



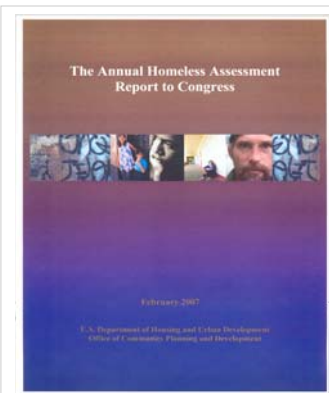
Casper Field Office Newsletter

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
 150 EAST B STREET, ROOM 1010
 CASPER, WY 82601

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Homelessness: Who are the Homeless?



HUD's Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress estimates that 754,000 persons are living in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and on the streets on any given night. Homeless individuals and families are those who are sleeping in places not meant for human habitation, living in overcrowded or substandard conditions or those sleeping in an emergency shelter as a primary nighttime residence. Homelessness is a problem that affects many people in America, including children, veterans, people with mental/physical disabilities, addictions, or domestic violence. Some experience situational homelessness and some

more long-term or chronic homelessness. Along with many other federal agencies, HUD funds programs that help the homeless with shelter, food, counseling and job skills. HUD allocates the federal government's largest amount of targeted homeless assistance under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act through the annual Continuum of Care (CoC) competition and by formula through the Emergency Shelter Grant. Communities also address homeless needs by the use of CDBG, HOME, and HOPWA programs and through our mainstream programs such as Housing Choice Vouchers and the public housing program. These programs help those who would otherwise be on the street. The Wyoming Statewide Homeless Collaborative was formed to develop a statewide continuum of care for homeless services. Estimates by the Wyoming Interagency Council on Homelessness of the number of persons experiencing homelessness in

Wyoming as 487. This year Wyoming received over \$420,000 in funding to support local programs throughout the state and to provide critically needed assistance. Casper will be hosting a region-wide homeless conference to be held May 7-8. Technical Assistance will be provided for the Continuum of Care, homeless service providers, and on the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Examples of Best Practices will also be offered. Information about the training will be available on our local website calendar at a later date.



HUD Director Chris Stearns presents the Wyoming Statewide Housing Collaborative with CoC grant award. (left: Chris, LuAnn Allhusen, Robin Mundell, Denny Royal, Liz Baron, Pam Kazola, Larry Melka, Carma Christensen Harston, Doug Thiede, Arlen Taggart

- 754,000 PERSONS ARE HOMELESS ON ANY GIVEN NIGHT
- HUD ALLOCATES THE LARGEST AMOUNT OF HOMELESS ASSISTANCE
- ESTIMATES OF HOMELESSNESS IN WYOMING IS 487
- WYOMING RECEIVED ALMOST HALF MILLION IN HOMELESS FUNDS
- REGIONWIDE HOMELESS CONFERENCE IN CASPER

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Casper Field Office Newsletter



Casper Office Mission:
Bringing HUD and Wyoming community resources together to encourage growth and promote opportunities.

Casper HUD Staff:

Chris Stearns, Director

Mary Coleman, Program Assistant

Maria Rodriguez, Program Assistant



Left: HUD's Ozzie Moore at the Government Procurement Opportunities for Small Business conference (GRO-Biz)

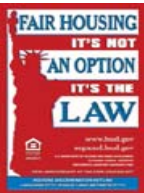
Accomplishments

Welcome to the first issue of our 2007 newsletter. During the month of October, our office Director provided a presentation on FHA products and financing at the Cheyenne Board of Realtors "Everything you want to know about Manufactured & Modular Housing" continuing education class. Staff also attended and provided an information display on the Multi-family 202/811 programs and fair housing accessibility standards at the annual MEGA conference sponsored by the Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities. We attended the Indian Housing Counseling Committee meeting held in Riverton to discuss the 184 loan program. We participated in HUD's Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) homeless training in Cheyenne. Our office attended and provided an informational display at the "Homeless-Improving Outcomes in Your Community" conference in Riverton to discuss poverty and an overview of homeless programs. We also mailed out an Energy toolkit to our mayors, local governments, and Tribal Housing Authorities describing HUD's Energy Plan (see pg 4). During the month of November, staff participated in a Wyoming Inter-agency Council on Homelessness meeting in Chey-

enne to discuss a 10-year plan to end homelessness. Technical assistance was provided by HUD. Our office hosted "Foundations in Environmental Review: NEPA and 24 CFR Part 58" training. The course provided an overview of the National Environmental Policy Act. Among the topics included were energy conservation, flood requirements, air quality, and noise assessments. We attended an annual meeting of the Wyoming Association of Non-Profits (WANO) to hear updates on activities of the association, financial reports etc. During the month of December, staff attended a statewide housing association meeting to discuss housing issues across the state. We also hosted a meeting with faith-based organizations, local social service agencies, and state and federal government agencies to discuss homeless and housing issues. During the month of January, our office director participated in the annual WY Nonprofit Day at the Legislature. Members and partners heard about updates on proposed legislation that affects their organizations and communities. Panel discussions included health care, workforce housing infrastructure, child care and funding for non-profits. Our staff also participated in the "Building

Evaluation Capacity for Nonprofit Organizations" training held in Casper. Training on defining evaluation needs and monitoring performance measures were among the topics covered. Our office facilitated consultations with the City of Casper and the City of Cheyenne to provide them with an opportunity to discuss any concerns with program staff and to encourage more participation from faith based and community groups in their programs. During the month of February our office attended "Roping the Wind", a renewable energy conference. The agenda included technologies in geothermal power and wind turbines. We set up a display and answered questions on HUD's Energy Action Plan. Our local and headquarters staff participated and provided an information booth at the annual GRO-Biz Conference sponsored by the Small Business Administration and various other business entities. The conference provided opportunities to meet with federal and state contracting offices and learn about the government contracting process. We continue to provide support and assistance to our non-profit and community organizations to increase their access to HUD programs.

National Fair Housing Month



This April will be the 39th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings, and in other housing related transactions based on race, color, na-

tional origin, religion, sex, familial status and handicap (disability). Again, in an ongoing effort to pass a fair housing law in the state, a bill was introduced before the current State Legislature session. The bill was assigned to one of the House committees. Unfortunately, the committee did not report the bill out

in time to be considered for further action during this session. This law would have allowed the state to enforce national fair housing standards. In further attempts, staff from Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity spoke to the legislature, governor's staff, and local city governments for a substantially equivalent law.

Fair Housing Conference
April 18-20, 2007
Longmont, CO

The conference provides an opportunity for communities to learn more about current issues affecting housing consumers and providers. Some of the workshops include Predatory Lending, Foreclosure/Consumer Fraud, Disability Discrimination, and developing an Analysis of Impediments for Fair Housing Choice. To register for this free conference log onto: www.dora.state.co.us/pls/real/dora_eventreg.CRFH_07

Appraiser Information

Our office receives quite a few inquiries on the FHA appraiser roster. New applicants and those wanting to renew their status can find useful information on Mortgagee Letter 2006-26. This letter can be found on the following website: www.hudclips.org.

Appraiser Training *7 hrs Continuing Education*

The Casper HUD Office and USDA Rural Development will be providing appraisal training for appraisers. Lenders and Underwriters are highly encouraged to attend. The training will be held

in conjunction with the Wyoming Mortgage Lender Association's Spring meeting on May 3-4. The appraiser training will be May 2. Agenda and registration information will be posted on our local web calendar and mailed out at a later date.

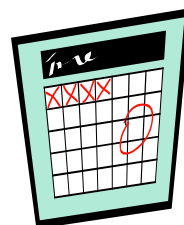


Upcoming Events

Homeless Conference
May 7-8, 2007
Casper

Foundations in Environmental Review: NEPA and 24 CFR Part 58 Training
May 14-15, 2007
HUD will be conducting its semi-annual course to provide an overview of the NEPA and related federal environmental laws. Training will be at the Casper HUD Office. Register by April 20 at the following website: www.hud.gov/event_registration/index_2.cfm?eventID=475

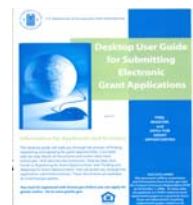
State Housing Conference



May 30 - June 1, 2007
Sheridan, Wyoming

SuperNOFA 2007

HUD announces \$2.4 billion available through 38 grant programs. Tentative webcast schedule is posted on HUD's website.



You must be registered with Grants.gov before you can apply for grants online.

Phone: (307) 261-6250
 Toll Free: 1-888-245-2994
 www.hud.gov/wyoming

Promoting Energy Efficiency and Conservation - HUD Energy Action Plan

Energy efficient measures
 Five key factors:

- Rising energy costs;
- Age of existing inventory of public and assisted housing;
- The disproportionate burden of rising energy prices on low- and moderate-income families;
- The impact of energy costs on HUD's own budget and;
- New opportunities for increasing energy efficiency in public housing through asset management

Americans spend some \$160 billion each year to light, cool, and heat their homes. Of that amount, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) spends approximately \$4 billion – more than 10 percent of its budget – in the form of utility allowances to renters, through section 8 contracts in privately owned multifamily buildings or through operating grants to public housing agencies.

A Department-wide Energy Task Force has worked to identify strategies that HUD will take to promote energy efficiency in public and assisted housing and in housing financed through HUD's formula and competitive grant programs. The result is an 'Energy Strategy outlining five primary objectives:

1. To strengthen partnerships with federal agencies and local communities to promote adoption of the Energy Star label for products, appliances, and new homes.
2. To strengthen incentives and implement statutory requirements for energy efficiency.
3. To provide training, technical assistance, and information for homeowners, renters, and property owners.
4. To establish measures to track progress in reducing energy consumption and to ensure accountability.
5. To support further policy analysis, research, and technology development.

According to the Energy Information Administration, over the past 5 years the cost of home heating has more than doubled in some parts of the country. Nationally, the average household paid an average of \$257 more last winter for heating homes than they did the year before. Low- and moderate-income families are especially vulnerable to rising energy prices. Many working households accommodate large increases in energy by cutting back on other needs.

Each of us can make an effort to reduce our energy costs. Replace light bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFL), choose appliances with the Energy star rating, and consider an Energy Star qualified new home. For additional information on Energy Star, go to: www.energystar.gov

