



US Department of Housing and Urban Development Region X

HUD Highlights E-Newsletter

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In This Issue

- October is Energy Awareness Month
- HUD Spends Over \$4 Billion Each Year On Energy
- Beware Of Websites Advertising Federal Housing Grants
- City of Portland's Lead Hazard Control Program Awarded \$3 Million
- Final Fiscal Year 2007 Fair Market Rents (FMRs) Published

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HUD Websites

www.hud.gov
[HUD Spanish Website](#)

HUD Mailing Address
Seattle Regional

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

October is Energy Awareness Month

HUD is partnering with the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy to host a series of events across the country in a national call-to-action to encourage every individual to help change the world, one light - one energy saving step - at a time. Learn more about the ENERGY STAR Change a Light, Change the World Campaign and take the Change a Light [pledge](#) to replace at least one incandescent light bulb with an energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulb. Help us encourage at least 500,000 individuals to make the pledge this year with the long-term goal of reducing residential energy use by 10 percent over the next 10 years. [Learn more](#) about saving energy in your home, business, vehicle, or industrial plant.

HUD Spends Over \$4 Billion Each Year On Energy

How much do you spend in your homes and the housing units you own or manage? It is estimated that if every household changed just one bulb to an Energy Star light bulb, families across the country could save about \$3 billion over the lifetime of the bulbs. It just makes good sense! Saving energy =saving money.

Beware Of Websites Advertising Federal Housing Grants

A caller to our office reported an identity theft scam involving an online application for government grants on a commercial, not government, website. The victim applied for a grant online and was subsequently contacted by a "customer service representative" who solicited personal information including her bank account number and social security number, which resulted in unauthorized withdrawals from her bank account. Remember www.grants.gov is the official portal for all federal grants. Beware of websites offering federal grant opportunities ending in .com, .net etc. Never give out your banking account or social security number over the phone.

City of Portland's Lead Hazard Control Program Awarded \$3 Million

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HUD announced a \$3 million grant to Portland to eliminate dangerous lead paint hazards in 280 units of privately owned, low-income housing, 60 percent of them single family and 40 percent multi-family. HUD's *Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control* promotes local efforts to eliminate dangerous lead and other hazards from lower income homes; stimulates private sector investment in lead hazard control; educates the public about the dangers of lead-based paint; and supports scientific research into innovative methods to identify and eliminate health hazards in housing. [Read more](#)

Final Fiscal Year 2007 Fair Market Rents (FMRs) Published

Fair Market Rents are used by Public Housing Authorities to determine maximum rents for the Housing Choice Voucher program. Housing Choice vouchers allow very low-income families to choose and lease or purchase safe, decent, and affordable privately owned rental housing. FMRs are gross rent estimates that include the cost of all utilities, except telephones and cable. HUD sets the FMRs each year using data from the U.S. Census Bureau and random digit dialing telephone surveys. The FY 2007 FMRs, which will be effective October 1, 2006, can be found on <http://www.huduser.org> under datasets.