



HUD New England News

Reinventing New England...Sustainably

News of Note:

- [HUD proposes new rule to ensure equal access to housing](#)
- [HUD awards \\$1.4 billion to nearly 7,000 local homeless programs](#)
- [HUD Awards \\$127 million in grants to protect children from lead, other home hazards](#)
- [Administration awards nearly \\$73 million in counseling grants to help families find, keep housing](#)

Inside this issue:

Homeless Programs (cont. from page 1)	2
“Worst Case” Housing Needs Report	2
Massachusetts: Ribbon cutting at Silver Leaf Terrace	3
Federal partners meet to discuss homelessness	3
Avoiding Foreclosure	3
HUD Releases Pro- posed FY 2012 Budget	3
HUD Focus: Senior Living at Prouty	4

Volume II, Issue 1

February 2011

HUD Awards more than \$110 million to assist homeless programs in New England

U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan recently announced more than \$110.7 million in funding to keep 601 local homeless assistance programs in New England operating in the coming year. The grants form a critical foundation for the Obama Administration’s *Opening Doors* strategy, the nation’s first comprehensive plan to prevent and end homelessness. For a summary of the New England grants, visit [HUD’s website](#).

“There is a tremendous need on our streets and in our shelters among those experiencing both long-term homelessness as well as families confronting a sudden economic crisis,” said Donovan. “These grants are the life blood for thousands of local housing and service programs that are doing the heavy lifting to meet President Obama’s goal of ending homelessness.”

Barbara Poppe, Executive Director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness added, “Across federal agencies, we are aligning mainstream programs towards a goal to prevent and end homelessness. While we continue to strengthen public-private partnerships in Washington and across the country to meet this goal, these grants provide essential support to continue the progress and meet critical needs of those who experience the crisis of homelessness.”

In June 2010, 19 federal agencies and offices that form the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) submitted to the President and Congress the nation’s first comprehensive strategy to prevent and end homelessness. The full report is titled [Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#). The plan puts the country on a path to end veterans and chronic homelessness by 2015; and to ending homelessness among children, family, and youth by 2020.

Last September, HUD announced that it would renew funding through HUD’s Continuum of Care programs to existing local programs as quickly as possible to prevent any interruption in federal assistance. HUD will award funds to new projects later in the year.

HUD’s *Continuum of Care* grants provide per-

manent and transitional housing to homeless persons as well as services including job training, health care, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment and child care. *Continuum of Care* grants are awarded competitively to local programs to meet the needs of their homeless clients. These grants fund a wide variety of programs from street outreach and assessment programs to transitional and permanent housing for homeless persons and families.

HUD’s homeless assistance grants are reducing long-term or chronic homelessness in America. Based on the Department’s latest homeless assessment, chronic homelessness has declined since 2005 due to significant investments to produce thousands of units of permanent supportive housing for those who had been living on the streets. While the total number of homeless persons in America dropped slightly between 2008 and 2009, the number of homeless families increased for the second consecutive year, almost certainly due to the ongoing effects of the recession. In the last 10 days of January, (*Continued - Homeless Grants pg. 2*)

HUD New England is now on Twitter

Join HUD New England on Twitter to stay up to date on news and information in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

To sign up go to [http://twitter.com/ HUDNewEngland](http://twitter.com/HUDNewEngland)

Connect with HUD



[Busque Información en Español](#)

New England Homeless Grants (cont. from pg 1)



Jim Greene (center), Director of Boston's Homeless Shelter Commission speaks with a homeless person during the City of Boston's Homeless Count. (photo courtesy City of Boston)

"These grants are the life blood for thousands of local housing and service programs that are doing the heavy lifting to meet President Obama's goal of ending homelessness."

- HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan

volunteers from across the country counted the number of homeless persons living in shelters and on the streets as part of a national point-in-time count.

Based on HUD's [2009 Annual Homeless Assessment Report \(AHAR\)](#), volunteers throughout the nation counted 643,000 homeless people during a given night in January 2009. In addition, HUD found that during 2009, 1.54 million people used emergency or transitional housing programs in 2009. A typical sheltered homeless person is a single, middle-aged man and a member of a minority group. Of all those who sought emergency shelter or transitional housing during 2009, the following characteristics were observed:

- 78 percent of all sheltered homeless persons are adults;
- 61 percent are male;
- 62 percent are members of a minority group;
- 38 percent are 31-to-50 years old;
- 64 percent are in one-person households, and
- 38 percent have a disability.

In addition to HUD's annual grant awards, HUD allocated \$1.5 billion through its new [Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing \(HPRP\) Program](#). Made possible through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, HPRP is intended to prevent persons from falling into homelessness or to rapidly re-house them if they do. To date, more than 750,000 persons have been assisted through HPRP.

HUD Reports 20 percent jump in "Worst Case Needs" from 2007 to 2009

In a report to Congress, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) found that "worst case housing needs" grew by nearly 1.2 million households, or more than 20 percent, from 2007 to 2009 and by 42 percent since 2001. "Worst case housing needs" are defined as low-income households who paid more than half their monthly income for rent, lived in severely substandard housing, or both.

HUD's study, [Worst Case Housing Needs 2009: A Report to Congress](#), one in a long-term series of reports designed to measure the scale of critical housing problems facing low-income un-assisted American renting households. The findings are based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Housing Survey conducted between May and September of 2009, predating the impact of the Obama Administration's economic recovery efforts, including the *American Recovery and Reinvestment*

Act (ARRA). This report finds a direct link between the increased numbers of worst case needs and the recent recession and related joblessness.

Dr. Raphael Bostic, HUD's Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, said, "The loss of income and the general lack of affordable housing are clearly putting a lot of stress on unassisted families at the lower end of the income spectrum. It's equally clear that had it not been for housing assistance offered by HUD, the economic impact on very low-income renters would have been greater still."

These worst case housing needs are defined as renters with very low incomes (below half the median in their area) who do not receive government housing assistance and who either paid more than half their monthly incomes for

rent, lived in severely substandard conditions, or both. HUD's report finds that needs cut across all regions of the country and included all racial and ethnic groups, regardless of whether they lived in cities, suburbs or rural areas. In addition, HUD concluded that large numbers of worst case needs were also found across various family types including families with children, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities.

The increase in the extent of worst case housing needs represents the largest two-year jump since HUD began reporting this segment of the rental market in 1985. Unemployment and under-employment pushed 410,000 more households into the worst case needs category accounting for more than one-third of all new cases.

[Read the 2009 Worst Case Housing Needs Report.](#)

Massachusetts—Ribbon cutting at Silver Leaf Terrace



Silver Leaf Terrace, a 216-unit affordable rental housing development in Leominster, Mass. recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the completion of an \$8 million renovation. Pictured at the ribbon cutting are from left to right Larry Casassa, Fitchburg/Leominster Consortium; Marie Rines, HUD's Multifamily Housing Office, Boston; Dean Mazzarella, Mayor of Leominster; Chris Poulin, Silver Street Development, Corp.; Thomas Gleason, Mass Housing; Ed Doherty, Litchfield Leominster Limited Partnership.

NOFA News

To view the latest [Notices of Funding Available](#):

- [Self Help Opportunities Program \(SHOP\)](#)
- [Service Coordinators in Multifamily Housing Program](#)
- [Transformation Initiative: Natural Experiments Grant Program](#)

Avoiding Foreclosure: information just a click away

HUD's Web site is a great resource for information on foreclosure prevention, avoiding foreclosure scams and finding a local HUD approved foreclosure avoidance counselor. There's also information on refinancing options for people facing foreclosure. To access the information go to www.hud.gov.

For information on HUD's Emergency Homeowner Loan Program go to [HUD EHLF](#).

Federal partners come together to address homelessness in New England



The New England Regional Federal Interagency Council on Homelessness met recently at the City of Boston's Long Island Shelter to discuss the Council's activities for the coming year and discuss ways in which the Council could further expand visibility and increase collaboration to prevent and end homelessness in New England. Federal agencies attending were: USDA Rural Development, Veterans Admin., Health and Human Services, Veterans Benefits Admin., Dept. of Labor, and the Dept. of Education.

John O'Brien, HUD's Regional Federal Interagency Council on Homelessness representative provided an update to attendees on Opening Doors—the Federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness in addition to information on HUD's Management Plan as it relates to homelessness. Each of the Federal agencies in attendance also provided updates on homelessness activities taking place within their agency and in coordination with other agencies.

Following the meeting, members listened to a presentation by the City of Boston's Homeless Services and toured the Long Island Shelter campus.

HUD Releases Proposed FY 2012 Budget

HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan unveiled HUD's fiscal year 2012 budget proposal. Titled *Creating Strong, Sustainable, Inclusive Communities and Quality Affordable Homes* the budget seeks to help lead America out of an unprecedented economic crisis and ensure our economy is competitive – growing and working for all Americans. HUD is taking responsibility for our deficit, by investing in what makes America stronger and cutting what doesn't.

"The budget provides a roadmap for HUD to work with our regional and local partners to win the future by investing in innovation, building neighborhoods that are connected to jobs and providing greater access to opportunity, so American businesses and communities are the best in the world" said Donovan. [Read HUD's proposed FY 2012 budget.](#)

Sign up for future editions of HUD New England News at:

<http://www.hud.gov/subscribe/signup.cfm?listname=Region%20I%20News&list=REGION-I-NEWS-L#privacy>

We're on the Web!

WWW.HUD.GOV

Connect with HUD:



HUD New England State Web sites

- [Connecticut](#)
- [Maine](#)
- [Massachusetts](#)
- [New Hampshire](#)
- [Rhode Island](#)
- [Vermont](#)

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 Inter- net at www.hud.gov and espanol.hud.gov.

HUD Focus— Betty, Senior Living at Prouty, Spencer, MA

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of articles that will focus on the impact that HUD funded programs have on people's lives.

To say Betty, a Senior Living at Prouty resident, has a large family would be an understatement. An avid Red Sox fan, Betty has eight children, twenty-two grandchildren, twenty great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren. The Newport, Vt. native spends significant time with her family as most of them live in or around Spencer, Mass. It is not uncommon for five generations to be present in her apartment at one time.

Betty was one of the first to make Senior Living at Prouty her home, arriving in early March 2010. Senior Living at Prouty, made possible in large part due to HUD 202 funding, is the newest of MHPI, Inc.'s 15 properties. The building was transformed from an 1888 school building into 36 units of affordable housing.

Betty was already quite familiar with the building as a number of her grandchildren spent their school days inside of it and her daughter-in-law Patricia served as school secretary for many years.

"My children encouraged me to consider moving to Prouty," Betty said. "They felt it was a safe environment and I would be happy here. I truly enjoy the modern conveniences of the building and its historical charm. I am able to function independently, knowing that assistance is just a phone call away."

Over the past six months, Betty's one-bedroom apartment has slowly but surely become her home. She proudly showcases her collection of angels and has nearly 50 photos of family members throughout her residence.

About Senior Living at Prouty

Located in Spencer, Massachusetts

Project is the new construction of 39 rental units—5 studios and 29 one bedroom apartments.



Total development cost for the project, approximately \$7.8 million, of which \$5.05 million was provided by the Section 202 program.

This project is fully accessible and designed to allow elders to live independently and to "age-in-place". It represents a significant collaboration among federal, state and local government.



Have a story that you would like to see featured in HUD Focus? Email it to Rhonda.M.Siciliano@hud.gov

Submit news, photos to HUD New England News

Have news, photos that you would like to share with your New England housing partners? HUD welcomes the submission of information related to HUD funded projects throughout the region for inclusion in the monthly electronic newsletter. Send you photos and story ideas to Rhonda.M.Siciliano@hud.gov.