



ATLANTA REGION HUD LINES



E-Briefs from the Atlanta Regional Office of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Welcome to **HUD LINES** - a quarterly newsletter about HUD information in the Southeast and Caribbean Region - Region IV. For further information about programs in this issue or other HUD Programs visit the links listed or go to www.hud.gov. Celebrate **OCTOBER - ENERGY MONTH**. Bob Young, HUD Atlanta Regional Director



OCTOBER IS ENERGY MONTH

EnergyStar Change a Light, Change the World Campaign begins October 4, 2006

October of each year is Energy Month. The leaders of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) have issued a joint press release in the past declaring October as Energy Month and announcing "Energy Star Change a Light, Change the World Campaign". Over 30 Governors and many Mayors issued proclamations declaring October 4, 2005 as Energy Star Change a Light Day. Last July the Partnership for Home Energy Efficiency. The goal of the expanded HUD, DOE and EPA Partnership is to help households save 10 percent or more on home energy bills over the next 10 years. The Partnership's website is www.energystar.gov HUD spends over Four Billion Dollars each year on energy.

FHA Launches Education Initiative To Assist First Time Minority Homebuyers



HUD's Federal Housing Administration (FHA) launched a public education campaign directed at first time minority homebuyer with a newspaper-based ad campaign in 27 markets nationwide. The objective of the outreach is to increase awareness of the quality and affordability of FHA products and services to low and moderate income, first time, and minority homebuyers. The campaign also focuses on the dangers of predatory lending and the protective nature of FHA products. The ads will run in: Baltimore, MD; Birmingham, AL; Boise, ID; Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC; Cleveland, OH; Dallas, TX; Dayton, OH; Des Moines, IA; Grand Rapids, MI; Greenville-Spartanburg, SC; Hartford, CT; Jacksonville, FL; Kansas City, MO; Las Vegas, NV; Little Rock, AR; McAllen, TX; Nashville, TN; Newark, NJ; New Orleans, LA; Phoenix, AR; Pittsburgh, PA; Portland, OR; Richmond, VA; Riverside-San Bernardino, CA; Salt Lake City, UT; San Juan, PR and Tulsa, OK. Visit the [new FHA website](http://www.fha.gov) at www.fha.gov for more information on FHA products.

HURRICANE SEASON IS STILL UPON US

Hurricane Disaster Resources And Updates From HUD

For the latest information about Disaster Assistance, regulations, funding, resources, meetings - check out the HUD WEB at: <http://www.hud.gov/ofc/cpd/communitydevelopment/programs/dri>

Period Extended For Filing Application for FHA Mortgage Insurance

All disaster victims affected by Hurricanes, Katrina, Rita and Wilma will have until **September 30, 2007**, to file an application for mortgage insurance under FHA's Section 203 (h) program. <http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/ins/203h-dft.cfm>

HUD'S Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Funds

Long Term Disaster Recovery Efforts

On August 18, 2006, HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson announced \$973 M in disaster funding to help Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, and Texas to recover from last year's hurricanes. It is a part of HUD's CDBG funding and the President's commitment to support the states in their rebuilding efforts.

For further information: <http://www.hud.gov/news/release.cfm?content=pr06-099.cfm>

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FHA MODERNIZATION ACT – FHA REFORM – THE NEW FHA

The FHA Modernization Act updates the 72-year-old Federal Housing Administration and restores the agency to leadership in the mortgage market. FHA was created in 1934 to serve as an innovator, to meet the needs of citizens otherwise underserved by the private sector, to stabilize local and regional housing markets, and to support the national economy.

FHA would like to eliminate the complicated down payment calculation and the traditional cash investment. The down payment is the biggest barrier to homeownership in this country and this act proposes to permit borrowers to choose how much to put down, from no money down to 1 or 2 or perhaps even 10 percent. Another change proposed in the FHA Modernization Act is to increase our loan limits.

We are also proposing some changes to specific FHA product: insuring mortgages on condominiums under its standard single-family product, modernizing the Title I manufactured housing program, and expanding the home equity conversion mortgage program, also known as reverse mortgages. The changes to FHA will not increase the overall risk of the MMI Fund or impose a potential cost on taxpayers.

Why change FHA -- Families need a safe deal, at a fair price. Families need a way to take part in the American dream without putting themselves at risk. Families need FHA. For further information on the new FHA go to our web: <http://www.hud.gov/news/release.cfm?content=pr06-039.cfm> or call 1-800- CALL-FHA.

HUD'S LAW INSTITUTE

HDL's 2006 Fall Conference will take place October 16, 2006, as part of National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials' (NAHRO) national conference in Atlanta, GA. Also the newest edition of the Index to HUD Regulations cumulative through 12/31/05 is available. Email hdli@hdli.org or call 202-289-3400.

FHA RESOURCE CENTER – THE KNOWLEDGE BASE

The Knowledge Base is a new tool that the FHA Resource Center is using to resolve questions presented by consumers and lenders. HUD has created a new article that tells customers how to get access to the full Knowledge base. Check out our website at: <http://answers.hud.gov>.