



HUD, LOCAL HOUSING AGENCIES, AND VA STAFF DISCUSS THE HUD-VASH PROGRAM

HUD HAPPENINGS Minnesota WINTER 2012



IN THIS ISSUE

LOCAL HUD, PHA, VETERANS AFFAIRS MEETING FINDS BEST PRACTICES FOR HUD-VASH PROGRAM

The [HUD-VASH Program](#) combines the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance for homeless veterans and their families with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at its medical centers and in the community.

HUD-VASH assists homeless veterans and their families afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing through the distribution of housing vouchers. Beneficiaries are selected based on certain requirements including health care eligibility, homelessness status, and income. Since 2008,

beneficiaries are no longer required to be chronically mentally ill or have chronic substance abuse disorders. However, chronically homeless veterans are a target population for HUD-VASH.

The October 2012 meeting at the Minneapolis HUD field office brought together representatives from many public housing agencies from across Minnesota, senior staff from the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, and senior staff from several Minnesota HUD program offices.

“Through HUD-VASH we will accomplish our goal – to prevent and eliminate veteran homelessness by 2015 and improve quality of life for veterans” said Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki.



HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan and VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki

HUD-VASH FACTS

- Provides rental assistance to homeless veterans and their families
- Vouchers are generally tenant-based
- Project-based vouchers may be used
- Reviewed on a case-by-case basis



Historic Riverside Plaza Rehabilitation Completed

- Designed by Minneapolis architect Ralph Rapson, head of the School of Architecture at the University of Minnesota and a leader in modern design
- Constructed between 1970 and 1974 by Bor-Son Building Corporation
- Dramatically transformed several blocks of the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood in Minneapolis
- Listed in the National Register of Historic Places on December 28, 2010 for its significance in Architecture
- 1,303 rehabilitated units
- 19 month project with an average of three completed apartments each day



- Main mechanical rooms are finished
- Parking ramp open to residents
- Building lobbies remodeled
- Poured ADA ramp for D-buildings
- Electrical systems upgraded



HUD-VASH

Related Notices and Guidance

Helpful Links

The following links to other Federal and community websites may provide additional information on assisting Veterans that are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless:

[HUD's Veteran Information Page](#)
[Local Homeless Assistance by State](#)
[U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness \(USICH\) Veterans Page](#)
[Veterans' National Resource Directory](#)
[National Coalition for Homeless Veterans](#)
[HUD's Homeless Resources Exchange](#)
[Department of Health and Human Service's Homeless Resource Center](#)

HUD-VASH Operating Requirements: This notice establishes the policies and procedures for the administration for the administration of tenant-based HCV rental assistance under the HUD-VASH program. In this second version of the HUD-VASH Operating Requirements published on March 23, 2012, HUD provides new and clarifying guidance on verification documentation, the addition of family members after the veteran is a participant in the HCV program, PHA termination of assistance, portability moves, reallocation of HUD-VASH vouchers, and Housing Quality Standards (HQS) initial inspections.

Notice PIH 2011-53: Reporting and Portability Requirements for the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Program. The purpose of this notice is to revise and extend **PIH Notice 2010-12**. The revisions occur in section 2 (Operating Requirements) regarding Moving to Work (MTW) agencies, section 2.b. (Leasing and Ongoing Reporting) regarding portability, and section 3.d. (PHA Tracking) regarding Voucher Management System (VMS) reporting.

Notice PIH 2011-50: Project-Basing HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Vouchers. The purpose of this notice is to reinstate **Notice PIH 2010-23** on the same subject with a significant revision in this section and the addition of section 2e.

HUD-VASH listserv: Click [here](#) to sign up for the HUD-VASH listserv in order to receive periodic news and information related to the program

HUD-VASH Resource Guide: The VA has developed this in-depth guide mainly for VA Case Managers. However, the information provided may also be helpful for PHAs and other entities that support the HUD-VASH program. The guide can be found on the VA's HUD-VASH page here: <http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/HUD-VASH.asp>.

Notice PIH 2010-40: Set-Aside Funding Availability for Project-Basing HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Vouchers

Portability Attachment: This document may be attached to form HUD-52665, Family Portability Information, in cases where the HUD-VASH family is moving to another PHA's jurisdiction, but the family's case management services will be provided by the initial PHA's partnering VAMC

PIH 2008-37: Reporting Requirements for the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program

HUD-VASH Questions and Answers: These Qs & As serve as a supplement to the HUD-VASH Operating Requirements published in the Federal Register on May 6 and 19, 2008.

Federal Register Notice - May 6, 2008

Federal Register Notice - May 19, 2008

Resources

- [Federal jobs for Veterans](#)
- [State and Local HUDVet Resources](#)
- [HUDVET](#) at (800) 998-9999
- [TDD](#) (800) 483-2209
- [Fax](#) (301) 519-5027
- [Email hudvet@hud.gov](mailto:hudvet@hud.gov)
- [Veterans National Resource Directory](#)



FHA ENSURES HOUSEHOLDS CAN FIND LOW INTEREST RATES

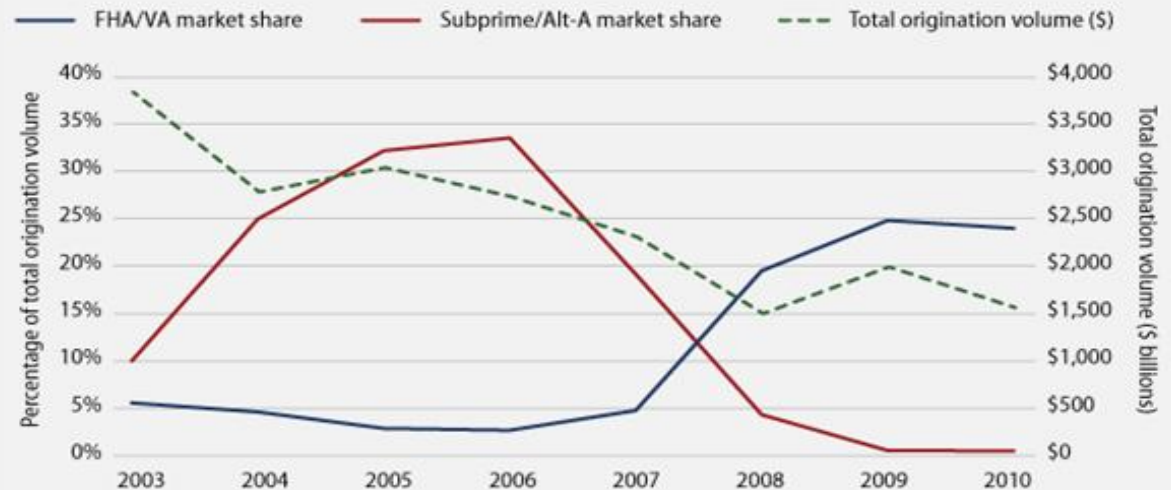
“[The Obama administration] empowered the Federal Housing Administration to ensure that households could find mortgages at low interest rates even during the worst phase of the financial panic,” wrote Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody’s Analytics, in The Washington Post. “Without such credit, the housing market would have completely shut down, taking the economy with it.”

Source: [Griffith](#)

FIGURE 1

As private investors left the mortgage market, FHA insurance filled the gap

Share of annual origination volume (home purchases and refinancings), 2003–2010



Source: Center for Responsible Lending (citing data from Inside Mortgage Finance) and the Mortgage Bankers Association

TABLE 1

Without the Federal Housing Administration, the housing market would have collapsed in 2011, sending the U.S. economy into a double-dip recession

Projected year-to-year changes in key economic indicators had the agency stopped insuring mortgages in October 2010

Indicator	Percent change
U.S. housing market	
Fixed Mortgage Rate	+6.7 percentage points
Residential Housing Starts	-63.0%
New and Existing Home Sales	-40.5%
Median Existing-House Price	-25.0%
Broader economy	
Total Employment	-2.7%
Unemployment Rate	+1.6 percentage points
Gross Domestic Product	-3.7%
S&P 500	-39.2%

Source: Draft estimates from Moody’s Analytics, October 2010

HAVE AN FHA QUESTION?

Phone: 1-800-CALL FHA [1-800-225-5342]

Email: answers@hud.gov

Website: www.hud.gov/answers

WHAT DOES THE FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION DO?

The Federal Housing Administration is a government-run mortgage insurer. It doesn't actually lend money to homebuyers but instead insures the loans made by private lenders, as long as the loan meets strict size and underwriting standards. During normal economic times, the agency typically focuses on borrowers that require low down-payment loans—namely first time homebuyers and low- and middle-income families.

During market downturns (when private investors retract, and it's hard to secure a mortgage), lenders tend to rely on Federal Housing Administration insurance to keep mortgage credit flowing, meaning the agency's business tends to increase. Through this so-called countercyclical support, the agency is critical to promoting stability in the U.S. housing market.

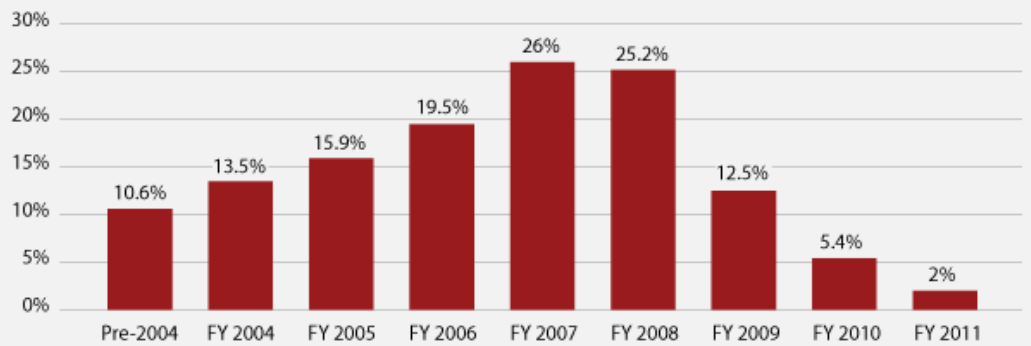
Source: [Griffith](#)

Since 1934, the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) has helped more than 41 million families to become and remain homeowners.

FIGURE 2

A high percentage of FHA-insured loans originated in 2006, 2007, and 2008 are expected to go to claim in the near future

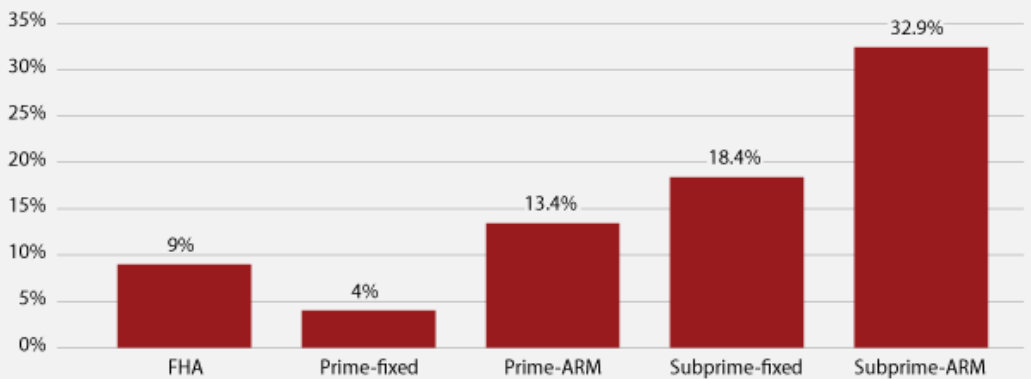
Percentage of FHA-backed mortgages that have missed at least three consecutive payments or are in bankruptcy/foreclosure processing



Source: Federal Housing Administration's Delinquency and Claim Rate Activity and Trends Report, July 2012

But as a whole, FHA's delinquency rates are much lower than riskier mortgage products

Percentage of mortgages that have missed at least three consecutive payments or are in bankruptcy/foreclosure processing by type of loan



Source: Mortgage Bankers Association National Delinquency Survey, First Quarter of 2012

“New numbers from the Standard & Poor's/Case Shiller Home Price Index indicate metro-area home prices jumped 7.4 percent in August, compared with the same month a year ago. The index aims to track the value of typical single-family homes.” – MPR News

DISABILITY RIGHTS IN HOUSING

Definition of Disability: Federal laws define a person with a disability as "Any person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; has a record of such impairment; or is regarded as having such an impairment."

In general, a physical or mental impairment includes hearing, mobility and visual impairments, chronic alcoholism, chronic mental illness, AIDS, AIDS Related Complex, and mental retardation that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities include walking, talking, hearing, seeing, breathing, learning, performing manual tasks, and caring for oneself.

People with Disabilities in Federally Assisted Housing: Federal law makes it illegal for an otherwise qualified individual with a disability to be excluded, solely because of his or her disability, from programs receiving federal financial assistance. For more information on the rights of persons with disabilities in federally assisted housing as well as the responsibilities of housing providers who receive federal financial assistance, visit our **Section 504: Disability Rights in HUD Programs** site.



FRANKLIN
 "The Fair Housing Fox"
 Fair Housing: It's Not
 An Option; It's the Law

Learn more:
[**FAIR HOUSING**](#)
[**ACT ENFORCEMENT**](#)

HUD Charges Minnesota Landlord With Disability Discrimination - *Ketterman v. Peterson, 05-12-0159-8*

On September 17, 2012, HUD charged the owner of a multifamily property in Grand Rapids, MN, with violating the Fair Housing Act by denying a disabled tenant's request to keep an emotional support animal as a reasonable accommodation.

HUD Charges Minnesota Landlords with Disability Discrimination - *Hicks v. Rockford Villa LLC, 05-11-1088-8*

On September 27, 2012, HUD charged the owner and managers of a Rockford, MN, apartment complex with refusing a tenant's request to live with an emotional assistance animal in her second-floor unit as a reasonable accommodation for her disability, in violation of the Fair Housing Act. The respondents allegedly told the complainant that she had to move to the first floor when a unit became available because assistance animals were required to live on the ground level. Subsequently, the respondents allegedly retaliated against the complainant by refusing to renew the complainant's lease.

FAST FACT:



73%

The homeownership rate in Minnesota is the highest in the nation.

Source: ([MHP Online](#))

Housing Partnership Network, Framework provides people nearly anywhere (it was designed to work with a dial-up connection) to take a nationally accredited homebuyer counseling course. The \$70 nine-session course culminates with a final exam. A minimum score of 80% on the final exam earns the user a certificate of completion, satisfying the homebuyer counseling requirements of Minnesota Housing, Wells Fargo (nationally), U.S. Bank (in Minnesota) and Bremer Bank. The Home Ownership Center representative said that the public rollout of the counseling program in Minnesota will occur mid-November, with a national rollout in 2013. A Spanish language version will be available beginning in June 2013. ([Source: MHP Online](#))

WEB-BASED HOUSING COUNSELING PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE

The September 2012 board meeting for Minnesota Housing included an overview of a new web-based housing counseling program and cost-savings measures and budgets to be proposed to the Governor. In addition, the Board approved the 2013 Affordable Housing Plan.

The September meeting began with an extensive overview and demonstration of the new ["Framework" web-based housing counseling program](#).

Created by the Home Ownership Center and the national

HUD SECRETARY DONOVAN NAMED AS POINT PERSON FOR HURRICANE SANDY RECOVERY



President Barack Obama prepares to board Marine One for an aerial tour of Hurricane Sandy storm damage, following his arrival at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, N.Y., Nov. 15, 2012. Accompanying the President, from left, are: Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan; Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y.; Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.; Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano; New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg; and New York Governor Andrew Cuomo. (Official White House Photo by Sonya N. Hebert)

Speaking to local residents, first responders and elected officials, the President promised that he would return to the region again and again, until the rebuilding is complete. He also said that he had asked Shaun Donovan, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, to continue to work closely with governors, mayors and local officials of New Jersey and New York in identifying redevelopment plans for affected communities. Secretary Donovan is a former Commissioner of the New York City Department of Housing. ([Source: WhiteHouse.gov](#))

MISSION OF FAITH HAVEN APARTMENTS IN WEST DULUTH WON'T CHANGE

In the early 1970s, Faith Haven was one of several affordable housing complexes built in Duluth to meet senior housing needs.

“Faith Haven was built specifically to give seniors another option,” board president Charlie Bell said. “Its role has been key in providing safe housing for people who need it at an affordable rate. We’ve been successful in providing that housing, and we did it well.”

Indeed, through the years, the board has maintained that focus, hired good staff and has rejected offers to buy the complex for fear it would be changed to higher-rent apartments for people of all ages.

“As these HUD agreements expire, there’s concern that the properties may convert to more market-rate housing,” said Rick Ball, executive director of the Duluth Housing and Redevelopment Authority. “And the need is great for affordable housing for seniors. So it’s terrific that they’re making the commitment to continue that commitment beyond the HUD agreement.”

Faith Haven remaining under the same ownership for 40 years also is an accomplishment, as well as the original mortgage.



[A happy group](#) at Faith Haven Apartments

“In the multi-housing world, property owners are forced to continually refinance just to keep the lights on,” he said. “One loan begets another and begets another.”

But Faith Haven officials never missed a mortgage payment in 40 years and kept the project’s finances in order, Bell said.

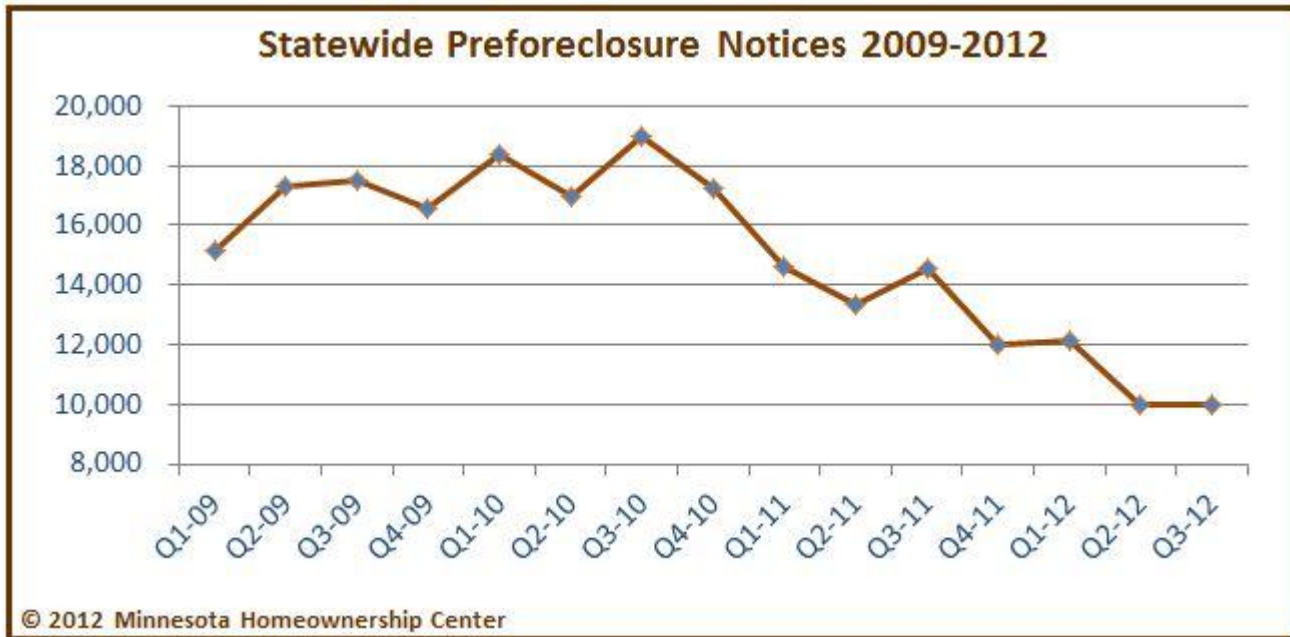
HUD spokesman Brian Sullivan was impressed by Faith Haven’s plans.

“There’s every indication this is a very well-maintained project, with a very responsible board of directors,” Sullivan said. “This is a story of constancy. And not only in its mission, but in its ownership and its financing, and how it’s managed to serve seniors and manage its apartments over the decades.”

“This is an incredibly wonderful story of how we preserve affordable housing, not through any government program, but through mission-oriented property owners. Because heavens knows we need this sort of housing.”

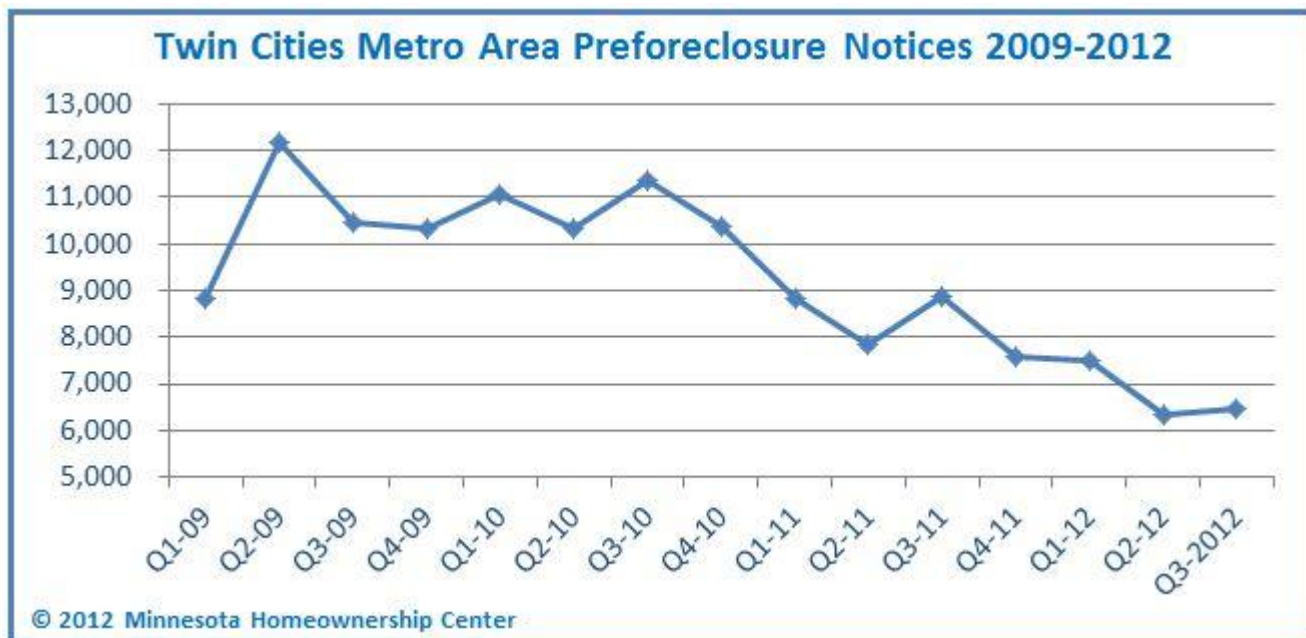
(Source: Candace Renalls, [Duluth News Tribune](#), October 1, 2012)

MINNESOTA FORECLOSURE DATA:



	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	TOTAL
2012 Quarterly Statewide Totals	12,106	9,995	10,016	32,117

The Good News - Year over year, the numbers continue to show improvement for the number of households that are struggling with foreclosure as the number reflects a decline of 31% from the number received in the same period in 2011. (14,586 vs. 10,016)



The Twin Cities Metro area experienced a slightly larger increase in the number of notices from Q2 – Q3 (a 2% increase). While it shows a substantial decline from the same time period in 2011 (-27%) the decline doesn't match the overall statewide decline (-31%, mentioned above).

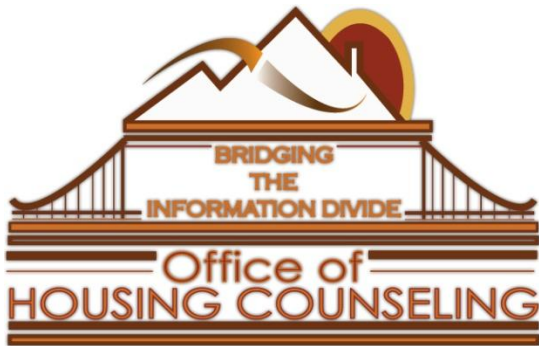
(Source: [Minnesota Home Ownership Center](#))

MULTIFAMILY HOUSING

The HUD Minnesota field office completed a record number of closings for FY 2012.

FISCAL YEAR 2012 TOTALS

FHA Initial (includes risk share)	77
202/811 Initial	2
202/811 Final	2



HUD provides support to a nationwide network of Housing Counseling Agencies (HCA) and counselors. HCAs are trained and approved to provide tools to current and prospective homeowners and renters so that they can make responsible choices to address their housing needs in light of their financial situations.

Do you want advice on buying a home, renting, default, foreclosure avoidance, credit issues or reverse mortgages?

HUD sponsors 47 housing counseling agencies throughout Minnesota to provide free or low cost advice.

[Search online](#) for a housing counseling agency near you, or call HUD's interactive voice system at: (800) 569-4287.

AROUND THE STATE



Bii Di Gain Dash Anwebi

HUD rental subsidies will be available to seniors living in at Bii Di Gain Dash Anwebi Elder Housing. CommonBond Communities will co-sponsor and manage the project. Services will include independent living skills, wellness and prevention workshops, health promotion, community information and referrals, and discussion circles.



Riverview Apartments

This convenient location in the Minnehaha neighborhood of Minneapolis offers easy access to medical services, bus lines, communities of faith and shopping. Residents are expected to move in during November 2012.

American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Grants

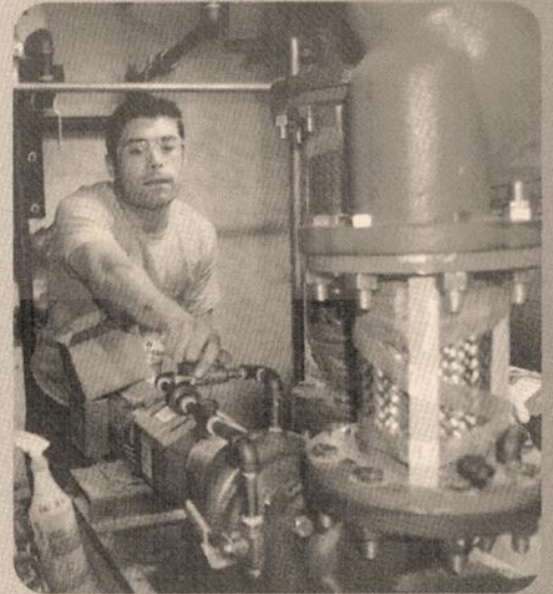
Location/ Work	General Contractor/ Subcontractor	ARRA Amount
McDonough Modernization		
	Frerichs Construction	\$ 5,088,934
	Earl F. Anderson	48,354
	Kiser Construction	71,618
	JBS Carpentry	4,800
	Hilmerson Services	8,000
	Hamernick Decorating	139,788
	Grand Building Supply	187,030
	Aaron Carlson Corp.	240,000
	Erickson Plbmg & Htg	1,197,084
	Machill Construction	362,269
	Designer Sign Systems	3,569
	Cedar Ridge Landscape	750
	Castrejon Inc.	50,701
	Brian Peterson Stucco	155,921
	Bauer Custom Welding	126,430
	Alpha Wall Systems	20,000
	Alpha Construction Inc.	94,740
	Fibertech Columns Inc.	20,043
	Paramount Masonry	136,377
	Tarraf Construction Mgmt	22,000
	St. Paul Utilities	211,207
	Specialty Insulators	4,800
	Sanchez Construction	27,932
	Ruiz Painting	37,000
	Ram Construction Services	10,000
	Radmer Hardwood Flooring	45,000
	KMS Furnace Cleaning	29,250
	Premier Fence Inc.	3,191
	Krech Exteriors Inc.	30,311
	On Site Sanitation	2,887
	Nova-Frost Inc.	133,102
	Nadeau Excavating Inc.	310,653
	Midwest Window Systems	220,234
	Menk Playground Surfaces	2,868
	Medina Construction Sales	13,685
	The Caulkers Company	15,200
	Quality Asphalt	21,425
Iowa Hi-Rise Fire Alarm Replacement		
	Egan Company	268,806
Iowa Hi-Rise Sprinkler Installation		
	Brothers Fire Protection Co.	281,830
	Painting by Nakasone	32,200
	J T Electric Service	1,626
Central Duplexes Modernization		
	Berg Construction Co	203,040
	Silas M Guzman Inc.	16,500
	Merit Electric	3,864
	Lusian Stucco	45,007
	Greenscape Companies	8,900
	Good Guys Roofing	7,600
	D & J Steele	26,481
	Cornerstone Concrete	66,075
	Addyman & Son Inc.	6,700
Total Formula Grant		\$10,065,782

**ARRA
CREATES
JOBS IN
MINNESOTA**

*The St. Paul
PHA spent
ARRA funds
listed on
Pages 11-12
to put people
to work in the
Metro area.*



Location/ Work	General Contractor/ Subcontractor	ARRA Amount
Montreal, Cleveland and Dunedin Hi-Rises		
Window Replacement		
	McMonigal Architects	\$ 92,585
	National Window Assoc	860,522
	Shotley Construction	192,589
	S & J Contracting of MN	314,591
	Casillas Glass LLC	12,961
	Alpha Wall Systems Inc.	92,034
Boiler Replacement (not Dunedin)		
	LKPB Engineering	98,000
	Cool Air Mechanical	1,376,313
	Quality Cutting & Coring	46,000
	Pinnacle Plumbing	120,000
	Murphy Rigging	16,000
	M-Tech Electrical	88,000
	Mavo Systems Inc.	62,000
	Contractor Management	25,000
	Bald Eagle Erectors Inc.	8,000
	All City Elevator	502
	Envirobate Metro	476
Lighting Improvements		
	D&G Electric	121,426
Refrigerator Replacements		
	All Inc	163,989
Toilet Replacements		
	Erickson Plmbg & Htg	181,030
Total Competitive Grant #1		\$ 3,872,018
Central, Neill and Ravoux Hi-Rises		
Window Replacement		
	National Window Assoc.	-
	Shotley Construction	\$ 139,122
	S & J Contracting of MN	232,477
	RRI Masonry Needs	40,860
	J & B Insulation	190,864
	Graham Architectural	151,021
	Efco Corp.	313,565
	Casillas Glass LLC	17,497
	Artstone Inc.	9,500
	Alpha Wall Systems Inc.	78,661
Boiler Replacement (not Ravoux) w/Solar Assisted at Neill		
	Cool Air Mechanical	1,451,843
	Quality Cutting & Coring	33,000
	Pinnacle Plumbing	120,000
	Murphy Rigging	16,000
	M-Tec Electrical	88,000
	Mavo Systems Inc.	86,000
	Bald Eagle Erectors Inc.	14,000
	Envirobate Metro	642
	Floors By Becker	104
Lighting Improvements		
	D&G Electric	76,396
Toilet Replacements		
	Erickson Plmbg & Htg	220,563
Total Competitive Grant #2		\$ 3,280,115
Grand Total All ARRA Grants		\$17,217,915



HUD Green Accreditation Pilot

Accepting Applications November 8th



HUD's Affordable Green Initiative is a pilot program to support HUD grantees and HUD-assisted affordable housing organizations in achieving portfolio-wide energy efficiency and green building improvements in their portfolios. Working with a limited number of early adopters, the vision of the initiative is to enable organizations to institutionalize sustainability and achieve higher levels of performance of the management of their housing portfolios.



This initiative will recognize HUD-assisted affordable housing organizations that seek to implement green building and operational best practices, build capacity of staff, track and measure building performance effectively over time, realize significant improvements in health and energy efficiency, and achieve exemplary cost savings.

What is being offered?

Registration for accreditation will open on November 8, 2012. The accreditation process includes: orientation, assessment, technical assistance, review of goals, policies, and practices; and ultimately an award of the HUD green organizational accreditation to qualified organizations. Participants will be expected to complete the program in 2013.

What is addressed by accreditation?

This initiative will complement existing green certification programs that focus on certifying buildings or individuals; this initiative focuses instead on organizational transformation and effective portfolio management. The program addresses the two key aspects of sustainability, Portfolio Management and Organizational Effectiveness:

About HUD's Affordable Green Initiative

HUD's Affordable Green Initiative provides energy efficiency and green building tools and resources to HUD grantees and affordable housing organizations receiving HUD assistance. Participants may receive training, technical assistance at no cost.

Portfolio Management

- Outcomes & Metrics
- Long-Term Planning
- O&M, Continuous Improvement
- Rehabilitation
- New Construction

Organizational Effectiveness

- Commitment, Goals & Planning
- Infrastructure & Support
- External Relationships
- Outcomes & Metrics

Who can participate?

The no-cost pilot program can serve up to 100 organizations, to be selected on a first-come first-served basis. Eligible participants include PHAs, CHDOs or other HUD housing partners that have implemented or are seeking to implement energy management programs and green building and management practices.

Who will Provide the Accreditation?

Sustainable Performance Institute (SPI), a private third-party accreditation provider, has partnered with HUD to offer affordable housing organizations the chance to become accredited under a customized, performance-based system.

How can I get more information?

To learn more, contact hud@sustainable-performance.org. You may also request a copy of the slides and Q&A from informational webinars held on October 17 and 22.

HUD's Innovation of the Day (IOD) is a new online platform that will collect and share innovative practices in affordable housing, community development, and urban planning from around the world. Its purpose is to seek new ideas that can be leveraged not only within HUD, but among other agencies, communities, philanthropic organizations, non-profit agencies, and the public. IOD will also help the agency identify emerging trends, promising solutions, and successful means of implementation. The four primary elements of IOD include:

1. An online submission form and innovations database:

Anyone can submit innovations (HUD staff, local governments, multi-lateral organizations, non-profits, or the general public) to IOD through a straightforward submission form. Thereafter, an internal IOD committee will clear submissions for publishing based on established and OGC-approved criteria. Once cleared, innovations will populate a searchable database that can be filtered by HUD goals, major housing and urban development themes, geography, and/or innovation type.

2. Featured Innovation:

Select innovations will be featured on the HUD.gov homepage slideshow and HUDuser.org, in addition to the Innovation of the Day landing page. These featured innovations will change/rotate on a weekly basis, enabling HUD to elevate specific innovations. For example, one week we may want to feature innovations related to homelessness, while another week sustainable communities. Additionally, featured innovations will be shared through social media, emails, and partner sites helping to fuel the overall initiative.

3. Trend Analysis and Dashboard Tool

Once we have a sufficient amount of innovations stored in the database, a dashboard will graphically represent select innovation trends such as the top geographies, frequency of match to HUD strategic goals, or leading innovation themes. While not scientifically-significant, it will provide valuable clues for consideration.

4. Innovation Challenge and Summit

Highlighting innovation is a priority for the Department and a cornerstone of this initiative. IOD is a forum where place-based solutions are recognized and analyzed in an effort to strengthen HUD's work. Therefore, HUD will host a regional challenge and invite innovations from our colleagues around the country and promote the best submissions. In conjunction with the challenge, HUD's Office for Policy Development and Research will host an Innovation Summit as a forum to exchange between the federal and local levels about emerging practices. The Summit will be developed with various partners.

Innovation of the Day has been designed to help HUD:

- *Discover and analyze emerging trends, issues, and solutions from the field relevant to federal policymaking.*
- *Encourage local and regional officials to support innovation, partnerships, and novel approaches emerging from within their jurisdictions.*
- *Connect innovators from public, private, and social sectors to share their experiences, practices, and resources.*
- *Catalyze federal programs and initiatives with a pipeline of successful ideas about urban innovation.*

Innovation of the Day Portal Highlights

The screenshot shows the HUD Innovation of the Day portal. At the top, it features the HUD logo and navigation links. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Featured Innovation:** A large image of an urban garden project with a text box explaining its purpose and benefits.
- Submit an Innovation Form:** A multi-step form with sections for:
 - *NAME / TITLE OF INNOVATION:** A text input field.
 - LOCATION OF INNOVATION:** Fields for Country (United States), State/Province, City, and ZIP/Postal Code.
 - * COULD THIS INNOVATION HELP SUPPORT HUD'S STRATEGIC GOALS (check any/all th...):** A list of checkboxes for various goals like 'Strengthen the Nation's Housing Market' and 'Meet the Need for Quality Affordable Rental Homes'.
 - INNOVATION THEMES (select primary and then all others that apply):** A section with a primary theme dropdown and a list of 30 secondary themes (e.g., Affordable Housing, Architecture or Design, etc.) that can be moved to a 'Selected Themes' box.
 - *TYPE OF INNOVATION:** Radio buttons for PRODUCT, PROJECT/PROGRAM, and PROCESS/POLICY.
 - *DESCRIPTION OF INNOVATION (500 words or less):** A large text area for the innovation description.
 - SUBMITTER INFORMATION:** Fields for Organization, Mission, Country, State, City, Name, Title, Phone, and E-Mail.
- Related HUD Resources:** A section with links to various resources.
- Stay Connected:** Social media links for RSS, Facebook, Flickr, YouTube, and Twitter.

Featured Innovations to rotate, updated weekly.

Enables geo search, + dashboard trends by region.

Aligns local practices with HUD strategies for evaluation.

Six themes can be selected from 30 choices. HUD can assess emerging interventions by category.

Submitter can select to remain anonymous to public—useful for grantmakers.

RESOURCES:

[Learn About the Section 3 Program](#)

[Learn About Homeownership](#)

[Get Rental Help](#)

[Avoid Foreclosure](#)

[Find Homeless Resources](#)

[Talk To A Housing Counselor](#)

[File A Housing Discrimination Complaint](#)

[Contact My Local Office](#)

[Loan Modification Scam Alert](#)

[HUD Homes for Sale](#)

[Income Limits](#)

[Fair Market Rents](#)

[Library](#)

[Event Calendar](#)



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HUD HAPPENINGS *Minnesota*

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HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination; and transform the way HUD does business.

More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at hud.gov and espanol.hud.gov.

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