



## 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.

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### FHA Modernization Act Passes U.S. House of Representatives

On July 25, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the "Expanding American Homeownership Act," which now goes to the U.S. Senate for consideration. If enacted into law, the act will modernize the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) 32-year old insured mortgage program; thereby helping more low to moderate income Americans achieve their homeownership dream. [Read more about the FHA Modernization Act.](#)

### \$2 Million Settlement in Western World Insurance Housing Discrimination Case

On July 31, the Fair Housing Center of Washington and Fair Housing Council of Oregon announced a comprehensive settlement of an insurance discrimination lawsuit involving Western World Insurance Company. The settlement in *Nevels v. Western World Insurance Company* provides \$2 million in monetary relief and ends nearly four years of litigation and administrative complaints alleging violations of the federal Fair Housing Act. The plaintiffs included four adult family home operators from Washington and Oregon whose property and/or liability insurance had been cancelled or non-renewed because they served persons with mental illnesses.

The plaintiffs' lead counsel remarked on the importance of this court decision for other victims of insurance discrimination around the country. "We believe that insurance discrimination on the basis of disability is widespread, and this well-reasoned opinion will put insurance companies on notice that federal courts will not permit these business practices to continue."

### The Fair Housing Expert Is In!

Have a fair housing question? Ask our expert! Simply send an email to [fairhousing10@hud.gov](mailto:fairhousing10@hud.gov) and receive a prompt response from one of HUD's in-house experts.

### Celebrate Neighborhood Networks Week July 31 - August 5

This year will mark the sixth annual Neighborhood Network Week sponsored by HUD to highlight local and national efforts to improve technology access and promote economic and educational opportunity for residents living in HUD insured and assisted housing. The theme is "Uniting Neighbors, Strengthening Communities." [Learn more and find out about local events.](#)

### Fixed Interest Rate Financing Available for Section 108 Borrower Communities

This Public Offering in September will enable current Section 108 borrowers to convert or refinance their current variable interest rate financing to fixed interest rate financing assistance for community development projects. Also, Section 108 borrowers that have not yet advanced funding under their Section 108 Loan Guarantee commitments may receive fixed rate interest financing directly through this Public Offering. [Read more about Section 108.](#)

### Webcasts: Learning at Your Own Pace

Whether you're interested in information on buying a home, environment and health, or grant opportunities, HUD's free webcasts offer the opportunity to learn at your own convenience. For a schedule of upcoming webcasts, technical equipment requirements or to search the archives, [visit our Webcasts page.](#) Webcasts are usually archived within 24 hours after the live showing.