

Newsletter

November 2011

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Housing Fact of the Month

New Jersey's landscape has dramatically changed in the past decade: 243,000 housing units have been added; New Jersey's population has grown by 377,000; and over 30 percent of New Jersey's 5 million acres have become suburbanized. Meanwhile, our cities have continued to lose population.

Going Green! Blog



Did you know we have a site where you can get the latest on green building? Check out our Going Green! which assists CDCs in all the various aspects of green construction and energy efficiency. We encourage you to not only use the blog as a source of information but also a place to share your thoughts and ideas. Is your organization working on a green project? Go to Going Green! and tell us about it! Feel free to share any photos or videos of your green projects. Please make sure to include your organization's name, location, and contact information. Check it out at:

www.hcdnnjgoinggreen.blogspot.com.

HUD HOME Investment Partnership Program Sees Deep Cuts

The Network joined forces with MEND and Homeless Solutions at two separate events promoting the achievements made in Burlington and Morris Counties respectively, thanks to HUD's HOME Investment Partnership Program.

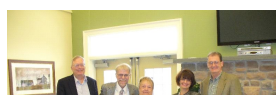
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has been targeted by Congress for cuts in its HOME event with Homeless Solutions in Morris Twp.



its appropriations discussions. HOME is one of several programs vulnerable under the proposed budget cuts. In the last fiscal year, HOME faced cuts from \$1.82 billion to \$1.6 billion.

For the past 20 years, HOME has provided formula grants to states and localities that communities use, often in partnership with local nonprofit groups. These grants fund a wide range of activities that build, buy, and/or rehabilitate affordable homes for rent or homeownership or provide direct rental assistance to low-income people. The program has brought in close to \$40 million statewide this year to eligible jurisdictions such as the Department of Community Affairs, counties and some municipalities.

"Now, more than ever, the HOME program is a strategic and valuable investment in our communities," said Elizabeth Hall, president/CEO of Homeless Solutions, Inc. "As households struggle with housing affordability, HOME funds can increase the supply of safe, decent housing for working families. As we know firsthand at HSI, the lack of affordable housing is a major cause of homelessness. Addressing homelessness has a much greater cost to taxpayers and society than an up-front investment in long-term permanent housing."



"Federal HOME funding



via Burlington County has been an indispensable

HOME event with MEND.

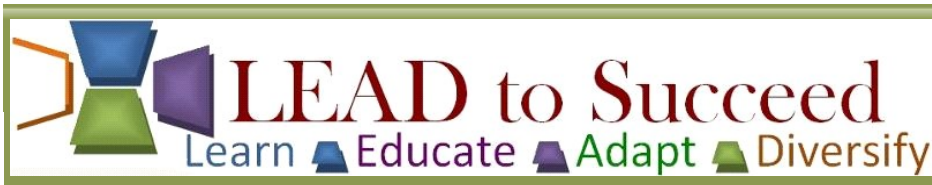
part of MEND's ability to expand our affordable housing portfolio in the region," said Matt Reilly, president/CEO of MEND.

Read coverage of the Morris event [here](#) and watch video from the Medford event [here](#). Click [here](#) to read about recently announced changes to the HOME program from HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan.

UPDATE: THE HOUSE AND SENATE REACHED AN AGREEMENT ON NOVEMBER 14 TO CUT HOME FUNDING BY 38 PERCENT.



HUD HOME Program Cuts in Morris



Semi-Annual Membership Meeting

The Network's semi-annual Board and Membership Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at the Trenton Marriott Downtown**. Our theme this year is "LEAD to Succeed."

Come hear creative strategies that experts and peers are using to confront today's challenges in the affordable housing industry. Learn about proven approaches and best practices. Bring your questions and ideas. Specific agenda to follow. If registering multiple individuals, please complete a separate form per person. Space is limited so make sure to register [here](#) today!

AGENDA

9am -- 10am Registration, Networking and Continental Breakfast

10am -- 11am Business Session

- Welcome
- 2011 Highlights
- Award Presentations
- 2012 Program Plan and Budget Adoption
- Elections

11am -- 12:15pm Session One: Leading through Challenging Times

12:30pm -- 1:15pm Networking Lunch & Speaker (TBD)

1:30 - 2:45pm Session Two: Adapting Strategies for Restoring Cities & Neighborhoods

If you have any questions, please contact Chasity Davis at (609) 393-3752 ext. 37 or at cdavis@hcdnj.org.

The Housing and Community Development Network's Semi-Annual Meeting is being made possible with the support of:

NeighborWorks Achieving Excellence in Community Development Accepting Applications

Applications are now being accepted for the prestigious [NeighborWorks Achieving Excellence in Community Development](#) program. This organizational transformation program has proven to be one of the most innovative and high-impact professional development venues for nonprofits working to benefit their communities. Applications will be accepted through March 15, 2012, and the first session of the program will be held at Harvard University in fall 2012. For additional information, visit www.nw.org/ae or contact Christina Deady, director, Leadership and Workforce Development Programs, at cdeady@nw.org.

Cities in Action...Prevailing Over Problem Properties

Each month, the Network will highlight a city in New Jersey that is taking steps to revitalize their community by tackling the problem of vacant properties. Last month we showed you what the [City of Irvington](#) was doing and this month we bring you an update from the **City of Bridgeton**. Watch as Darlene Carter-Bunting, grant/senior loan advisor for the city's Office of Community Development, explains what Bridgeton has done to tackle problem properties.



City of Bridgeton on Abandoned Properties

Network Training Schedule

To register for these sessions, please call Chasity Davis at (609) 393-3752, or register online [here](#). Please direct your questions to Leonard Robbins at lrobbins@hcdnnj.org or 973-286-0086.

Financing Your Renewable Energy Project, December 15, Webinar

Congress has provided a number of Federal subsidies in support of our national energy and environmental policies, including the Production Tax Credit, Investment Tax Credit and the 1603 Grant in Lieu of Tax Credits. A number of states have similar incentives. NDC recognized that these can be used as resources for community development as well as for energy and environmental goals. We have developed creative financing for community development projects that incorporate renewable energy facilities, taking full advantage of all available financing tools. This three-hour online session covers: 1) Financing tools, both Federal and state 2) Deal structuring 3) Long-term project benefits of renewable energy. **Erin O'Neill, National Development Council Fee: None.**



Federal Policy Watch

FHFA Announces Modifications to the HARP Program

On Oct. 24, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), in conjunction with Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, announced changes to the Home Affordable Refinance Program (HARP) which are meant to expand the pool of eligible borrowers who can benefit from refinancing 'underwater' mortgages [here](#).

Membership Notes

Member Spotlights

Fair Share Housing Center will host their annual holiday party on December 7 in Westmont. The event is open to all and to learn more or to donate, [click here](#). The **Coalition for Affordable Housing and the Environment (CAHE)** would also like to invite all Network members to its 2011 annual membership meeting which will be held on November 29. To learn more about the event, including featured guest and speakers, [click here](#). Congratulations to the **Jewish Community Housing Corporation of Metropolitan New Jersey (JCHC)**, which has received national recognition for three of its properties; each being named a Community of Quality™ by the National Affordable Housing Management Association (NAHMA) for outstanding management. The Network also offers congratulations to **NewBridge Services** which has achieved its 2006 goal of providing 100 units of affordable housing throughout the Garden State. Quite an achievement!

If you have a project or accomplishment you would like to share with the Network and you're a member in good standing, please contact Nina Arce at narce@hcdnnj.org to be featured in our next newsletter.

Media Watch & TA Alerts

If you're interested in receiving a listing of daily news articles highlighting members of the Network and issues relating to housing and community development, sign up for our Media Watch. Links to news articles are accompanied by a brief summary so you can determine which articles are of interest to you. **Please note, this service is only available to dues paying members.** If you'd like to be added to the Media Watch distribution list, send an e-mail to Nina Arce at narce@hcdnnj.org with the subject line, "Opt-in to Media Watch."

You can also sign up for electronic TA Alerts which feature funding sources, workshops, and TA updates. If you wish to be added to the TA Alert distribution list, e-mail Nina Arce at narce@hcdnnj.org with the subject line, "Opt-in to TA Alerts."

Housing in the News

Foreclosure backlogs could take decades to clear out

(USA Today, Nov. 9, 2011)

Foreclosure sales are moving so slowly in half the states that at the current pace, it will take more than eight years on average to clear the 2.1 million homes in foreclosure or with seriously delinquent mortgages, new research shows.

<http://usat.ly/tl7KbJ>

Christie's campaign promises to cities go largely unfulfilled

(Philadelphia Inquirer, Oct. 24, 2011)

As a conservative candidate for governor, Chris Christie visited New Jersey's deeply liberal and severely impoverished urban areas. He filmed a campaign ad at Camden's infamous Tent City homeless encampment. And he released a list of 11 policy promises for "bringing back New Jersey's cities." But nearly two years into his term, the Republican governor has fulfilled only one of those promises and has not publicly prioritized the others.

<http://bit.ly/tplL1b>

Condo nation: Why so few Americans are buying homes

(USA Today, Oct. 22, 2011)

Construction of multifamily homes such as condominiums and apartment buildings surged a whopping 51 percent in September as demand for rentals continued to climb, according to the Commerce Department. "People are moving out of Mom and Dad's basement finally, but they are renting or buying apartments rather than homes," said Jeffrey Greenberg, an economist with Nomura Securities International. "You have to assume another three to five years before the whole housing market recovers because of the enormous foreclosure overhang."

<http://usat.ly/rK2eyp>

Funding/Award Opportunities

Make sure to follow us on twitter at www.twitter.com/hcdnnj, to get all the latest funding opportunities!

Federal Grants:

[H-1B Technical Skills Training Funds for Employers](#)

Department of Labor

The H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants Program provides support for the provision of education, training, and job placement assistance in the occupations and industries for which employers are using H-1B visas to hire foreign workers, and the related activities necessary to support such training. On-the-job training projects serving all participants and those that use other training strategies are eligible for support, including training for occupations in the health care industry and training designed to serve long-term unemployed individuals. **Deadline: November**

17, 2011.

[EPA Guidelines for FY2012 Brownfield Grants](#)

These grants may be used to address sites contaminated by petroleum and hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum). Opportunities for funding are as follows: Brownfields Assessment Grants (each funded up to \$200,000 over three years; coalitions are funded up to \$1,000,000 over three years), Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grants (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) and Brownfields Cleanup Grants (each funded up to \$200,000 over three years). **The proposal deadline is November 28, 2011.**

[Emergency Capital Repair Grant Program](#)

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Funds emergency capital repairs for eligible multifamily projects owned by private nonprofit entities that are designated for occupancy by elderly tenants. **Closing date: November 29, 2011.**

[Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants](#)

Forest Service and Department of Agriculture

The National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost Share Grant Program provides support for innovative urban and community forestry projects of national or multi-state impact working to ensure more livable communities by caring for trees and forests where people live, work, and play. Preference will be given to program development, research, and collaborative efforts that address the following priority issues: how management of urban and community forests can help mitigate greenhouse gas emissions or help communities adapt to climate change, the influence of urban and community forests upon public health, and urban and community forestry as economic development. **Deadline: December 1, 2011.**

[Tenant Outreach and Organizing Activities in At-Risk Communities Funded](#)

Department of Housing and Urban Development

The Tenant Resource Network Program provides support for tenant outreach and organizing activities on identified properties at high risk of losing their project-based rental assistance or where tenants' access to rental subsidy may be at risk. Proposed activities will be designed to empower tenants of eligible project-based Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment properties by assisting and educating them regarding their rights, responsibilities, and options, and to engage them in the preservation of HUD-assisted affordable housing. Priority will be given to targeted metropolitan areas with the largest number of eligible units. Additional funds may be provided for activities in those communities that are disproportionately impacted by the potential loss of assisted housing. **Deadline: December 6, 2011.**

[AmeriCorps State and National Planning Projects Funded](#)

Corporation for National and Community Service

The AmeriCorps State and National Planning Grants provide support for the development of AmeriCorps programs that will engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based interventions to solve community problems. Proposed national service program plans will address the following areas of focus: improve academic outcomes for children, youth, and young adults; serve veterans and military families or engage veterans in service; and increase community resiliency through disaster preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation. **The letter of intent deadline is December 15, 2011. The application deadline is January 18, 2012.**

[FY 2011 Planning and Local Technical Assistance Programs Opportunity](#)

Department of Commerce

Economic Development Administration Planning Program provides assistance to eligible recipients to create regional economic development plans in order to stimulate and guide the economic development efforts of a community or region. Local Technical Assistance Program helps eligible recipients fill the knowledge and information gaps that may prevent leaders in the public and nonprofit sectors in economically distressed regions from making optimal decisions on local economic development issues. Applications are accepted on a continuing basis.

Foundation Grants:

[Planning Grants for Service Activities](#)

MLK Day Lead Organizers Program

The goal of the MLK Day Lead Organizers Program, administered by Youth Service America (YSA), is to engage youth and adult volunteers on Martin Luther King Day of Service. The program encourages families to serve together to address some of the nation's most pressing issues, such as education, health, environment, economic opportunity, and disaster relief. Sixteen \$4,000 planning grants will be provided to nonprofit organizations and school/school districts that have existing partnerships in the community and the ability to engage 3,000 people (including 1,000 youth) in service activities. The program is open to organizations in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, with emphasis on selected metropolitan areas. At least four grants are reserved for K-12 public schools near military bases that serve a large percentage of students

from military families. **Deadline is November 18, 2011.**

[Youth Garden Projects Funded](#)

National Gardening Association: Youth Garden Grants

The National Gardening Association (NGA), with support from The Home Depot, will award Youth Garden Grants to 100 schools and community organizations throughout the U.S. with child-centered garden programs. Priority will be given to programs that emphasize one or more of these elements: educational focus or curricular/program integration; nutrition or plant-to-food connections; environmental awareness/education; entrepreneurship; and social aspects of gardening such as leadership development, team building, community support, or service-learning. Applicant schools and organizations must plan to garden with at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18. Five programs will receive gift cards valued at \$1,000 (a \$500 gift card to The Home Depot and a \$500 gift card to the Gardening with Kids catalog); 95 programs will receive a \$500 gift card to The Home Depot. All winners will receive educational materials from NGA.

Deadline: November 28, 2011.

[National ARAMARK Building Community Innovation Awards for Workforce Readiness Programs](#)

ARAMARK

ARAMARK Building Community is ARAMARK's signature philanthropic and volunteer program designed to enrich the lives of disadvantaged families by strengthening the capacity of community centers to engage residents and community leaders to create neighborhood change and lasting opportunity for residents. The ARAMARK Building Community Innovation Awards will present a total of \$100,000 in 2012 to community centers showing innovation in workforce readiness programs, and will provide selected organizations with a platform to share best practices as well as replicate and scale programs that are successful at putting people back in the workforce. The Peter B. Goldberg ARAMARK Building Community Executive Leadership Award will honor a local executive director and support their community center with a \$40,000 grant. **Deadline:**

November 30, 2011.

ARAMARK

Three \$20,000 programmatic grants will recognize excellence in workforce readiness - preparing people for, and connecting them to jobs - and will support future program execution in the following categories: preparation for growth industries; skills training for targeted populations; and business ventures as training ground. Members of the United Neighborhood Centers of America and the Alliance for Children and Families may apply for the workforce program innovation awards. Only one program per organization per year will be considered for a programmatic award. A program must have taken place during 2011 but may be a year-long and/or a seasonal module; it must be scheduled to recur in 2012. **Deadline: January 12, 2012.**

[Local Programs in Company Communities Supported](#)

Walmart Local Community Contribution Program

The Walmart Local Community Contribution Program provides support to local nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and K-12 schools and higher education institutions located in communities with Walmart Stores, Logistics Facilities, or Sam's Clubs. Churches and other faith-based organizations with projects that address the needs of the community at large are also eligible for support. Applying organizations must address one of the following focus areas: education, workforce development/economic opportunity, health and wellness, environmental sustainability, or hunger relief. Grants generally range from \$250 to \$5,000. **Applications are accepted from February 1 through December 1, annually.**

[Professional Expertise for Cities Worldwide](#)

IBM Smarter Cities Challenge

The Smarter Cities Challenge is a three-year IBM Corporate Citizenship initiative to enable up to 100 cities around the world to become smarter by enhancing their capacity to address some of the critical challenges facing urban areas today. Each city participating in the Challenge will receive the time and expertise of IBM top experts from different business units and geographies. For three weeks these experts will work closely with city leaders and deliver recommendations on how to make the city smarter and more effective. **Deadline: December 16, 2011.**

[School Gardens in the U.S., Canada, and U.K. Funded](#)

Whole Kids Foundation: School Garden Grants

The mission of the Whole Kids Foundation is to improve children's nutrition and wellness with the goal of ending the childhood obesity epidemic. The Foundation's School Garden Grants are provided to K-12 schools and nonprofit organizations in the U.S., Canada, and the United Kingdom that are developing or currently maintaining a school garden project that will help children engage with fresh fruits and vegetables. Grants of \$2,000 are provided for garden projects at any stage of development - planning, construction, or operation. **Deadline: December 31, 2011.**

Click [here](#) for more funding opportunities.

Events/Workshops

13th Annual Supportive Housing Conference, December 2, Edison
The Corporation for Supportive Housing - New Jersey & The Supportive Housing Association of New Jersey are proud to host the 13th Annual Supportive Housing Conference "Making Choice Happen." Click [here](#) to learn more or to register.

Partnering with Another Agency: Fiscal Sponsorship Arrangements,
December 1, Teleconference

Yes, it's true: new organizations can benefit from tax-deductible donations without having to apply for tax-exemption! In a fiscal sponsorship arrangement, a sponsoring 501(c)(3) organization can accept tax-deductible donations on behalf of a new program. But, this arrangement has to be done very carefully. This new program will address all aspects of the fiscal sponsorship arrangement, and is intended both for organizations looking to be sponsored and organizations looking to offer sponsorship service. Speakers will include representatives from a sponsored project and from a fiscal sponsor, so you will hear plenty of real life tales of sponsorship in action! Click [here](#) to register.

The Public Finance Crisis: Can Philanthropy Shoulder the Burden?,
December 2, webinar

Bank of America hosts this webinar that will analyze the data and present the depth of the budget crises for different states. It will also analyze the impact of state finance cutbacks on the nonprofit sector; discuss whether, and if so how, private philanthropy can bridge the funding gap; present strategies to help nonprofits manage through the current crisis and be prepared for the next economic downturn; and discuss how nonprofits can be constantly aware of shifting economic conditions and be flexible and ready to adapt to these changes. Click [here](#) to register or to learn more.

Training Opportunities/Resources

Neighborhoods, Obesity, and Diabetes - A Randomized Social Experiment

Many observational studies have shown that neighborhood attributes such as poverty and racial segregation are associated with increased risks of obesity and diabetes, even after adjustment for observed individual and family-related factors. In response, the U.S. surgeon general has called for efforts to "create neighborhood communities that are focused on healthy nutrition and regular physical activity, where the healthiest choices are accessible for all citizens. Read the rest of the article from The New England Journal of Medicine [here](#).

Help Wanted: Low-Income Young Adults for Corporate Careers

Have you heard about Year Up? It's a national nonprofit with a lofty mission -- "to close the opportunity divide." Year Up helps thousands of young urban adults around the country achieve that goal by paying them to participate in intensive year-long preparation for careers in the corporate world. Headed by corporate mogul Gerald Chertavian, Year Up connects young adults from disadvantaged backgrounds to Fortune 1000 corporations like LinkedIn, JPMorgan Chase and Coca Cola. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Moving to Opportunity for Fair Housing Demonstration Program: Final Impacts Evaluation

HUD has just released the final evaluation of its [Moving to Opportunity \(MTO\) demonstration program](#). Initiated almost 20 years ago, this demonstration used random assignment to learn how neighborhoods affect families. HUD was tasked by Congress to look at how the opportunity for public housing residents living in high-poverty neighborhoods to move to lower poverty neighborhoods affected their housing, employment, income, and educational outcomes. Read the full report [here](#).

NLIHC Housing Spotlight: Renters' Growing Pain

Housing Spotlight is a new series of research briefs from the National Low Income Housing Coalition that will use data from different sources to highlight a variety of housing issues. In this first issue of Housing Spotlight, data from the recently released 2010 American Community Survey (ACS) are used to examine the housing problems facing renters in America and how those problems have grown since the beginning of the great recession. Click [here](#) to read more.

PSEG Offers Assistance to Non-Profits Providing Emergency Service to Community Members Impacted by 10/29 Storm

PSEG is offering to provide assistance to non-profits serving a community significantly impacted by the recent Halloween storm. Most of PSEG customers have been restored, but PSEG understands that the impact of the storm may linger for many in our community

They are offering mini-grants to non-profits ranging from \$500-1,500 depending on the number of impacted community members. Some non-profits have organized a community meal at emergency shelters, others provided grocery gift cards to their clients to restock after food spoilage or in the case of group homes they used it to restock the fridge directly.

Any non-profit in PSEG territory is eligible, but the geographic focus is the northern counties most impacted by the storm - Bergen, Essex, Union. To request funds send Shauwea Hamilton an email at Shauwea.Hamilton@pseg.com with a summary of your organization, a description of the population you serve, the number of impacted clients, and what you intend to do with the resources along with a copy of your 501c3 certificate. If you have questions, call Shauwea at 973-430-7053.

Employment Opportunities

Diocesan Housing Services Corporation of the Diocese of Camden

Senior Staff Accountant

The Diocesan Housing Services Corporation seeks a Senior Staff Accountant in its offices in Camden. The Senior Staff Accountant reports to the Assistant Controller. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, general ledger accountability, and financial reporting, as well as financial profitability analysis and other special projects as assigned for mixed funded housing projects. Please send resume to Katherine.boyer@camdendiocese.org or fax to 856-342-4172. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Staci Berger
Housing & Community Development Network of NJ

[Forward email](#)



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