

HUD HEARTLAND NEWS



US Department of Housing and Urban Development
Sioux Falls, South Dakota Field Office

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Customer Service: Feedback and Action

Customer service is a term that receives a lot of attention in the private sector. It may make or break your business. The federal government also is concerned about how well we serve our customers. We want to ensure people's needs are being met and taxpayer dollars are spent wisely.

During the next several months HUD Region VIII will be asking customers how well we are doing. HUD has developed an on-line survey with 7 questions that should take about 5 minutes to complete. We encourage you to [take our survey](#) by March 16 and give us your feedback.

If you are a regular client, you may get this survey from several sources in HUD. The web technology will only let you take the survey once from your e-mail address.

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HUD Funds for Native Americans

Indian Housing Block Grants (IHBG) provide nearly \$35 million to South Dakota tribes for housing assistance. The annual IHBG offers maximum flexibility to tribes to design, implement and administer their own unique housing programs. The primary purpose of the IHBG is to provide housing assistance for the benefit of low-income families.

Eligible housing activities that may be provided under the program include:

- ◆ Housing Development
- ◆ Indian Housing Assistance
- ◆ Housing Services
- ◆ Housing Management Services
- ◆ Crime Prevention and Safety
- ◆ Model Activities

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 21-22
 South Dakota Indian Business Conference, Rapid City.
www.lakotamall.com/sdibc/

March 13-14
 Housing for Homeless Conference, Chamberlain.

March 14
 Selling to the Government, Sioux Falls.

March 28
 Business Leadership Network (BLN) Disability Expo, Sioux Falls.

April 10-11
 ND/SD NAHRO Association Meeting, Mandan, ND.

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2006 South Dakota IHBG grantees

Cheyenne River Sioux	\$ 5,090,276
Crow Creek Sioux	1,461,130
Flandreau Santee Sioux	346,126
Lower Brule Sioux	1,119,961
Oglala Sioux (Lakota)	10,852,398
Rosebud Sioux	6,004,064
Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux	3,513,772
Standing Rock Sioux	4,475,958
Yankton Sioux	2,019,624
TOTAL	\$ 34,883,309

For more information on Indian Housing visit HUD's web site www.hud.gov/offices/pih/ih/index.cfm.



Phone toll-free (800) CALLFHA or
(800)225-5342, M-F, 7am - 7pm CT

Email: hud@custhelp.com

Search online at <http://answers.hud.gov>



FHA Mortgage Limits

There was no change to the basic FHA mortgage limits for 2007. The mortgage limits for all counties in South Dakota remain at:

One-Unit: \$200,160

Two-Unit: \$256,248

Three-Unit: \$309,744

Four-Unit: \$384,936

There are several areas in the country with higher mortgage limits, based upon median house price data. Any interested party may submit a request to HUD for the mortgage limits to be increased in a particular county. Requests for an increase must be accompanied by sufficient housing price data to justify higher limits.

Further information on this process is outlined in [Mortgage Letter 2007-01](#).

Tax Deduction for Home Mortgage Insurance in '07

Effective January 1, 2007, the federal government made it possible for some consumers to deduct mortgage insurance premiums from their federal taxes. Some features of the new tax law are:

- ◆ The tax deduction applies only to mortgages that are closed in 2007.
- ◆ A homeowner with mortgage insurance in 2006 would not be able to deduct the premiums in the 2007 tax year unless they refinance in 2007.
- ◆ There are income limits. Homebuyers with a combined household income of \$100,000 or less will get the full deduction.
- ◆ This is a one-year provision. Congress would have to renew the deduction to make it apply for the 2008 tax year and beyond.
- ◆ The new law only makes a difference for homebuyers who itemize deductions.

FHA New Construction - Architectural Exhibit Requirements

FHA has revised the list of architectural exhibits required for single-family properties one-year old or less. Lenders no longer need to obtain, retain or submit construction plans and specifications to FHA, including the plot plan, floor plan, exterior elevations, and specifications.

Appraisers are already required by USPAP to retain plans, specifications or other documentation to identify the extent and character of proposed improvements. Appraisers may obtain these architectural documents from the builder.

The following documents are still required for a FHA submission:

1) Builder's Certification of Plans, Specifications and Site; 2) Builder's Warranty, Form HUD-92544; 3) Building Permit and Certificate of Occupancy, or Compliance Inspections and 10-Year Warranty; 4) Wood Infestation Report; and 5) Local Health Authority well water analysis or septic report, if applicable.

Further information on this change may be found in [Mortgage Letter 2006-33](#).

South Dakota Single Family FHA Information

<u>2006 Statistics</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
Loans Insured	105	114	57
First-Time Homebuyers	59	62	37
Minority Homebuyers	1	6	4
Default Rate	6.68%	6.69%	7.06%
Foreclosure Rate	0.95%	0.93%	0.89%
REO Properties:			
Acquired	9	4	9
Sold	6	7	5
Owned	31	28	32

SuperNOFA Part I Published

Each year HUD announces its grant opportunities through a Notice of Funding Availability (SuperNOFA). The notice provides a listing of all grant opportunities available, descriptions of the programs and guidelines on the application process. The General Section of the SuperNOFA was published in the Federal Register January 18, 2007. The notice provides prospective applicants for HUD competitive funding with the opportunity to become familiar with the General Section of the SuperNOFA, in advance of publication of the program section of the FY2007 SuperNOFA.

Early publication of the General Section is one of several steps instituted to improve the funding process for the grantee community. Early publication of the General Section gives prospective applicants additional time to become familiar with and address provisions in the General Section, which constitute part of almost every individual program application. [Log onto the HUD website to view the publication.](#)

If you will be submitting a HUD grant application this year, be sure to log onto [grants.gov](#) to update your registration or to become registered in advance of the submission deadline. [Grants.gov](#) has updated its website and program this year. You may [view the webcast with information about the update on HUD's website.](#)

New HUD Kiosk

It's finally here! With much anticipation, the new HUD kiosk is now in service at the downtown Sioux Falls library. The kiosk sports a new look, is faster and easier to use. It is a self-serve information center with news from HUD, IRS, Department of Labor, Department of Education, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Resources for home ownership, homelessness, rental assistance as well as other HUD programs are available on the kiosk. The next time you are in downtown Sioux Falls, stop at the library and give it a try.



April is Fair Housing Month



Each April HUD brings awareness to Fair Housing through educational workshops, promotions and advertising. Workshops provide information about Fair Housing Laws at the Federal and State level. They provide information about the complaint filing process, what's illegal and what's not as well as providing real life examples of discrimination. Workshops are informative for tenants, users of housing services, non-profit organizations and housing providers to learn how to end housing discrimination and what happens when discrimination occurs. Workshops are free to anyone and may provide Continuing Education Credits for Realtors and Property Managers. Dates and locations for the workshops will be announced soon. [Check HUD's South Dakota calendar](#) or contact the HUD Office to inquire about upcoming workshops.

If you would like to file a Fair Housing complaint or inquire about an issue, you may contact the Denver HUD Fair Housing Office at 1-800-877-7353 or Fair Housing of the Dakotas at 1-888-265-0907.

Business Leadership Network Expo

Each year the [Sioux Falls Business Leadership Network \(BLN\)](#) sponsors a Disability Information Expo. The expo is open to all business leaders to learn about hiring employees with disabilities and how to easily accommodate their needs. It also provides an opportunity for individuals with disabilities to learn about jobs and housing. HUD's booth will offer information on Fair Housing, rental and home ownership opportunities. The expo will be held at the Ramkota Exhibit Building in Sioux Falls on March 28, 2007 from 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM.



Customer Service (Continued from page 1)

You may delete it the next time you see it, or pass it on to someone else in your organization to complete.

You may also be part of a group that gets a longer paper survey from HUD, or you may be asked to participate in a HUD focus group on customer service. HUD is using several formats to try to obtain an overall picture of the service we provide.

As always, you may choose to participate or not. We value your opinion and feedback. We hope to take this information and use it to make our service better, faster and easier for everyone to use.

Do Business With The Government

The Sioux Falls Procurement Committee will hold their fifth annual small business fair, "Discovering New Opportunities, Selling to the Government" on March 14th at the EROS Data Center near Sioux Falls. This event provides attendees with an introduction to doing business with the government and an opportunity to market their products and services. Representatives from federal, state and local agencies will be on hand to discuss purchasing needs and procedures, and provide training in the areas of contracting. Cost, which includes lunch, is \$25 for one business representative and \$20 for each additional person.



Participants visit with government agencies at the 2006 Procurement Fair held at the EROS Data Center.

For West River businesses, the Great Plains Pro-Biz Summit will be held on May 22nd and 23rd at Rushmore Civic Center in Rapid City. The event is an avenue for government and tribal entities to come together with private businesses to identify economic development opportunities locally and globally. More information will be available soon on the web site www.greatplainsprobiz.org.



HUD Unveils Limited English Proficiency Guidance

HUD published guidance in the Federal Register January 22, 2007 for recipients of federal funding to ensure that people with limited English proficiency (LEP) have equal access to programs.

Title VI and its implementing regulations require that recipients take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access by LEP persons. You may view the Federal Register at www.hudclips.org.

From Appendix B—Questions and Answers:

VI. What is expected of recipients under the Guidance?

Federally assisted recipients are required to make reasonable efforts to provide language assistance to ensure meaningful access for LEP persons to the recipient's programs and activities. To do this, the recipient should: (1) Conduct the four-factor analysis; (2) develop a Language Access Plan (LAP); and (3) provide appropriate language assistance.

VII. What is the four-factor analysis?

... As a starting point, a recipient may conduct an individualized assessment that balances the following four factors:

- ◆ The number or proportion of LEP persons served or encountered in the eligible service population;
- ◆ The frequency with which LEP persons come into contact with the program;
- ◆ The nature and importance of the program, activity, or service provided by the program; and
- ◆ The resources available and costs to the recipient.

The goal of the LEP guidance is to eliminate the disparities in access to federal programs between those with a limited comprehension of English and fluent English speakers.

More details are available at www.hud.gov/fairhousing.

New Studies from HUD USER

Quality Control for Rental Assistance Subsidies Determinations

HUD recently issued a final report on the extent, severity, costs, and sources of errors in rental housing subsidy determinations for the 2004 fiscal year. Errors may be a result of program administrator income and rent determination errors, tenant misreporting of income, and/or errors in program administrator billings for assistance payments.

The entire report is available as a free download at www.huduser.org/publications/pubasst/qualitycontrol04.html.

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Please contact us if you have any news or updates to include in our newsletter.

Mission of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: To increase homeownership, support community development, and increase access to affordable housing free from discrimination.

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