



HUD New England News

Reinventing New England...Sustainably

Volume I Issue 2

November 2010

News of Note:

- [PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AWARDS GRANTS](#)
- [HUD AND DOT AWARD \\$68 MILLION TO CREATE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES](#)
- [OCTOBER HOUSING SCORECARD](#)
- [HUD ALLOCATES \\$50 MILLION IN DISASTER RECOVERY GRANTS TO THREE STATES](#)

Inside this issue:

Building Sustainable Communities	2
Unemployment Rates for U.S. /New England	2
Emergency Homeowner Loan Program	3
Walega visits Northern Maine	3
Rhode Island: Stabilizing Neighborhoods	3
Going 'green' at Council Tower	4

Administrator's Corner



Richard Walega, HUD New England Regional Administrator announces \$2.4 million in Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants in Maine.

Dear Partners,

It has been a very busy fall, so our apologies for getting this newsletter out a little late.

Green Energy, Retrofits and Weatherization

New England has seen many levels of success in its quest to become more energy efficient. Housing authorities continue to use capital, recovery and performance funding to cut energy bills through envelop enhancements, insulation, efficient boiler replacements, co-generation and solar arrays.

Our housing finance agencies have held competitions and have picked retrofit proposals that would qualify for the Department of Energy's weatherization funds. CAP agencies continue to fund single family home weatherization efforts. And numerous private, affordable, multi family owners have been chosen to receive HUD's "green retrofit" funds that were made available through the Recovery Act. We expect to see more solar, wind, co-gen and high efficiency applications come "on-line" over the coming weeks and months.

Homelessness

The Administration released "Opening Doors," the first comprehensive national plan to end homelessness ever released. It outlines an ambitious, but doable goal of eliminating veteran's chronic homelessness within five years and family homelessness within ten years. It relies on new strategies, including a "housing first" approach to get the homeless out of shelters and into stable housing. This past year, HPRP funds were spectacularly successful in helping over 500,000 families or individuals avoid homelessness. More funds are being appropriated to tackle this national scourge. And the results have been impressive: nationally, HUD and its partners have exceeded quarterly housing goals by over 160 percent as communities and activists

across the country have rallied to this cause. With such a fine start, the Nation will surely achieve the goal of ending homelessness with ten years.

The Mortgage Crisis

Our most vexing problem, the one that keeps people in the Administration awake at night, is how to improve our response to those needing counseling and financial help. Our partners in the field are making yeoman efforts. We celebrated 1,000,000 families nationwide counseled in August and are expanding our reach with additional counseling resources for our partners. More resources are being brought to bear with the "Hardest Hit" funds to Rhode Island and the Emergency Homeowners Loan Program expected to be available around the end of the year.

Disaster and Emergency Preparedness

While the region might have dodged the hurricane "bullet," we weren't immune to natural disasters. Rhode Island and parts of Connecticut are still recovering from one of the wildest springs in recent memory. Emergency appropriations will soon be distributed to Rhode Island cities and towns racked by disastrous flood waters that destroyed millions of dollars of public works. Under the leadership of the Rhode Island Congressional delegation, the state and communities are already working with HUD to distribute more than \$13 million in funds fairly and equitably to entitlement and non-entitlement communities alike.

Sustainability

HUD, DOT and the EPA recently completed the initial round of planning and challenge grant awards and New England led the nation in recipients and funding. While we are only 4.7 percent of the nation's population, we received 16 percent of the planning grants and 9 percent of the challenge grants. Every state received at least one or the other. Urban, metropolitan and rural interests were all represented. From Aroostook County, Maine to Stamford, Connecticut and from the shores of Narragansett Bay to the shores of Lake Champlain, HUD funds will be used by communities and regional consortia to plan a more sustainable New England future. There will be much more on this topic in the coming weeks and months.

Affordable Housing Production

HUD has an ambitious goal of increasing the number of available affordable units, nationwide, by 207,000. Tax credit, mixed finance, HOPE VI, Section 202 and 811 and public housing production and modernization activities all figure into achieving this goal.

As always please feel free to call or email me with your questions and concerns at (617) 994-8220 or

Richard.A.Walega@hud.gov.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Walega

Building Sustainable Communities



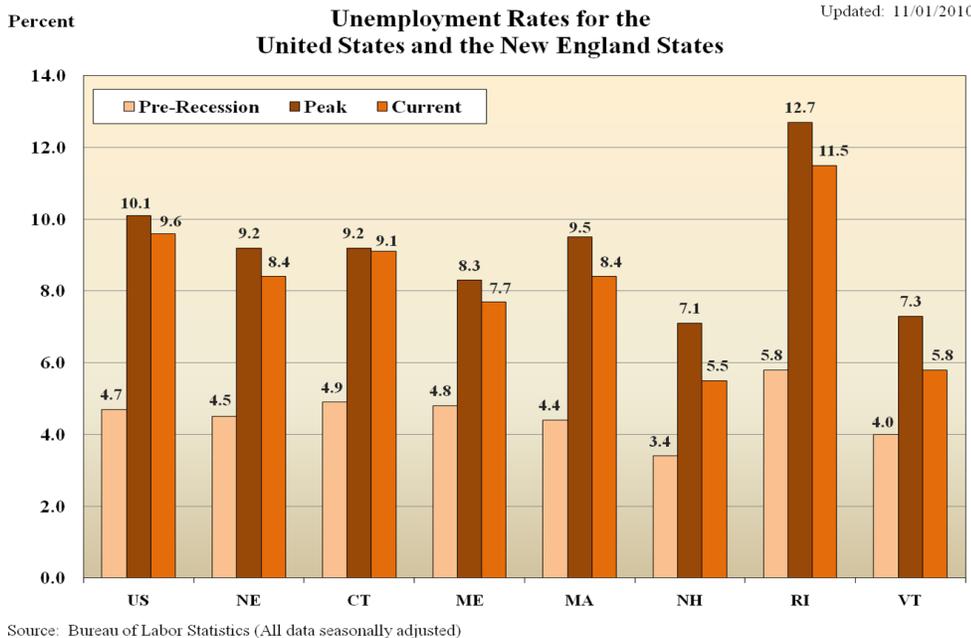
HUD Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations Peter Kovar announces \$4.2 million to support more livable and sustainable communities during a press conference in Connecticut with Senator Chris Dodd. The funding will support the Capital Regional Council of Governments of Hartford and the Windham Region Council of Governments in Willimantic through a new initiative intended to build economic competitiveness by connecting housing with good jobs, quality schools and transportation. For more information go to [Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program](#)



HUD and DOT award more than \$6 million to create sustainable livable communities in New England

In an unprecedented collaboration between two federal agencies, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) have awarded \$6,099,356 to help stimulate a new generation of sustainable and livable communities in the New England Region, connect housing, employment and economic development with transportation and other infrastructure improvements. The joint HUD-DOT funding will support local and regional partnerships seeking to create a more holistic and integrated approach to connecting affordable housing, job opportunities and transportation corridors.

Nationally HUD has awarded \$40 million in new [Sustainable Community Challenge Grants](#) to help support local planning designed to integrate affordable housing, good jobs and public transportation. Meanwhile, DOT has awarded nearly \$28 million in [TIGER \(Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery\) II Planning Grants](#) to implement localized plans that ultimately lead to projects that integrate transportation, housing and economic development.



We're working to change the way government works, and that means investing tax dollars wisely and well. We want to make sure that when we're building infrastructure, we're considering how housing, transportation, and the environment all impact each other. These grants are designed to get the biggest bang for our tax dollar buck."

President Obama's statement on the Sustainable Communities Award Grants

Unemployment Rates in the United States and the New England Region have declined somewhat from peak levels reached in the fall of 2009 and winter of 2010. However, current rates are still well above pre-recession levels. The New Hampshire and Vermont labor markets have performed relatively well with unemployment rates significantly below the regional and national average.

Emergency Homeowners Loan Program announced



HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan recently announced \$61 million to help struggling homeowners in Massachusetts through its Emergency Homeowners Loan Program (EHL). Secretary Donovan announced the funding available to local homeowners at a press conference at Urban Edge in Roxbury, Mass. with House Financial Services Chairman Barney Frank. Joining in the EHL announcement (from left to right) Tina Brooks, Undersecretary for Housing and Community Development; Boston Mayor Thomas Menino; Congressman Michael Capuano; Congressman Frank and Chrystal Kornegay, CEO of Urban Edge.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act signed into law by President Obama in July, authorizes HUD to administer a \$1 billion Emergency Homeowners Loan

Program, to provide assistance—for up to 24 months—to homeowners who have experienced a substantial reduction in income due to involuntary unemployment, underemployment, or a medical condition and are at risk of foreclosure. HUD will assist borrowers in 32 states and Puerto Rico not otherwise funded by Treasury's Hardest Hit Housing Fund program, based on the state's relative share of unemployed homeowners. It is HUD's intention for the program to begin taking applications from homeowners by the end of the year.

For more information on avoiding foreclosure go www.hud.gov

Walega visits Northern Maine



Regional Administrator Richard Walega and Presque Isle, Maine Housing Authority (PIHA) Executive Director Jeff Everett examine the PIHA's newly installed high efficiency boiler system during the RA's recent visit to Aroostook County, Maine. PIHA also used ARRA funds to install arrays of solar hot water panels on its public housing units. The RA visited other PHAs, some CDBG funded projects and met with the region's two-county Sustainability Consortium.

Rhode Island—Stabilizing Neighborhoods



Mike Tondra, State of Rhode Island Office of Housing, talks about the impact of HUD's Neighborhood Stabilization Program during a press conference to announce an additional \$6.3 million to stabilize Rhode Island neighborhoods hard-hit by foreclosure. Rhode Island Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse joined HUD New England Regional Administrator Richard Walega in announcing the additional funding for the state. For more information on NSP3 funds awarded in New England go to NSP3.

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.

Massachusetts—Going 'Green' at Council Tower

Residents of Council Tower in Roxbury joined HUD New England Regional Administrator Walega, Congressman Michael Capuano, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, Jaime Seagle, president of Rogerson Communities and other local officials in celebrating a \$2.1 million Recovery Act Green Retrofit Grant to the senior housing complex.

Council Tower is a 145-unit, senior housing development built in 1985. The green renovations will enhance the quality of life for residents and increase energy efficiency. The renovations will produce approximately 15 percent savings in utility costs and are creating quality construction-related job opportunities. Retrofits include EnergyStar refrigerators and formaldehyde-free bathroom cabinets, upgraded energy efficient lighting, energy efficient ceiling fans and bath exhaust fans, low-flow faucet aerators, shower heads and toilets, replacement of existing flooring with Green Label Plus recycled-content carpeting with natural rubber padding, bio-based linoleum, and the use of non-toxic paints, adhesives and sealants throughout.

Council Tower residents were excited to showcase the green improvements to their homes and that excitement carried over to a 'Green' informational fair that took place immediately following the grant announcement ceremony. Residents had the opportunity to learn about and sample 'green products' such as environmentally friendly cleaning products and learn about healthy living choices; ways to improve energy efficiency in their homes, and many other green living options available to them.

In Massachusetts, six affordable housing developments, including 797 homes have been awarded more than \$11.5 million to complete energy efficient renovations with Recovery Act funds.

The Green Retrofit Program is designed to create thousands of green jobs as workers retrofit older federally assisted multi-family apartment developments with the next generation of energy efficient technologies. Grants and loans provided through this program help private landlords and property management companies to cut heating and air conditioning costs by installing more efficient heating and cooling systems, and to reduce water use by replacing faucets and toilets. These Recovery Act funds also produce other environmental



HUD Region 1 Administrator Richard Walega (second from left) is joined by Massachusetts Congressman Michael Capuano (left) and Boston Mayor Thomas Menino (right) in presenting a \$2.1 million check to Jamie Seagle, president of Rogerson Communities for a Recovery Act Green Retrofit grant that was awarded to Council Tower senior housing development in Roxbury.



Council Tower residents learn about environmentally friendly cleaning products during a 'green' fair at the Roxbury, Mass. senior housing development. Residents had the opportunity to learn about healthy living choices; ways to improve energy efficiency in their homes, and many other green living options available to them.

benefits by encouraging the use of recycled building materials, reflective roofing, and non-toxic products to reduce potentially harmful 'off-gassing' of harmful fumes. Funds are awarded to owners of HUD-assisted housing projects and can be used for a wide range of retrofit activities, ranging from windows/doors to solar panels and geothermal installation. For more information go to [New England Green Retrofit grants](#).