



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Office of Community Planning and Development
Washington, DC 20410-3000

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

To: Elva Garcia, Esperanza Holguin, Shirley Henley, Patrick Jordan, Richard Lopez, Frank Padilla, Leslie Newman, Valerie Piper, Stephen Rhodside, Frank Riley
Cc: Secretary Donovan, Deputy Secretary Jones, Yolanda Chávez
From: Mercedes Márquez, Patricia Hoban-Moore
Re: Colonias Working Group
Date: May 16, 2012

This memo outlines HUD's recent accomplishments in addressing the housing and community development needs of colonias, the newly organized, cross-program Colonias Working Group, the reasons for its creation, and plans for future activities.

CPD Efforts in the Colonias

In late 2010, responsibility for colonias was transferred from HUD's Office of Departmental Operations and Coordination to the Office of Community Planning and Development. At this point, CPD undertook an assessment of need in the region and federal capacity to respond to this need. This assessment culminated with a Border Summit (McAllen, TX; July 2011), where colonias non-profits and federal partners from the CDFI Fund, USDA and EDA joined HUD to discuss issues facing the region. Since then, CPD has worked to develop a comprehensive strategy to build capacity at both the federal and nonprofit level; to increase access to information and promote strategic use of limited funds; to leverage and promote increased access to federal funds; and to more effectively address post-disaster needs in the border region. Specifically, CPD has:

- Brought in staff in with colonias expertise to focus on the colonias strategy;
- Worked to ensure that the eCon Planning Suite enables border states and eligible jurisdictions to report on needs in the colonias and provide plans to address these needs;
- Required that a number of providers under OneCPD have Spanish language ability and cultural competencies to effectively provide TA;
- Approved the Border Community Capital Initiative NOFA, which competes \$635,000 to colonias-serving CDFIs, in partnership with CDFI Fund and USDA; and
- Played a key role in the re-allocation of Disaster Recovery funds in Texas to areas of greater need, which included \$134 million for Lower Rio Grande Valley.

The Colonias Working Group

CPD has constituted a cross-program Colonias Working Group to ensure that (1) colonias issues receive adequate, cross-program staffing support, (2) the CDBG Set-Aside can be strategically used to maximize impact and to address relocation issues, and (3) inter-agency partnerships are continued and strengthened. This Working Group will build on the effective strategy that Headquarters and the Field have worked in partnership to develop, and include representation from CPD and FPM and from Headquarters and Field.

The Colonias Working Group will be comprised of:

- Elva Garcia, CPD Director, San Antonio (Field Lead)
- Esperanza Holguin, CPD Colonias Specialist
- Shirley Henley, CPD Director, Fort Worth
- Patrick Jordan, CPD TA Office
- Richard Lopez, FPM Director, San Antonio
- Frank Padilla, CPD Director, Albuquerque
- Leslie Newman, Colonias Expert (CPD Consultant)
- Val Piper, CPD DAS for Economic Development (HQ Lead)
- Steven Rhodeside, State CDBG Director

CPD Director Elva Garcia will work with DAS Valerie Piper in Headquarters to coordinate the efforts of the Working Group. Their work will be supported by Colonias Consultant Leslie Newman. Patrick Jordan will coordinate technical assistance from the CPD TA Office. Judy Herbstman, Grants Office, will provide staffing support as needed.

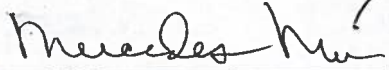
Colonias Working Group – Future Activities

In the near-term, the Colonias Working Group will work to carry out the following activities:

1. Collaborate with Grants staff on continued support for inclusion of colonias in Disaster Recovery efforts and in colonias-related work with border states on their Consolidated Plans;
2. Advise the OneCPD team on design of TA capacity building efforts in the border region;
3. Oversee the Border Community Capital Initiative and other inter-agency work with the CDFI Fund and USDA; and
4. Advise on possible revisions to the CDBG set-aside guidance to increase investment impact.

Conclusion

The Office of Community Planning and Development and the Office of Field Policy and Management are confident that through this strategic partnership between Headquarters and the Field, effective coordination, and regular communication, the Colonias Working Group will successfully continue to implement a comprehensive colonias strategy, which achieves real impacts in some of the most high-need communities in the country.



Assistant Secretary Mercedes Marquez
Office of Community Planning and Development

5-14-12

Date



Director Patricia Hoban-Moore
Office of Field Policy and Management

5-16-12

Date