

Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation Supports Regulatory Reform

Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation (NRC), and its local *NeighborWorks* organizations, has announced its support for HUD's "***America's Affordable Communities Initiative***" and will undertake its own series of activities to support regulatory reform for affordable housing. The Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation is a national nonprofit organization created by Congress to provide financial support, technical assistance, and training for community-based revitalization efforts. *NeighborWorks* is a national network of more than 220 community-based organizations creating healthy communities through the work of thousands of residents, business people, government officials and other partners.

"As America's communities have evolved, the reach of governmental regulations at the federal, state and local level has also expanded to meet the changing needs. The majority of these regulations were initiated with noble intentions and, for the most part, have served a beneficial purpose. Today, however, many communities and affordable housing providers find their efforts hampered by the wide and confusing scope of local, state and federal regulations. And, unfortunately, some local jurisdictions have developed regulations and restrictive zoning provisions specifically (and at times unlawfully) aimed at discouraging or preventing the development of affordable housing in their communities, because of their erroneous and stereotypical fears of the impact such housing would have on their communities, says NRC Director of Public Policy and Legislative Affairs, Steven Tuminaro.

"The Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation strongly supports the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in its development of the "America's Affordable Communities Initiative", to actively encourage the reduction and removal of unnecessary and obsolete regulatory barriers to increasing the supply of affordable housing."

"One of the many reasons that NRC supports this Initiative is that it assists in accomplishing the President's goal of creating 5.5 million new minority homebuyers by the end of this decade."

Mr. Tuminaro goes on to state "Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation also plans to spotlight America's Affordable Communities Initiative through a series of articles on the power of regulatory reform to increase the supply of affordable housing, in our widely-distributed publication, *Bright Ideas*. These articles will expand the awareness of the Initiative among local nonprofits and others in the affordable housing field, who, in turn, can become ambassadors of this program in their communities.

Each year, NRC applies for funding as a national intermediary through HUD's Housing Counseling program and we distribute 100 percent of any funding we receive to approximately 100 of our affiliated *NeighborWorks* organizations. Therefore, we are

currently modifying our internal grantee application process to encourage that ***any participating NeighborWorks organizations be committed to actively work with their states and localities and other affordable housing providers to take necessary steps to reduce unnecessary regulations.*** Simultaneously, we have begun to discuss ways in which we can encourage *NeighborWorks* organizations to remove regulatory barriers to affordable housing in their local communities, and identify and disseminate information about 'best practices'”