



Wyoming State Office

FY 2006 Annual Report

“Bringing HUD and Wyoming community resources together to encourage opportunities and promote growth”

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Message from the Staff

Welcome to our FY 2006 Annual Report. The Casper Field Office is proud to highlight another successful year. We would like to thank all of our partners from Wyoming and beyond who, together, allowed the Casper Field Office to exceed its management plan goals this fiscal year. Although we have made great progress in advancing HUD's strategic goals in Wyoming, we have a long way to go to meet the needs of communities and citizens across the state. During this time of prosperity, we hope to ensure that families and communities benefit equally, no matter where they are located in the state and on the economic spectrum. Our goal is to aid communities and citizens build upon their many assets and reach their full potential. Now is the time to take advantage of the many opportunities that

exist in Wyoming to advance our goals. We hope that you will recognize and support the importance of these goals too.

Our goals and past accomplishments are listed below. While we celebrate our progress, we enthusiastically look forward to the future and the many opportunities that exist. Although we will work diligently to advance all of our goals, there are a few areas that present unique opportunities: advancing fair housing, addressing homelessness, increasing and improving affordable housing stock, and helping families achieve self-sufficiency. Please join us in this important work and together we will advance these goals and objectives. As always, if you have any ideas on how to move forward or how HUD can assist, please stop by or give us a call.



Increase Homeownership Opportunities

For many families, homeownership is their highest inspiration. Homeownership offers a stable living environment and is viewed as the key to financial independence and prosperity. HUD offers a variety of programs that support homeownership. Our office is involved in several homeownership events. Along with our industry partners and non-profit organizations, we organized two homebuyer fairs to provide information on the home buying process. We provided training to our industry partners on FHA lender insurance, loss mitigation and gave a presentation at the WY Lender's Association conference on FHA reform and underwriting guidelines. We provided toolkits to our mayors and Tribal leaders on homeownership and predatory lending. To focus attention and help our minority population share in the homeownership dream, we attend the Indian Housing Coordination Committee quarterly meetings to discuss housing and infra-

structure issues on the Wind River Reservation. We provided an educational presentation to the Multi-Cultural Health Committee on housing initiatives. As a way to reach our communities, we have also participated in several radio and television programs to discuss homeownership, affordable housing issues and our reverse mortgage program. Viewers were able to call in with questions. We continually work with our housing counseling task force to provide information and coordinate trainings. We provided training to the Wyoming housing authorities to encourage the use of the Housing Choice Voucher program to help HUD-assisted renters become homeowners.



Homebuyer Fair



KCWY television interview

Promote Decent Affordable Housing

Providing affordable housing and stable housing opportunities for families and individuals who rent is one of HUD's largest programs. Many factors effect the supply of affordable rental housing for low-income families, the elderly and persons with disabilities. Some of our objectives are to reduce barriers that impede the development of affordable housing, promote energy conservation and encourage housing self sufficiency. In support of these objectives, our office gave a presentation on America's Affordable Initiative at Wyoming Association of Municipalities (WAM) committee meeting and at their annual convention. We also held a breakout session at the annual Wyoming Affordable Hous-

ing conference in Thermopolis. We hosted a meeting with Wyoming Community Development Authority (WCDA), U.S. Rural Development and the Wyoming Housing Network on ways to preserve housing stock and expiring contracts. One of our goals is to educate our industry partners, state and local governments and non-profit organizations on how HUD programs are affected by energy costs, which require a large share of HUD's budget. Our office provided a presentation on Energy at WCDA's Wyoming Energy Savers Program training. In collaboration with Rural Community Assistance Corporation and the Federal Reserve Bank, our office organized and partici-

pated in a Green Building conference. This conference provided information about energy-efficient products and programs around the state that encourage environmental efficiency. To help HUD-assisted renters transition to housing self-sufficiency, we provided training to our housing authorities on the housing choice voucher, Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) and Individual Development Accounts (IDAs). We provided educational materials to non-profit organizations on the 202/811 Supportive Housing for Elderly and Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities Programs at the annual disability conference held in Cheyenne.

Strengthen Communities

This goal focuses on HUD programs that improve economic conditions and promotes community development. Our office joined Spring Hill Apartments in celebrating the opening of a Neighborhood Networks learning center which provides residents with access to computers. We hosted several meetings for the statewide homeless collaborative, housing nonprofit, and the association of housing and redevelopment organization. We also hosted two environmental review and lead

base paint trainings. We set up an informational booth and participated in the annual GroBiz Conference and Native American Business Expo to provide information on contract opportunities with HUD. We hosted an open house and Stakeholders Consultation for our congressional staff to keep them informed about our programs. We participated in VA's stand down for homelessness and in a homeless fair in Cheyenne. We hosted several statewide continuum of care and HMIS meetings. In

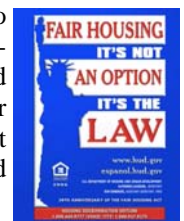
promoting the 10-year plan for ending chronic homelessness, our office hosted "From Theory to Practice: Advanced Topics in Homelessness" training. We facilitated the city of Sheridan's Housing Strategic Plan. We participated in several Wyoming Rural Development Council meetings and trainings to discuss issues affecting rural America. We provided a presentation at the Regional NAHRO conference in Spearfish, SD on FHA reform and changes in other HUD programs.

Ensure Equal Opportunity in Housing

To celebrate the 38th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, our office set up an informational table display at the state Capitol and the Casper federal building. We distributed toolkits to our Mayors, Governor and Tribal officials. These toolkits are packed with valuable information about Fair Housing. Because of the lack of a fair housing presence in our state, we are working with

our state and local governments for substantially equivalent laws. We participated in the "Home on the Range" 2006 Consumer Issues conference at the University of Wyoming to discuss Fair Housing issues. We also participated in the Mega Conference to promote housing opportunities for people with disabilities and provide training to advocates. In an ongoing effort to

ensure fair housing opportunities, we held a fair housing session at the Wyoming Affordable Housing conference in Thermopolis. To increase our knowledge, we received training on the fair housing complaint intake process and other issues.



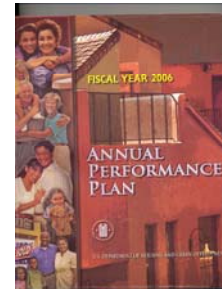
Embrace High Standards of Ethics, Management and Accountability

This goal focuses on the overall efficiency and effectiveness of our office. After several years of trying, our office was finally able to hire a summer intern! Although, Sarah Peek Elston, was only here for a short time, she was able to assist in setting up the Green Building conference, our Grant Writing workshop and the Wyoming Affordable Housing Conference, in addition to translating several of our brochures to Spanish. We value the work and service we provide. Our office publishes quarterly newsletters and end of year report to inform our customers and partners about our achievements. As a vital resource for education and information, we maintain our local website by providing our citizens with quick access to online information about government programs, satellite broadcasts, and webcast train-



ing. We also featured three stories about our community. During the month of September our office averaged 151 internet visits per day. Clearly, we are providing a valuable service to our customers. Our staff continually seeks opportunities to expand and energize our skills by participating in several internal and external trainings. We utilize HVU (HUD Virtual University) online courses and other training resources to increase our development. We completed Customer Service, and Management Plan/Teambuilding training in Denver. While we were there we met with Program Directors from Community Planning and Development, Native American Programs, Mul-

tifamily, Fair Housing and the Homeownership Center to receive updates on our state. We conducted surveys and held a regional conference on customer service to assess partner satisfaction and to solicit feedback about our service delivery. We continued to conduct contingency operations (COOP) training to insure we can continue to provide service despite adverse conditions. Our staff is involved in the development of our yearly local



management plan that defines our mission and goals. We hold quarterly meetings to monitor our progress and insure we are reaching our desired outcomes.

Promote Participation of Faith-Based and Community Organizations

Faith and community based organizations play a significant role in providing social service programs to citizens most in need. HUD wants to give these organizations a fair and equal chance to compete for federal grants. As a result we provided "Art & Science of Grant Writing" workshop to faith based and community grassroots organizations from Wyoming and the surrounding states. We facilitated consultations with the cities of Casper, Cheyenne and the State to encourage more participation from faith based and community organizations in their programs. We continue to provide outreach

and technical assistance to organizations to increase their access to our programs and other resources. As a liaison to the Governor's Advisory Board on Faith Initiatives, our office participated in several meetings around the state to discuss capacity building and to strengthen ties between our existing partners and reaching out to new partners. We provided a presentation at a Cheyenne Housing Forum on HUD programs and resources. To bring special focus on homelessness, our office participated

in the annual Homeless Memorial Day held in Cheyenne and the VA Stand-down. Our Regional Director, John Carson, announced grants for programs that serve the homeless in Wyoming.



Grant writing Workshop

Upcoming.....

Save the Date!

November 13-14, 2006

"Foundations in Environmental Review: National Environmental Policy Act and 24 CFR Part 58 Training"

This course will provide an overview of NEPA and related federal environmental laws and authorities that apply to individual HUD projects. Some of the topics include: Endangered & Threatened Species; Air Quality; Historic Preservation; Planning and Zoning Processes; Energy Conservation

The training will be held in the Casper HUD Office, 150 East B Street,

Room 1010, from 8:00 - 4:30. To register online:

http://www.hud.gov/event_registration/index_2.cfm?eventID=398

More information is on our website.

