

US Department of Housing and Urban Development Region X

HUD Highlights *E-Newsletter*

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HUD Highlights is a monthly e-newsletter from HUD's Seattle Regional Office, to keep you informed about upcoming events, program updates and grant opportunities. [Subscribe today!](#)

ENERGY STAR “Change a Light, Change the World Campaign”

Lighting accounts for nearly 20 percent of electricity costs, with the average home containing more than 30 light fixtures. Energy Star qualified bulbs and fixtures use one-third the energy of traditional lighting and last up to 10 times longer. You can save up to \$30 in utility costs over the lifetime of **one** bulb. Replacing the most frequently used lights at home will yield the most savings. This year's campaign goal is to encourage at least 500,000 Americans to take an on-line pledge to replace one incandescent bulb or fixture in their home with one that has earned the Energy Star label. [Take the pledge](#)

Community Frameworks Wins \$5.2 Million “Sweat Equity” Grant

Community Frameworks, a regional nonprofit organization based in Spokane, is one of three national winners of HUD's Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP) grants this year. Community Frameworks and 28 affiliates in Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Montana will purchase land and improve infrastructure to support new construction and rehabilitation of at least 317 housing units. With a little elbow grease, lower income families can realize their American Dream of homeownership by contributing labor towards their home. [Read more](#)

HOME Program Has Banner Year For Affordable Housing Production

Questions or
Comments? Please [Contact Us](#)

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It's been a very good year for HUD's chief program for promoting affordable housing. HUD's HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) posted record performance during fiscal year 2006 with substantial increases in the number of families assisted and affordable homes produced. HOME, the largest federal block grant to state and local governments designed exclusively to produce affordable housing for low-income families, helped a record 143,396 families find an affordable place to live. [Read more](#)

FHA Loan Limits Increase in 11 Counties November 1st

More homebuyers may be eligible for FHA insured mortgages and home improvement loans under new mortgage limits effective November 1. The higher limits will also help seniors, age 62 or older, seeking FHA insured reverse mortgages (Home Equity Conversion Mortgages) to potentially access more equity from their homes. Increased limits will apply in Valley and Kootenai Counties in Idaho; Deschutes, Jackson, Josephine and Lane Counties in Oregon; and King, Snohomish, Pierce, Skagit and Thurston Counties in Washington. [View the new limits on November 1](#)

Four Region X Organizations Win Grants to House Persons with HIV/AIDS

The Downtown Emergency Services Center and the Human Resources Group in Seattle, the Oregon Department of Human Services, and the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation recently won competitive grants through HUD's Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program. The funding either renews existing programs or funds the development of new units of permanent supportive housing for persons with HIV/AIDS. [Read more](#)

Grants to Fight Housing Discrimination Awarded

Kitsap County Consolidated Housing Authority (KCCHA) in Washington was awarded a **new** grant of \$100,000 to educate the public and housing providers about their rights and obligations under federal, state, and local fair housing laws. Other organizations in the Northwest to receive funding through the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) this year are: Idaho Legal Aid Services, Boise; Legal Aid Services of Oregon and the Fair Housing Council of Oregon, Portland; Fair Housing Center of Washington, Tacoma; and the Northwest Fair Housing Alliance, Spokane. [Read more](#)

Self-Sufficiency Programs Help Families Become Financially Independent

Thirty-four Public Housing Authorities in Region X recently received over \$3.3 million in HUD funding to help low-income persons receiving rental assistance through the Housing Choice Voucher program get job training and employment. [Learn more](#) about how the successful Family Self-Sufficiency program helps adults move up the economic ladder.