



Federal Budget News

The Trump Administration's proposed federal budget has received a lot of coverage in recent weeks, although many of the budget details have not received scrutiny.

The budget proposes significant cuts to HUD's budget, however other budget proposals will have an impact on community development issues in rural New York. For instance, one of the agencies lined out of the budget is the Appalachian Regional Commission. A number of counties in New York's Southern Tier are included within the boundaries of the ARC, and funding from that agency supports a variety of community development programs operated by nonprofits in the region.

Another agency at risk is the Corporation for National and Community Service, which manages the Americorps and VISTA programs. De-funding the VISTA program will have a significant impact on rural housing, as the Coalition was just approved this past winter to oversee a VISTA program in partnership with 9 Rural Preservation Companies scattered all across the state. The Coalition will also host a VISTA Leader in our office as part of this program. We are very concerned about the potential loss of this program, as it brings new staff

to agencies that plan to use the skills of these volunteers in very creative ways to increase housing options for residents of rural New York.

The Legal Services Corporation also faces de-funding. In the face of heavy ongoing foreclosure case-loads in upstate New York, potential cuts to the many legal services agencies that partner with our HUD housing counseling agencies and foreclosure prevention services is a major concern.

The US Interagency Council on Homelessness will have its funding eliminated in this budget proposal. USICH coordinates programmatic services to address the root causes of homelessness amongst our most vulnerable populations. Homelessness has grown since the great recession, suggesting that the timing on eliminating this agency is questionable.

The de-funding of the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation will directly impact at least 6 Rural Preservation Companies that access training and development capital through their affiliation with NeighborWorks.

The actual budget document can be found at www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BUDGET-2018-BLUEPRINT/pdf/BUDGET-2018-BLUEPRINT.pdf.

The proposed budget for the De-

partment of Housing and Urban Development eliminates the CDBG program, stating that it has not demonstrated results. Many rural communities in New York can easily counter that argument, as CDBG funds have been used to transform some of our poorest communities. Similarly, the budget proposal eliminates the HOME program, as well as the SHOP program. The only bright spot is a \$20 million increase in lead-safe home funding over current year funding levels.

At the Department of Agriculture, the proposed budget eliminates funding for water and waste water loans and grants, suggesting that

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RD Rural Delivery

Rural Delivery is published by the New York State Rural Housing Coalition, Inc. The Coalition is a non-profit statewide membership organization dedicated to strengthening and revitalizing rural New York by assisting housing and community development providers.

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Rural Delivery is published monthly and delivered electronically to a mailing list of 200 community development professionals and policy makers.

For information on advertising in Rural Delivery and to receive a copy of our advertising rate sheet, please contact the Coalition at: 79 North Pearl Street, Albany, New York 12207
Tel: 518/458-8696 * Fax: 518/458-8896

Web Site: www.ruralhousing.org



Bits and Pieces...

Online Grantwriting Course

NeighborWorks has scheduled an online faculty-led training on Grantwriting to be held from May 31st to June 27th. Grant Proposal Writing (ML173vc)* will guide participants through the 4-R proposal development process; highlighting the different roles of a grant writer, strategies for writing each section of a winning proposal, sources for seeking grant opportunities and the various relationships essential to winning grants. Tuition is \$395. To register, visit: https://trainingevents.nw.org/OnlineReg/Login/Login.aspx?utm_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm_campaign=Now_open_CB277vc_and_ML173vc&utm_medium=email.

*Given its basic nature, this course is not recommended for individuals with significant experience in writing proposals.

Public Auction Of Storm Damaged Homes

The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery will hold a public auction of single family homes damaged in Hurricane Sandy and Irene, and Tropical Storm Lee on May 11th. 25 of the homes available are on Long Island, and 3 of them are in Tioga and Schoharie Counties.

To review the details of the sale, and the link to the property addresses, visit: www.nyshcr.org/aboutus/notices/TEFRANotice170421.pdf.

May Is Preservation Month!

National Preservation Month is upon us. If you have preserved the historic character of a building or neighborhood through your community revitalization work, make sure to use the #ThisPlaceMatters hashtag to celebrate your accomplishments. Thousands of people participate annually in Preservation Month celebrations. Many events are planned to promote historic places for the purpose of instilling national and community pride, promoting heritage tourism, and showing the social and economic benefits of historic preservation.

Federal and US military employees can support the Rural Housing Coalition through the annual Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). If you are a federal government or military employee and would like to donate through the CFC, please enter CFC code #9614 on your pledge card during the next fund drive.

Joint Proposal Sent To Banking Committee

The National Alliance to End Homelessness, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and the National Low Income Housing Coalition submitted a proposal to the Senate Banking Committee on April 14th. The Proposal To Foster Economic Growth makes policy recommendations for rental assistance, emergency assistance, and capital for the development and preservation of affordable rental housing.

The proposal notes that affordable homes are essential for American families to participate fully in the economy and contribute to economic growth and prosperity. Affordable homes also support children's health and education in ways that increase their chances of economic success as adults.

The proposal calls for 1.5 million new housing choice vouchers. 1 million of the vouchers will be used to house homeless and at-risk families, while the remaining 500,000 vouchers will be new opportunity vouchers to help poor families live in safe neighborhoods with access to good schools, jobs, healthcare and transit. The proposal also suggests a project based renters tax credit for the lowest income families to complement the Low Income Housing Tax Credit. This new credit would allow states to allocate a capped amount of credits for renewable periods of up to 15 years to push rents down to levels that poor families can actually pay. Each state's share of the new credits would be set based on population, with a minimum allocation for small states.

The joint proposal can be reviewed in full at: <http://bit.ly/2pgKvZP>.

Meetings Explore Energy Issues Affecting Low-Income Communities

The New York State Public Service Commission and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, in cooperation with the Low-Income Forum on Energy (LIFE) Steering Committee, have announced an upcoming series of meetings across the State. The seven LIFE regional meetings, which are open to the public, are intended for organizations that provide services to low-income residents.

The meetings will provide an opportunity for frontline workers, community-based organizations, advocates and policymakers to meet and network with those who share the same commitment to helping low-income energy customers. Among the topics to be addressed are the challenges and opportunities facing low-income consumers seeking safe, reliable and affordable energy. The meetings will also provide updates and information on initiatives, best practices, consumer protections and emerging issues relating to energy affordability and clean energy in low-income communities.

The LIFE Regional meetings scheduled include:

- May 1st - Queens
- May 2nd - Long Island - Melville
- May 10th - Buffalo
- May 11th - Corning
- May 16th - Watertown
- May 17th - Poughkeepsie
- May 23rd - Saratoga Springs

More information on the meetings, including time and location, can be found at <http://events.lifenys.org/registration.php>.

Green Bank Finances Energy-Efficiency In Multi-family Buildings

NY Green Bank has issued two new open solicitations to further diversify its portfolio that will streamline the process for project financing for 1) energy efficiency in commercial and multi-family properties, and 2) provide affordable finance for ground-mounted solar PV installations where the power is sold to corporate and industrial end users. NY Green Bank is a \$1 billion State-sponsored finance entity supporting clean energy development in New York.

The first solicitation is aimed at enabling commercial real estate and multi-family property owners to finance the installation of solar PV systems and/or energy efficiency improvements where they seek to directly own such improvements, rather than with a third-party owner of the assets. NY Green Bank seeks to accelerate finance ability and deployment in this market by providing a public set of terms under which financing would be considered.

NY Green Bank is a division of NYSEERDA. All of NY Green Bank's investments and activities support the Governor's Clean Energy Standard, which requires that 50 percent of the State's electricity come from renewable sources by 2030. Electronic proposal submission is required. The RFP will remain open and proposals are evaluated on an ongoing basis. The purpose of an ongoing RFP process is to ensure all potential clients and counterparties have an opportunity to propose financing arrangements. For more information, visit: <https://greenbank.ny.gov/Working-with-Us/Propose-an-Investment/RFP8>.

2017 AHP Round Announced By Federal Home Loan Bank Of NY

The Federal Home Loan Bank of New York (FHLB NY) is pleased to announce the commencement of the Affordable Housing Program (AHP) 2017 Competitive Round. This round will consist of approximately \$33.2 million in available housing grants. The 2017 AHP competitive electronic application form and supporting materials have been published at www.fhlbny.com/ahp.

Applications may be submitted via FHLB NY's Secure File Transfer Protocol by Member Institutions that have been issued User IDs. If you have not been issued a User ID and would like to submit applications via SFTP, please email ahp@fhlbny.com. All applications to the 2017 AHP offering must be submitted either electronically using the SFTP, or on a USB Flash Drive to be delivered to FHLB NY's office or postmarked no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, June 9, 2017. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted. Sponsors should allow ample time for Member Institutions to review application packages prior to their submission to FHLB NY.

AHP funds are awarded to Members who submit applications on behalf of project sponsors who are planning to purchase, rehabilitate, or construct affordable homes or apartments (owner-occupied or rental units). Funds are awarded through an annual competitive process, with final award announcements being made prior to year-end. Details of the competitive process can be found at <http://www.fhlbny.com/ahp>. Only Member institutions of the FHLB NY are allowed to submit applications. All affordable housing project sponsor organizations and housing developers who

are interested in applying for AHP funds are urged to contact one of the Members listed on the website: www.fhlbny.com/members/membership-list.aspx.

The following are key changes made to the AHP scoring categories for the 2017 Round:

- Empowerment Activities – Activities are no longer required to be offered on-site; rather they must be project specific and offered to all of the tenants.
- Preservation of Existing Units – In instances where there is a proposed decrease to the housing stock of an occupied building, there must be a clear demonstration that the rehabilitation of the project will help stabilize the physical and financial condition of the property and very-low, low-, and moderate-income tenants will not be permanently displaced.
- Homeless Household - The AHP's definition for "homeless household" has been updated to address various scenarios whereby an individual or family may be subject to an inadequate nighttime residence.

A complete detail of the AHP application process is outlined in the FHLB NY's 2017 AHP Implementation Plan, which is accessible at www.fhlbny.com/forms/ahp_100.pdf. Please review the Implementation Plan for the AHP eligibility requirements; projects that do not satisfy these requirements will be eliminated from consideration. The FHLB NY reserves the right to revise and update these requirements as necessary. Please be sure to monitor the website for any amendments to the 2017 AHP Implementation Plan or other guideline documents.

Project sponsors may submit an unlimited number of AHP applica-

tions, through a FHLB NY Member institution, subject to established Maximum Subsidy Limits at the individual project level (i.e., the lesser of \$30,000 per unit for an individual project or 10% of the initial Round allocation for an individual project). Failure to submit all mandatory supporting documentation may result in a loss of points or, in some cases, elimination from the AHP Application process. The Member and the project sponsor should review the application thoroughly for completeness, accuracy and consistency. The FHLB NY cannot be held responsible for omissions or errors made during the completion of the application. FHLB NY will directly contact Members, sponsors, or consultants for additional information if additional clarification is justified.

Prior to the completion and submission of the application, it is recommended that you review the series of informational tutorials available on the FHLB NY's YouTube channel:

- Overview of the Application Process: <https://youtu.be/yYI7K132jSY>
- Overview of the AHP Application Form: <https://youtu.be/Q2Gl-HxOo2w4>
- Overview of the AHP Rental/Owner-Occupied Project Workbooks:
 - Rental Application Workbook - <https://youtu.be/xmdJOLw84OA>
 - Owner Occupied Application Workbook - <https://youtu.be/Uv-lTUL9WNTs>

If you need further assistance in developing an AHP application or information regarding the FHLB NY's Community Investment Programs and Services, feel free to contact FHLB staff at ahp@fhlbny.com or review program details in the 2017 AHP Implementation Plan.

Associate Executive Director of Programs

The Albany Damien Center seeks an Associate Executive Director of programs. This position provides oversight for all Damien Center programs and back-up and support to the Executive Director. In conjunction with the Executive Director, work to grow and strengthen Damien Center's programs and services using a trauma-informed service delivery, harm reduction, and housing-first model.

Minimum qualifications include Bachelor's degree; Masters preferred in a health or human services field and 4 - 7 years program management, staff supervision, and federal/state/foundation grant delivery, reporting, and financial management experience in a not-for-profit setting utilizing trauma-informed, harm reduction, and housing-first service delivery models.

To review the complete job description, visit www.indeed.com/viewjob?from=appsharedroid&jk=26226039e81e72bb. EOE

Rehab Specialist

Community Land Trust of Schenectady, Inc. is looking for a Housing Rehab Specialist to fill a spot that will soon be vacant. Please send inquires to Beverly Burnett at BBurnett@cltofschdy.org. A complete job description will be e-mailed to all inquiries with further information on how to apply, if still interested. An employee in this position is responsible for the coordination of housing repairs. Duties include the preparation of technical specifications and scopes of work necessary to accomplish moderate to major repairs under a variety of housing rehabilitation programs. Work is reviewed by administrative superior for accuracy and adherence to established procedures and quality of service provided. Knowledge of modern building construction and rehabilitation principles, practices and materials. Knowledge of building codes, construction practices and techniques. Ability to create accurate work orders, cost estimates and schedules. Ability to evaluate various repair techniques and cost saving alternatives. Ability to perform field inspections which include climbing stairs and ladders, accessing crawl spaces and eaves, and walking the entire inspection site. Two or more years of experience in the building construction or rehabilitation trades. Additional education and experience may substitute for the recruiting requirements. Must possess clean valid Driver's License and reliable transportation. Compensation based on experience and knowledge. Annual Salary range \$27,000 - \$32,000 plus benefits. 35 hour, 4 day work week. EOE

Career Opportunities

Executive Director

Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services is searching for a new Executive Director. INHS seeks an experienced community developer who is creative, mission driven, and can positively engage in the seven counties in the region. The ideal candidate will be excited about the opportunity to lead INHS into its next phase of growth, and will bring strong leadership and management experience. The job description is found at <https://ithacanhs.org/about-inhs/execdirector/>.

Applicants should submit a cover letter detailing their qualifications for this position and their salary requirements to IthacaNHSExecutive@gmail.com. No phone calls or letters please. EOE

Administrative Assistant

Flatley Read, LLC is seeking a part-time (up to 20 hrs/wk) administrative assistant at our Schuylerville office. Duties include but are not limited to the following: daily correspondence, file organization (virtual and cabinet), scheduling field work and training, regular inventory and ordering of office supplies, management and filing of reports, data entry and form creation.

Required skills include: organization, ability to track multiple schedules for training and site work, meticulous attention to detail, proficient in all MS Office products, comfortable with cloud platforms, type min. 60 wpm, strong interpersonal skills, professional and time aware.

This position has exponential growth potential. Salary to be discussed at interview. Please submit your resume, a letter of interest, and two professional references to flatleyreadllc@gmail.com, Attn: Shelley EOE

The New York State Rural Housing Coalition is happy to be able to provide help wanted advertising opportunities for our members and non-profit community development agencies. Ad copy must be provided in Microsoft Word format, and may be transmitted by email to rhc@ruralhousing.org. Ad copy must comply with federal and state equal opportunity requirements to be published, and must be received by the 25th of the month to ensure placement in the succeeding issue of Rural Delivery. Ads provided in this fashion will also be posted in the Career Opportunities page of the Coalition's website, unless a request is specifically made not to place the advertisement on-line.

Brownfields Redevelopment Conference Slated

Economic and Community Revitalization through Planning & Brownfield Redevelopment, a day and a half all inclusive workshop and networking event, will take place on June 7th and 8th at the Hilton Hotel in Albany, NY. Workshops will include Innovations in Sustainable Redevelopment, and Finding Money Outside of the Brownfield Silo.

For more information and to register, visit www.cclr.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=223.

CDFI Application Round To Open In June

The Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund) is tentatively planning to open the fiscal year (FY) 2017 round of the Capital Magnet Fund in June 2017. For this award round, the CDFI Fund estimates that up to \$120 million will be available for Capital Magnet Fund awards. The Capital Magnet Fund supports financing for the development, rehabilitation, preservation, or purchase of affordable housing for economically distressed communities, as well as related economic development projects and community service facilities such as workforce development centers and health care clinics.

There will be a conference call to provide an overview on this funding round on May 10th at 3:00 PM. The call-in is 1(888)469-1577. Use passcode 1415620. To learn more about the Capital Magnet Fund, please visit www.cdfifund.gov/cmfi.

Free Fundraising Webinar

Grantspace is offering a free webinar on fundraising for non-profits. This introductory level training assists in the development of a fundraising plan, and should be a useful tool for new board members interested in helping to find new sources of revenue for your organization. The webinar covers:

- Making the case for support
- Diversifying your organization's fundraising base
- Creating a plan of action

This webinar is a companion piece to 'Introduction to Finding Grants', at the same website. For more information, visit: <http://grantspace.org/training/self-paced-elearning/introduction-to-fundraising-planning-webinar>.

Federal Budget, Continued

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these needs can be met by private sector financing, or the EPA. How private sector financing would be used for these projects is unclear. Staffing levels at USDA service centers will be reduced, as well.

In the Department of Commerce proposed budget, the administration seeks to cut the Economic Development Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency.

At the Treasury Department, the proposed budget eliminates grants to Community Development Financial Institutions.

Programs targeted for elimination at the EPA include EnergyStar, which reduces energy consumption through promotion of highly efficient appliances.

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2017 REDC Round Announced

Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the seventh round of Rural Economic Development Council Funding on April 28th. \$800 Million dollars will be available in this round. The Consolidated Funding Application will be open to receive applications beginning on May 1st. The application deadline is July 28th.

2017 Council priorities include Identifying Life Sciences projects; Identifying Workforce Development Strategies; Implementing Strategies Through the Project Pipeline; and

Measuring the Performance and Progress of the Strategic Plan.

New for 2017, the REDCs will prioritize applications that close the skills gap. Numerous studies have shown that while science, technology, engineering and math skills gaps are a large part of the challenge, they are by no means the only industries affected. The REDCs are being asked to survey both industries and educational institutions in the region to identify gaps, as well as the programmatic availability of workforce training opportunities in

high schools, community colleges, and universities.

The 5 top performer regions in this funding round will receive awards of up to \$20 million for their priority projects, while the other 5 regions will receive up to \$10 million in funding.

More information on the Regional Economic Development Councils can be found at www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov. The link to the Consolidated Funding Application is <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/>.

Green Building Standards Issued By HCR

Governor Cuomo's Clean Energy Standard goal is to reduce carbon emissions in New York State by 40% by 2030. To help meet this objective, NYS HCR has implemented new green building guidelines for 2017. This will bring the Housing Finance Agency's (HFA) requirements into alignment with the 9% low income tax credit housing program.

All HFA projects will need to meet criteria for energy efficiency and sustainability. Additionally, HFA's new construction projects will also need to be certified as Green Bonds by the Climate Bond Initiative, an international not-for-profit organization supporting financing for projects around the world that help reduce the impact of climate change.

HFA also now requires that all properties both monitor their energy consumption with benchmarking software services that provide automated data directly from utility companies and share this information with HCR. For more information, visit www.nyshcr.org/assets/documents/1656.pdf.

Visit our website at www.ruralhousing.org
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