

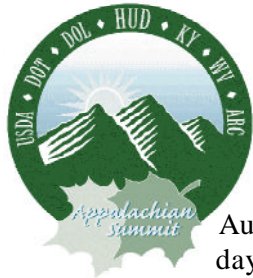


“Building Communities Together”

A Networking Tool of HUD's Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships

Volume I, Issue 10

August 31, 1999



New Partnerships in Appalachia

On Thursday, August 12th and Friday, August 13th, 1999 the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) convened its first ever intergovernmental **Appalachian Summit**, bringing together various leaders from the federal, state, and local levels to intensify efforts to create jobs, economic development, affordable housing, homeownership, improve transportation and invest in human capital in Appalachia. Held in Ashland, Kentucky and Huntington, West Virginia, cosponsors included USDA, Labor and DOT, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), Governor Cecil Underwood of West Virginia and Governor Paul Patton of Kentucky.

The approximately 800 participants at Thursday's event, held at the magnificently restored Paramount Theater in Ashland, Kentucky, were energized by a strong keynote address by Secretary Cuomo. Governor Patton and ARC federal co-Chair Jesse White both offered remarks highlighting the challenges facing the region and summarizing current and future efforts. All three participated in a Kentucky Town-hall meeting during which local non-profit leaders and advocates frankly articulated concerns and obstacles they face while attempting to revitalize the region. The afternoon sessions included an interactive panel discussion regarding the President's New Markets initiative, a

review of regional case studies/best practices, and workshops on HOPE VI, workforce development, intermodalism, home ownership, and economic development.

Highlights of Friday's events in Huntington, West Virginia, began with remarks by Congressman Rahall (D-WV), and a keynote address by Governor Underwood and a panel of top business leaders from the region participated in a discussion about attracting private capital to Appalachia. Additionally, the Friday session featured a series of practical workshops on faith-based community development, affordable housing, and transportation grants and programs, and a guided-bus tour of the Empowerment Zone in Huntington, WV and Ironton, Ohio. DOT Secretary Rodney Slater gave a moving keynote speech and participated in a West Virginia Town-hall.

The sponsoring parties agreed to form a permanent working group to collaborate on a regular basis and implement the suggestions and recommendations that resulted from the Summit. To focus these efforts, HUD will work with the other sponsoring parties toward the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU). Also, HUD announced the availability of up to \$1 million worth of housing counseling grants and technical assistance to help communities in the region design, expand and build affordable housing.

Upcoming Conferences

The Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships currently is planning several regional conferences. The first of which will be held in Syracuse, NY, Oct. 27-28, 1999 and will invite individuals and groups from Maine, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Pennsylvania to meet and form the partnerships necessary to the redevelopment of communities in these states. This series of conferences, entitled *Commitment to Justice: Creative Partnerships to Restore Hope in Our Communities* is designed to provide education and networking opportunities between grassroots organizations, more established groups, and local government and better connect them to opportunities of available funding.

Though conferences for the rest of the country are still in planning stages, if you would like to be included as a participant in one of these regional justice conferences, please contact the Center with your information at 1-800-308-0395 or 202/708-2404. Those already on our mailing list automatically will be sent invitations.

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Canal Corridor Initiative

HUD's Canal Corridor Initiative (CCI) was begun three years ago by Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo to put federal resources to work as part of a long-term and coordinated commitment to revitalize communities along the Erie Canal and related waterways in upstate New York. The locally driven initiative seeks to turn the Erie Canal and connecting waterways that make up the Canal Corridor into a major tourism destination that will spark economic development across upstate.

The 524-mile New York State Canal System was once a major economic link between the Northeast and the Midwest. As other transportation took over the canal's role, the industrial and commercial base of many cities in the region suffered. These cities experienced declining populations, urban decay, and high unemployment. CCI's goal is to revitalize the economies of these communities by attracting commercial investment and tourism.

The Department promotes develop-

ment along the corridor through two existing programs. First, it provided direct grants from New York's Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Second, it offers Section 108 loan guarantees to assure repayment of notes issued by local governments to raise money for approved projects in the canal area. HUD awards grants of up to \$900,000 for each canal-related development project.

HUD, the Department of Agriculture, the National Park Service, local communities and businesses are working in partnership to make the initiative succeed. New Canal Corridor projects built with federal assistance span the state and include new marinas, restaurants, recreational businesses, parks, walkways and bike paths. Federal assistance has also funded the reconstruction and preservation of historic and cultural sites, along with the development of new manufacturing and small business development.

For more information on the Canal Corridor Initiative, please visit www.hud.gov/canlinit.html.

Important Resources

CCHD Economic Development Grants and Loans Available: Pre-applications are now available for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development's (CCHD) economic development funding initiatives for the 2000 funding cycle. Application deadline is November 1, 1999.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is the domestic anti-poverty, social justice program of the U.S. Catholic bishops. Its mission is to address the root causes of poverty in America through promotion and support of community-controlled, self-help organizations and through transformative education.

The economic development initiatives offer grants, loans and deposits for projects that seek to both build organizational capacity and develop businesses that employ low-income people and promote worker management and ownership. CCHD funds projects which are often separate and distinct activities or endeavors being carried out under the sponsorship of an organization. (In some cases, an organization then becomes a project for CCHD purposes.)

CCHD's pre-applications and Funding Initiatives booklet can be found (and downloaded from) the CCHD website www.nccbuscc.org/cchd, or contact the CCHD office at 202-541-3213.

Featured Best Practice

Mercy Housing, Inc. is a Faith Based housing organization that assists in preserving affordable housing in Idaho. They purchased the **Hawthorne Village Project** under the HUD preservation program section 236(j) and a HUD Preservation Grant in 1996.

Hawthorne Village opened the first on-site Computer Learning Center in Idaho, providing the community and residents with the opportunity to learn computer skills, network with local community services and businesses through the Internet, and enhance educational and employment opportunities. The mission of Hawthorne Village's Neighborhood Networks Computer Learning Center is simple and straightforward: To afford every resident at Hawthorne Village the opportunity to become computer literate, and in so doing, to provide them with improved employment opportunities and the confidence and esteem which often follows acquisition of new skills.

A few of the effective programs at Hawthorne Village are: recycling program for the residents; after school computer program for kids; summer program for kids; a kids softball team; Active Resident Council which delivers home made bread to every new resident and develops a monthly activity for residents; Annual Harvest Party; Single Parent Support Group; Open Doors program for kids to introduce them to more social and athletic events; and *Village People's Voice*, a monthly newsletter for the residents.

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This information has been edited from the John J. Gunther Best Practices on HUD's web site at <http://www.hud.gov/ptw/menu.html>.