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Visit our Homes and Communities website at: www.hud.gov or www.espanol.gov

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Casper Field Office Newsletter



Our office mission

Bringing HUD and Wyoming community resources together to encourage growth and promote opportunities.

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter, produced periodically by the Casper HUD staff. Each issue will feature information about what HUD is doing in our Wyoming communities. It will also list upcoming conferences, training opportunities and special events. It is our hope that this newsletter will help you become aware of HUD programs, activities and resources. We are pleased to share some of our accomplishments during the first quarter of the year. During the month of October the Casper Field Office hosted a reception for the Mexican Consulate from Denver. The Consulate General is responsible for providing services to the Mexican nationals in our surrounding states and the eastern counties of Wyoming. During the reception the Consulate met with representatives of several federal offices on a fact-finding mission to determine how their staff could best serve the Mexican population in our state and to find and promote business opportunities.

Office staff joined the annual Fannie Mae road show held in five Wyoming cities. The training was held in conjunction with Fannie Mae, Rural Development and WCDA. Lenders were provided an opportunity to learn about FHA products and services.

Our office participated in the Disabilities Mega conference and the "Homeless in Hard Times" conferences in Sheridan. We provided informational booths and discussed the Section 202/811

programs, fair housing issues and homeless issues.

During the month of November, our staff took part in a home fair held in Riverton. We had an information booth and one of our staff members spoke on predatory lending. We partnered with several lenders, realtors, housing authorities, non-profit organizations and other federal agencies to provide education and outreach to potential homebuyers who are low-income and minority.

In addition, our office hosted a faith-based & community initiatives grant funding workshop. This workshop provided participants the opportunity to learn more about the grant process, application overviews, grant criteria, grant evaluation, and other available funding resources. It gave organizations the chance to ask questions directly to the granting organizations. This was part two of a grant writing workshop that was held earlier in the year.

In the month of December, we continued to meet with the statewide housing association and the housing counseling task force to discuss housing issues in the state. Our office participates in these monthly meetings. We also hosted some satellite broadcast trainings on HIV prevention, economic development, and accessibility for people with disabilities in public and assisted housing.

Casper HUD Staff:

Chris Stearns, Director

Karen Hawkins, Single Family Housing Program Specialist

Suzanne Olson, Operations Analyst

Maria Rodriguez, Program Assistant

Mary Coleman, Program Assistant



Pictured from left:
Suzanne, Maria, Chris, Mary, Karen

If you are interested in receiving our newsletter electronically, please sign up at our website: <http://www.hud.gov/subscribe/index.cfm>

Fair Housing Month Keepers of the Dream



April 2004 marks the 36th anniversary of the passage of Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, the Fair Housing Law. This act prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, financing of dwellings, and in other housing related transactions on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, and familial status. States and communities throughout the country are celebrating April as Fair Housing Month. In recognition of this historic event and to support fair housing activities, our office is distributing toolkits to the Mayor of Wyoming communities, the Governor and Tribal officials. The toolkits include sample proclamations, press releases, and a list of activities that can be undertaken in support of National Fair Housing Month. Our office will participate in a variety of these community events.



Neighborhood Networks

What is the Neighborhood Networks Initiative? Neighborhood Networks (NN) is a community-based initiative of HUD that encourages the development of community technology centers in privately owned HUD insured and assisted housing. Residents are becoming economically self-sufficient because a Neighborhood Networks center is providing them with access to computer technology, educational programs, job training, health care information, and other social services.

Wyoming has two active Neighborhood Networks centers, Mansface Terrace located in Green River and Golden Manor located in Torrington. The Casper HUD Office is presently working on creating a state-wide partnership with the two current centers and two potential housing entities in Glenrock. This will open the door for future partners wishing to make an investment in their community. For more information contact our office at (888) 245-2994.

FHA Connection Training

HUD will hold an FHA Connection training on March 17 in Casper at the WCDA office, 155 North Beech, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. The FHA Connection is an interactive system that gives approved FHA lenders real-time access to several FHA systems. This training session will include an overview of the various functions of the system such as requesting case numbers, duplicate MIC's, appraiser information, and registering and navigating the system. Through FHA Connection, HUD business partners can send and receive information from our systems. If you are interested in attending, please fax your registration to HUD at (307) 261-6245.

A Neighborhood Networks center delivers technology access to America's communities

www.NeighborhoodNetworks.org



This is an announcement for direct endorsement training to be held in Denver April 27-29. Although this office is hoping to sponsor an in-depth training in the future, this is an opportunity our Wyoming lenders might want to take advantage of. For more information, please check our website at:
www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/events/events.cfm

Environmental & Lead Safe Training

Environmental staff from the Denver Regional HUD Office will be providing environmental training on March 25 at 9:00 a.m. in the Casper Field office. The environmental training will be "hands on" training on conducting the appropriate environmental reviews for all HUD assisted projects, preparing public notices and Requests for Release of Funds.

MasiMax Environmental Health & Safety Services is offering a one day lead-based paint training for renovators and remodelers on May 25th in Casper. This free training program, which meets the HUD-EPA curriculum, is sponsored by the NPCA. There must be at least 25 participants in order to hold this training. Interested parties should contact John Combs of MasiMax at (866) 232-5419 or (571) 203-7766 for more details.