



## US Department of Housing and Urban Development Region X

### HUD Highlights *E-Newsletter*

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Comments? Please  
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#### Greetings and Happy Holidays from HUD's Regional Office!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of **HUD Highlights**, our new e-newsletter. This e-newsletter is meant to supplement the guidance you currently receive from us, and will contain brief, timely and useful updates about our programs, initiatives, grant opportunities and more, all from a regional perspective. To receive future issues of this e-newsletter, [sign up for our mailing list](#). If you'd prefer not to receive any more issues, do nothing, we won't send you another issue, but we hope you will sign up. We welcome your feedback and ideas, so [tell us](#) how we can make this a valuable resource for you!

**-John Meyers, Regional Director**

#### Reverse Mortgages May Save the Day for Seniors

Do you know someone age 62 or older struggling to make ends meet who owns their home outright, or has a small remaining mortgage balance? A HUD FHA insured reverse mortgage, known as a Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM), might be the answer to their financial woes. Even seniors without financial hardship are increasingly using reverse mortgages as an estate-planning tool. Imagine this! Rather than paying mortgage payments to a lender, the lender will now pay the homeowner - either in monthly installments, a lump sum payment, or a line of credit - and the money can be spent for any purpose. The homeowner continues to own the home, the loan does not have to be repaid for as long as a homeowner lives in the home, and the homeowner can never owe more than the home's value.

[Read more>](#)

#### FHA Zero Down Mortgage Loans for Disaster Victims

HUD's FHA insured loan programs have been helping people achieve the homeownership dream for over 70 years. For those who may have lost their home, either homeowners or renters, who lived in a Presidentially declared disaster area, FHA's Section 203(h) can help. This special loan program has no

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downpayment requirement and can be used to purchase a home anywhere in the United States. FHA's underwriting guidelines, which are generally more lenient than private sector loans, can help many families reestablish their lives. [Read more>](#)

### Manufactured Homes: Saving Money by Saving Energy

A free HUD brochure outlines easy and inexpensive ways to improve the energy efficiency of manufactured homes, especially those more than five years old and drafty. These simple steps will enable homeowners or renters to lower their energy bills, improve their comfort level, and protect the environment. Copies of the guide are available as a [free download](#) or in printed form for a nominal charge by calling 1-800-245-2691 and pressing 1.

### HUD Publications or Data: Just a Click Away

HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research produces a wealth of information available for free on a wide range of housing topics – from technical reports for housing professionals to data sets for researchers. So if you are seeking information on affordable housing research, obtaining guidance for disability discrimination testing, or a comprehensive market analysis of housing trends, [Go to HUD User>](#)

### How HUD's Cutting its \$4 Billion Annual Energy Bill

In any single year, HUD assists more than five million renters and homeowners - approximately five percent of all housing in the nation - through its various programs. HUD spends some \$4 billion each year on energy, more than 10 percent of its budget, primarily through utility allowances to renters, housing assistance payments to private building owners, and operating grants to public housing authorities. Reducing HUD's energy bills by just five percent could yield a savings of \$2 billion over the next 10 years - funds that could be used for additional operating expenditures in public housing or additional vouchers for families. Learn how HUD plans to achieve this goal through its Energy Action Plan. Click here to [Read more>](#)

### Know About Fraud or Waste in HUD-Funded Programs?

Call, fax, or email the Office of the Inspector General Hotline at 1-800-347-3735 between 7:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (Pacific Time), fax 202-708-4829, or [Send email>](#)