter registration, education, and mobilization campaign with the low income people with whom they work.

For information about joining any of these efforts or to start one in your own area, contact Katie Fisher at Katie@nlihc.org or 202-662-1530 x222.

People

NLIHC board member Nancy Bernstine has accepted a position as Executive Director of the National AIDS Housing Coalition. Ms. Bernstine, who was most recently with the McAuley Institute, has also worked for the National Housing Law Project. Congratulations, Nancy.

National Housing Trust Fund Campaign Travels to WI

The National Housing Trust Fund Campaign took to the road again the week of October 6, highlighting the housing crisis and need for a Trust Fund in Waukesha, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Green Bay, and Appleton, WI. The road trip brought extensive media coverage and additional endorsements and perspectives to the National Housing Trust Fund Campaign.



At press events in Appleton and Waukesha, homeless shelter directors and guests told their stories. Bernie Jorn of Hebron House in Waukesha, a Milwaukee suburb, discussed the difficulty in finding affordable suburban housing for low-wage workers. In Appleton, Debra Cronmiller of the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley discussed how a dwindling affordable housing stock is forcing more people to stay longer in shelters.

Advocates for people with disabilities also shared their housing struggles. Brian Peters of *IndependenceFirst* in Milwaukee described the difficulty of finding housing affordable to people relying on Social Security Income. In Green Bay, Tom Diedrick of Options for Independent Living detailed the challenges people with physical disabilities face in finding housing that is both affordable and accessible. In each event, advocates pointed to the National Housing Trust Fund as an important part of the solution.

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Update from the Field

California Advocates Uncertain but Energized

Housing advocates throughout California are uncertain about the implications of the recall of Governor Gray Davis and the election of Arnold Schwarzenegger. Before the election, Mr. Schwarzenegger told the *Orange County Register* that encouraging affordable housing requires “genuine collaboration among the state and local governments, builders and unions, business leaders and community activists.” While his comments to the *Register* also acknowledged the need for overcoming NIMBY issues and achieving higher density, Mr. Schwarzenegger also said he is interested in easing the way for builders by loosening requirements relating to the environment and building materials as well.

As last year saw the exciting passage of a \$2.1 billion housing bond for capital dollars for low income housing development, advocates in California appreciate that their funding situation is somewhat more secure than other types of programs and services for low income people in the state. However, advocates say that even with the cushion of the housing bond and determination of advocates, the broader implications of California’s budget woes should not be underestimated.

Southern California Association for Non-Profit Housing Director and NLIHC board member Jan Breidenbach notes that while Mr. Davis was not a visionary in housing policy, he was willing to sign good housing legislation that reached his desk. She said she wonders whether Mr. Schwarzenegger will at least do the same. While capital funds for housing are generally secure because of the housing bond, San Diego Housing Federation Director Tom Scott said advocates will try to protect separate operating funds for emergency shelters.

California Coalition for Rural Housing (CCRH) Director Rob Wiener said he worries that the new administration will attempt to grab \$120 million in obligated but unused funds for housing provided outside of the bond and “backfill” the resulting hole with bond money. Advocates say that only time will tell what the Schwarzenegger administration means for low income housing, but say they are ready to face whatever challenges may come.

Such discussions about the future of housing funding in California are taking place throughout October against a backdrop of several regional housing conferences. Under the theme of “Pushing Our Priorities in Tough Times,” CCRH kicked off the conferences by bringing together more than 130 people concerned

about rural housing on October 2 and 3. “Despite a grim budget and political environment, rural housing developers and advocates came out of the summit ready to protect and expand existing funding resources as well as achieve land use reforms to make rural housing development more possible,” Mr. Wiener said.

At the October 3 SCANPH conference, Jean Ross of the California Budget Project painted a bleak picture, predicting a budget deficit of \$10 billion to \$15 billion and possibly \$20 billion. Unlike last year, when the state raided all the likely sources of extra funds and issued bonds to cover its deficit, Ms. Ross said the state is out of shortcuts and that a fundamental change in the system is needed. She noted that the current problems cannot be blamed simply on government spending; rather, a complex set of factors over the 1990s and into this decade contributed to the shortfall. Matt Franklin, director of the state’s Department of Housing and Community Development, delivered a somewhat brighter message, saying that the passage of the Proposition 46, the housing bond, had raised the stature of housing advocates in Sacramento.

The Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California held its 24th annual conference on October 7, the day of the recall vote. Mr. Franklin also gave a keynote address at that conference, as did NLIHC’s Sheila Crowley and Cushing Dolbear.

SDHF will wrap up the spate of housing conferences on October 17. Mr. Scott notes that as the result of strong advocacy by SDHF and other groups, San Diego’s city council declared a housing state of emergency at its August 2002 meeting and continues to reaffirm that status every two weeks. It also established an affordable housing task force, the chair of which will give the keynote address at SDHF’s conference.

The Administration

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

President Bush has declared October 2003 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Administration’s proclamation cites recent Department of Justice statistics reporting that there were almost 700,000 incidents of domestic violence in 2001. “During National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we renew our Nation’s commitment to prevent and punish the perpetrators of this despicable crime and bring hope and healing to those affected by it,” the proclamation states. The Administration also touts its support for Violence Against Women programs, and notes that FY02 funding levels for domestic violence prevention programs were a record \$390 million.

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tified \$85 billion to \$100 billion in waste, fraud, and abuse over 10 years. In his statement, Mr. Nussle asserts that committees could have “dug a little deeper than what they did.” “This report is not the end of this effort...I will continue to focus on this issue, and my committee will continue to hold hearings to root out this problem,” he added.

Among the programs identified as having “waste, fraud, and abuse” are many of those intended to assist low and extremely low income people, including Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The Ways and Means Committee suggested in their report that eliminating “overpayments” in the SSI program would have resulted in savings of \$2 billion in FY02. As reported in *Memo* in July, housing programs including Section 8 and Section 236 were identified as having “waste, fraud, and abuse” in the Financial Services Committee’s report.

LIHEAP Funding Threatened

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Coalition is urging advocates to ask their Members of Congress to sign a dear colleague letter urging the Members to retain full funding for LIHEAP as the bill goes to conference. The letter is addressed to Representatives Ralph Regula (R-OH) and David Obey (D-WI), Chair and Ranking Member of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, respectively.

LIHEAP provides energy assistance to low income households and seniors. The Senate allocation would flat-fund the program at \$2 billion, while the House version would cut the program by \$300 million. For more information, contact Olivia Wein at the National Consumer Law Center at 202-986-6060.

NCH Holds Annual Conference

The National Coalition for the Homeless held its annual policy conference in Washington the week of October 6. The focus of the conference was the Bringing America Home Campaign, a national, broad-based effort to end homelessness (www.bringingamericahome.org).

The conference coincided with World Habitat Day, and William Cobbitt of the United Nations Cities Alliance released the United Nations’ Global Report on Human Settlements. Mr. Cobbitt reported that the number of slum dwellers worldwide is increasing and will double by the year 2030. Mr. Cobbitt noted that a dramatic shift in policies and programs of nations for the rural and urban poor is essential to curbing this trend.

Reverend Martin Luther King III spoke at the conference luncheon on issues ranging from the war with Iraq to the state of civil liberties in America today, but focused on homelessness and the failures of the American government to address the issue properly. “Everybody in America can have a decent house, healthcare, education, and a job,” Rev. King said. He questioned the priorities of the American government and asked why a nation so rich and prosperous can find money to fight terrorist threats but cannot provide basic needs for its own citizens. “The best homeland security is to not have homelessness and poverty problems in the United States,” Rev. King said.

The three-day conference culminated with a rally on the Capitol lawn. The Bringing America Home Act took center stage as speakers from several organizations as well as Representatives John Conyers (D-MI), Barbara Lee (D-CA), Julia Carson (D-IN), Eleanor Holmes-Norton (D-DC), Bernard Sanders (I-VT) and former U.S. Delegate Walter Fontroy (D-DC) spoke to a crowd of about 200 supporters from around the country. “How can you take care of your kids if you spend more than 50% of your income on housing?” Mr. Sanders asked the crowd. He also emphasized that importance of passing National Housing Trust Fund legislation, which he said would do more than just help end homelessness. “This program would not only take kids off the street, but would create jobs,” Mr. Sanders said.

Ms. Lee and many of the other speakers charged the audience to vote in the 2004 election and to hold candidates accountable. “There are not enough voices in the House for those that have been shut out,” she said. Kim Gandy, President of the National Organization of Women (NOW) also stressed the importance of voting and getting others to vote. “Why isn’t decent housing declared a human right in this country? Because we don’t have public policy and we won’t have public policy if we don’t vote,” she said. “If we can’t change their minds, we can change their faces.”

New Legislation

On October 3, Senator Jon Corzine (D-NJ) introduced S. 1711. The bill would establish a competitive grant program to help increase the expertise and capacity of community-based organizations involved in economic development activities and key development programs. The bill has been referred to the Housing, Banking, and Urban Affairs Committee.

Bills at a Glance

Current information on legislation being tracked by NLIHC is available through NLIHC’s legislative action center, at <http://capwiz.com/nlihc/issues/bills/>.

Resources

Mid- and Long-Term Deficit Projections

The Concord Coalition and the Center On Budget and Policy Priorities have released a study, "Mid-Term and Long-Term Deficit Projections," that examines forecasts for the federal deficit. The report finds that structural changes in the federal budget mean that an economic recovery alone will not be enough to bring back surpluses, and that deficits will continue to grow without significant changes in federal fiscal policy.

In August 2003, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated the 10-year cumulative deficit to be \$1.4 trillion. However, this likely underestimates the actual deficit because the CBO assumes that recent tax cuts will be allowed to 'sunset,' that new policy costs such as Medicare prescription drug benefits will not be included, and that appropriations will grow only at the rate of inflation over the next 10 years. The study uses the CBO report as a baseline but adjusts it to reflect probable policy outcomes, showing a projected 10-year deficit of \$5 trillion, with a 10-year non-Social Security deficit of \$7.4 trillion. Thirty-six percent of the decline can be attributed to enacted and projected tax cuts, the paper finds.

The Concord/CBPP paper states that the current budget deficit is not self-correcting, meaning that a strong economic recovery will not lead to a balanced budget. The CBO had projected surpluses as recently as January 2001, but a combination of legislative changes, poor economic conditions, and changed assumptions about the revenue levels have made those forecasts obsolete. Additionally, the aging of the nation, the rising costs of health care, the erosion of the revenue base due to tax cuts and the slowdown in workforce growth will also have serious repercussions in future years.

The structural nature of the current deficits means that deficits will only continue to increase over time without a substantial policy adjustment. By 2040 budget deficits would reach more than 20% of the gross domestic product, levels not seen since World War II. However, these future deficits would not be caused by temporary short-term events but would be structural in nature, leading to a spiral of ever-increasing debt as more and more of the budget would have to be spent on paying down interest.

This report will be interesting to anyone concerned with the state of the nation's finances, and is pertinent because the potential future budget crunch would likely strongly affect federal social programs. The report, along with related materials, can be downloaded at www.cbpp.org/9-29-03bud-pr.htm.

Foundations Ending Homelessness

The National Foundation Advisory Group for Ending Homelessness has released a guidebook for foundations interested in addressing the problems of homelessness. "Ending Homelessness: the Philanthropic Role" is intended to help grantmakers better understand issues surrounding homelessness and affordable housing policy issues. The guide looks at ways philanthropy can help end homelessness, and provides specific examples in which foundations have helped address affordable housing and homelessness issues.

Historically, only about 1% of annual foundation giving has gone to anti-homelessness programs. In the 1990s, 80% of those funds went to direct, temporary human services aimed at improving the conditions of those experiencing homelessness, and did not combat the structural problems causing homelessness. This guide advocates for a change in funding emphasis to help address these systemic issues. Numerous strategies for combating these issues are discussed, including advocacy, policy, and public education.

The resource section of the guidebook has contact information for various groups associated with homelessness and affordable housing issues. The appendix includes the methodology used for creating the guide and contains a list of foundations surveyed in regards to their activities in funding programs that fought homelessness. The appendix also provides the names of policymakers, providers, advocates, and researchers who were questioned regarding the potential role of foundations in helping to end homelessness.

The guide aims to show philanthropic groups some of the best methods by which to combat homelessness, and discusses how their funds can be used to make that happen. It also gives some background on the homeless issue generally, as well as about current funding processes. It can be obtained at www.schwabfoundation.org/files/homeless/Ending.pdf or by calling (202) 833-4690.

Fact of the Week

Percent Share in Projected \$9.3 Trillion Deterioration in Budget Estimates, 2002-2011

Economic reestimates	7%
Technical reestimates	28%
Tax legislation	36%
Rx drugs/other entitlement legislation	7%
Defense, homeland, and int'l affairs	20%
Other domestic (other than homeland)	2%
Total changes	100%

Source: "Mid-Term and Long-Term Deficit Projections" The Concord Coalition and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, September 29, 2003.

Point of View *(cont'd from p. 1)*

mean he is rescinding his own authority?) to grant any exceptions that would allow voucher holders to rent housing that is more costly than the local voucher payment standard could afford. (The only exception to the exception is for people with disabilities.) The ability to grant exceptions in some localities with high housing costs has been instrumental in advancing the universally desired objective of increasing voucher utilization, as well as in helping members of racial minorities move to more racially integrated communities. Some HUD staff report it did not really mean that no more exceptions would be approved, which is curious given that the file name for the memo that announces the rescinding of authority is called "exception moratorium." In the meantime, at least one HUD field has rejected a requested exception, citing the September 13 memo.

Setting aside the problem of the legality of HUD just announcing that it will no longer implement federal law and regulation, HUD's action raises several troubling questions. If the memo is related to the San Francisco publicity (maybe the timing is coincidental), why not just deal with the San Francisco case instead of issuing a nationwide moratorium? There are few other housing markets like San Francisco and certainly none more expensive. Is the memo a manifestation of the old welfare principle of "less eligibility," which means that receiving assistance should not improve the circumstances of the recipient such that they exceed the circumstances of the next person up on the economic ladder? This remains a strongly held value in the United States, but is off-target when applied to housing assistance. What about the racial and economic integration goals of the voucher program? Are they no longer considered important? What about the contradiction of pushing PHAs to increase voucher utilization and then withholding one of the most important tools they have to do so?

Instead of respecting the voucher program as one of the most successful interventions to improve the social and economic well-being of poor people ever devised, and working to strengthen it, this Administration just keeps whittling away at it, weakening the program with each cut.



About NLIHC: Established in 1974, the National Low Income Housing Coalition is dedicated solely to ending America's affordable housing crisis. NLIHC educates, organizes, and advocates to ensure decent, affordable housing within healthy neighborhoods for everyone. NLIHC provides up-to-date information, formulates policy, and educates the public on housing needs and the strategies for solutions.

NLIHC News

Vote for NLIHC in Working Assets Fund

The Working Assets phone company each year donates a portion of its profits to select nonprofit organizations, and each year Working Assets customers vote on how funds should be distributed. This year, NLIHC is one of 50 groups in the running for a share of the funds. Members of Working Assets can vote for funds to be appropriated to NLIHC by filling out the Working Assets 2003 Donations Ballot and marking support for NLIHC. The distribution of funds is determined solely by how many votes each group receives.

There are three easy ways to vote:

1. Fill out the ballot that Working Assets includes in your phone bill.
2. Vote online at www.workingassets.com/voting.
3. Call the voter hotline at 1800-920-VOTE.

Voting ends December 31. Thanks for participating!

HUD *(Cont. from p.1)*

HUDClips

On October 8, HUD released FR-4815-N-79 to serve as notice that HUD is seeking approval from the Office of Management and Budget to continue collecting information to ascertain eligibility of public housing tenants. HUD seeks comments on the proposal to extend the existing Form HUD-50058 MTW, which is used to collect demographic and income data on residents participating in PIH's Public Housing, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher, Section 8 Project Based Certificates, and Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation programs and whose public housing agencies participate in the Moving-to-Work (MTW) program. Comments are due November 6.

All notices are available at www.hudclips.org.

Tell Your Friends...

NLIHC membership is the best way to stay informed about affordable housing issues, keep in touch with advocates around the country, and support NLIHC's work. Membership information is available at www.nlihc.org. Or e-mail membership@nlihc.org or call 202-662-1530 to request membership materials to distribute at meetings and conferences.

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