



New York State Rural Housing Coalition, Inc.

February, 2018

The Budget Dance Begins Governor Proposes Cuts To Operating Funds

In a reversal of practice for the past 3 years, Governor Cuomo’s 2018-19 state budget proposal reduces operating support for the Rural and Neighborhood Preservation Programs significantly. The budget cuts will result in the Preservation Companies being funded this year at a baseline* of approximately \$58,000 per preservation company, unless the state legislature acts to provide additional funding in the final, enacted state budget.

The Budget Briefing Book includes some interesting policy details. In the chapters on the not-for-profit sector, the budget book describes a number of concerns that impact the effectiveness of the not-for-profit partners upon which the State relies to deliver programs and services, including workforce development and contracting efficiencies.

The Budget Book notes that not-for-profit organizations struggle to recruit workers and face higher than average employee turnover. The administration’s response is a budget increase within the Medicaid silo to support minimum wage increases

*HCR Commissioner RuthAnne Visnaukas used this term in her testimony to the Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on Housing on January 24th.

for health care workers, some of whom are employed by nonprofit organizations. The State will also launch a targeted marketing campaign to support education and career development within the nonprofit sector by encouraging participation in existing scholarship and loan forgiveness programs. The Governor also proposes a human services workforce summit and create a not-for-profit Workforce Development Steering Committee to further improve not-for-profit workforce development.

The Governor also proposes to continue/expand efforts to improve the contracting environment between state agencies and the nonprofit sector. During the summer of 2017, the Governor’s Lean Office began working with seven State agencies that had been identified as having the highest number of late contracts in previous years, to monitor contract execution and identify opportunities to improve processes. The Dept. of Health, OTDA, Council on the Arts, Dept. of Labor, Office of Children and Family Services, Office of Mental Hygiene, and the Department of Criminal Justice Services are covered by this initiative, which will continue through 2019.

Further, efforts are underway to standardize State contract definitions related to indirect costs in conformance with federal OMB guidance, and to set a 10% de minimis indirect rate while maintaining services and acting with available appropriations.

The Rural Advocates are monitoring budget discussions in Albany (detailed elsewhere in this issue) and have set a Legislative Conference in Albany on February 27th to draw attention to the funding needs of rural housing and community development agencies across the state. Stay tuned.....

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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...

SAM Spam

If you are being inundated with emails offering to help your organization to stay up to date on federal SAM compliance, we encourage you to visit: <https://blog.grants.gov/2017/07/17/read-this-before-you-respond-to-sam-related-spam/>.

April Deadline For Youth Homelessness Applications

The Notice of Funding Availability for the FY 2017 Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) has been posted to the YHDP page on the HUD Exchange. The submission deadline is Tuesday, April 17, 2018. For more information, visit: www.hudexchange.info/programs/yhdp/?utm_source=HUD+Exchange+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=f6206f5040-FY17+YHDP+Announcement+1%2F17%2F18&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f32b935a5f-f6206f5040-19376437.

STAR Training

The USDA STAR training for 515 property managers will be held on March 20-22nd in South Portland, ME. This is a Steve Rosenblatt training. For more information, call (207)767-8000 x201, or email admin@spectrumseminars.com.

15 Steps To Homeownership

Learn about industry best practices involving 15 important steps to homeownership that consumers need to be competent at, and self-confident with, when purchasing their new home. Including early pre-purchase activities from choosing a lender, to selecting a realtor, to making offers on properties. The second webinar will examine the contract process, home inspections, home appraisals, and preparing for the final document signing and closing. This webinar training will be on March 20th and 22nd. The fee is \$25. Register at www.events.rcac.org/assnfe/ev.asp?ID=1301.

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.



Land Trust Grants Available

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (the “Department”) invites eligible not-for-profit conservation organizations (Land Trusts) to submit proposals for financial assistance to conduct activities that will assist counties and municipalities with their agricultural and farmland protection efforts. Applications are due March 5th.

Specifically, State funding under this grant opportunity will advance outreach efforts to subsets of landowners derived from an existing or to-be-developed viable agricultural lands inventory and screening process. Eligible outreach efforts shall focus on the utilization and conservation of agricultural lands using the following required project elements:

- i. an inventory of viable agricultural lands; and
- ii. a screening process; and
- iii. outreach activities targeted to the landowners of inventoried parcels of viable agricultural land.

Taken together, these three inter-related project elements are intended to connect willing landowners to farmers interested in leasing or buying viable agricultural land, and to inform owners of viable agricultural land of mechanisms and available programs to protect such lands from conversion to non-farm uses. For more information, visit: https://grantsgateway.ny.gov/intel-ligrants_NYSGG/module/nysgg/go-portal.x?NavItem1=4&ngoID=5001013

NCRC Webinar For Housing Counseling Agencies

February 07, 2018 - WB101: Housing Counseling Program Delivery: Implementing General Standards-Part I Live Webinar: Whether your Housing Counseling program is new or experienced, it’s important to understand the process behind building a program that will achieve the goals of HUD’s Housing Counseling program. Join NCRC for this three-part webinar to identify general program standards, explore best practices and discuss strategies to successfully implement general standards in your housing programs. In the first part of this webinar series, participants will identify the general standards each program should use as a guide when delivering housing counseling services.

Register at: https://training.ncrc.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=NCRC&WebCode=EventDetail&evt_key=efd36c6-e3d3-464f-a287-1d87f06573c5.

502 Certified Packager Training

Interest has been expressed in holding an additional certification for the USDA 502 Mortgage packaging training in New York. The Coalition is working on trying to bring this training to our state once again. If you are interested in having one or more of your staff take this training, please send a quick email to Colin McKnight at colin@ruralhousing.org to be placed on the waiting list. If you have already replied to the notice on Facebook, there is no need to duplicate your reply from that site.

Youth Homelessness Applications Due April 17th

HUD is accepting applications for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. Applications are due by April 17, 2018.

The goal of the YHDP is to support up to 11 communities, at least 5 of which will be rural, in the development and implementation of a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness, and sharing that experience with and mobilizing communities around the country toward the same end. The population to be served by this demonstration program is youth experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied and pregnant or parenting youth, where no member of the household is older than 24.

For the full NOFA, visit: www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/FY-2017-YHDP-NOFA.pdf.

Mark Your Calendars!

The 2018 Fall Conference will be held in Liverpool, New York on September 24, 25, and 26, 2018.

Please mark your spiffy new desk calendars with those dates, and set your out-of-office email and voice mail replies now. It will save you so much grief and avoid overbooking your schedule later on. You do not want to miss the conference this year. All of the cool kids are going.

You. Are. Welcome.

Save America's Treasures Grants

The National Park Service announces the availability of \$5 million in Historic Preservation Fund grants for the Save America's Treasures (SAT) program. Applications must be submitted through *Grants.gov* by February 21st. SAT grants provide preservation and/or conservation assistance to nationally significant historic properties and collections. Grants are awarded through a competitive process and require a dollar-for-dollar, non-Federal match, which can be cash or documented in-kind. The grants are administered by the National Park Service in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, and National Endowment for the Humanities. The Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance number for these awards is 15.929. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/preservation-grants/sat/index.html.

House Passes Bill To Make FSS Permanent

The House of Representatives passed HR 4258 on January 16th. The bill permanently reauthorizes the Family Self-Sufficiency Program, and combines the FSS programs for Housing Choice Voucher recipients, and public housing residents. The program will also offer new services for financial literacy and educational attainment. The bill now moves on to the Senate.

A Senate version of the bill was introduced in 2017. Details of the House bill may be found at: <http://bit.ly/2muPhC4>.

Rural Advocates Tackle State Budget Challenge

The NY Rural Advocates will gather on February 27th in Albany for the annual Legislative Conference to meet with Assembly and Senate representatives regarding restoration of funding for the Rural Preservation Program, and to increase funding levels for critically-important housing and community development programs.

Blair Sebastian and Colin McKnight testified on January 24th to the Joint Housing Committees on the impact of the Governor's budget proposal, decried the 35% proposed reduction in RPP funding, and requested restoration of the RPP budget to current levels.

An increase in AHC funding from \$26 million to \$35 million was also requested, reflecting the importance of homeownership programs in rural areas. An additional \$1 million increase in the HOPE/Restore program, and noting that program administrators are pressed to deliver this program at extremely tight margins.

Their budget testimony called for a second round of funding for the Small Rental Development Initiative, which was launched by HCR in 2017 with federal HOME funds. \$10 million was requested in 2018 funding for this program.

Several legislators from NYC mentioned during the hearing that foreclosure remains a huge concern in their urban districts. Sebastian and McKnight noted that home foreclosures continue to be a significant problem in rural areas of the state, as well, and support for prevention services continues to be needed.

Of course, the testimony also asked for funding for the Rural

Housing Coalition and the Neighborhood Preservation Coalition, which were ignored in the Governor's proposal. This funding is to support the technical assistance and training work of the Coalitions.

Rural Advocates will host a Legislative Briefing and Breakfast in the Albany Room on the Concourse at the Empire State Plaza on February 27th. All Rural Advocates members are encouraged to attend. The briefing agenda will include an overview of Rural Advocates 2018 Legislative Agenda, updates on legislative action to date, a review of Tuesday's legislative appointment schedules, and tips on making the ask, to help you make the most of your time in Albany. The discussion will focus on YOUR rural housing concerns including the top priority of securing an increase in Rural Preservation funding and protecting the housing programs used in rural communities. Several leading members of the New York State Legislature are expected to attend.

A hot breakfast in the Albany Room will be followed by legislative visits in the Capitol. Plan on making appointments with your Senators and Assemblymembers and join with others from your region to remind your elected officials of the impact of your work. Rural Advocates will coordinate meetings with Legislative and Administration leaders. Please contact Rural Advocates at nysruraladvocates@gmail.com if you need assistance.

The Registration Deadline is February 15th. Contact (518)573-2255 for more information. Registration of \$110 includes breakfast, gratuities and advocacy materials.

Executive Director

BS or MS in Business Management, Public Administration or related field, plus six years experience in non-profit administration and/or 10 years experience in human services. Specific responsibilities include: supervise overall personnel direction and administration to multi-faceted human service organization; research funding sources and direct preparation of grant applications including budget development consistent with identified community needs; overall contract management, both programmatic and fiscal components; report, advise and provide staff support to agency board of directors. Excellent oral and written communication skills required; experience with non-profit accounting a plus. Salary range \$80,677 - \$96,209 annually. Applications accepted through February 13, 2018 at Delaware Opportunities Inc., 35430 State Highway 10, Hamden, NY 13782; dalberty@delawareopportunities.org.

EOE

Note: Media incorrectly reported this position as being filled. The Board is still actively recruiting.

Project Manager

Empire State Development seeks a Project Manager in the Troy office. The position manages the administration of grants and loans for projects undertaken by municipalities, not-for-profits, and local economic development organizations.

Requires a Bachelors degree in business, liberal arts, social services, urban planning or similar and 3-5 years experience in public administration, nonprofit or related business field. For more information, visit: <https://esd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/jobs/Project-Manager-LG-Troy.pdf>.

EOE

Career Opportunities

Real Estate Development Project Manager

RUPCO is seeking a highly motivated Real Estate Development Project Manager with 3 to 5 years of experience to process existing development pursuits and assist with new target opportunities. He/she will leverage their skills and experience in affordable housing best practices to take a significant leadership role in the creation of new housing for RUPCO's growing portfolio.

Minimum of three years' experience in community development, municipal governance and or affordable housing or a Bachelor's Degree in Urban or Community Planning, Business or related field; Experience and technically proficient in aspects of affordable housing real estate development, including finance, entitlement, design, construction, lease-up and operations; Ability to analyze complex data, perform sophisticated analysis and make appropriate recommendations and decisions. Experience with Excel and word processing software. Experience with Project Management software a plus.

Candidates must have experience and be technically proficient in aspects of affordable housing real estate development, including finance, grant writing, entitlement, design, construction, lease-up and operations. Please submit cover letter including salary requirement and resume to: RUPCO, Inc., 289 Fair Street, Kingston NY 12401. Email to: jobs@rupco.org.

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Assistant Director, Research/Strategic Analysis

The Assistant Director, Research and Strategic Analysis is responsible for ensuring that data is effectively used to drive decision-making throughout New York State Homes and Community Renewal. Reporting to the Director, Research and Strategic Analysis, s/he is accountable for ensuring that management reports and analyses are accurate and timely and that the data is effectively utilized and integrated by the management team to drive program quality. He or she will also coordinate with outside researchers to build a body of knowledge about the impacts of HCR's programs and funding on New York State residents and communities. S/he will also provide central coordination for the public presentation of data about housing and community efforts statewide.

To review the job description and apply, visit: www.nyshcr.org/AboutUs/JobOpportunities/OPSAssistantDirectorResearch&StrategicAnalysis.pdf.

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.

In Memoriam

We are saddened to announce the passing of John Eberhard, Executive Director of Delaware Opportunities, Inc. on January 6th. John was 70 at the time of his passing.

After serving in the Vietnam War, John earned his BA at Syracuse University, then joined the Northern Tier Regional Planning Commission, where he launched 5 weatherization programs, and wrote grants that resulted in the development of day care services, a health clinic, water and sewer systems, and economic development projects.

John became the Executive Director of Delaware Opportunities in 1984, and doubled the size of the agency from 100 staff to the current level of 209 employees, with an annual budget of \$14.6 million. John served on the board of directors of the Rural Housing Coalition for 2 terms in the 1990s, including serving on the Executive Committee for a time.

John completed the development of a new headquarters building for Delaware Opportunities in 2005, bringing all departments under one roof for the first time. We express our condolences to John's wife Bonnie, and his family and friends. Condolences may be left for the family online at www.macarthurfh.com.

Apprenticeship Interviews Slated

UA Sprinkler Fitters Local 669 seeks to recruit more low income residents of upstate New York into the trades. Interviews for the Sprinkler Fitters apprenticeship and training program will be held this spring. Interviews are scheduled for March 15th in Newburgh, March 16th in Albany, April 16th in Buffalo, and April 17th in Syracuse. Persons interested in applying for the apprenticeships need to visit <http://training669.org/get-started/>. Once enrolled, the apprentice will receive a series of 19 online courses, and participate in 18 hours of classroom training that will take place locally, during the 5-year apprenticeship program. Please share this information with tenants or others in your community, as appropriate.

Hearing On Vet Homelessness

A Congressional hearing was held on January 18th regarding the issue of Veterans homelessness. Witnesses from local service providers stressed the need for additional case management resources to ensure Veterans receive necessary supportive services in addition to housing.

Watch the archived webcast of the hearing at: <http://bit.ly/2EVt1Wi>.

NYSCA Applications

The application cycle for the latest round of NYS Council on the Arts grantmaking will open on February 21st including funding for the Architecture and Design program. NYSCA will be holding a series of Guideline Seminars in advance of the funding round. Seminars are slated for:

February 1st- Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, 720 Northern Blvd., Greenvale, NY, 12:30-3:00 PM.

February 2nd- Bruno Walker Auditorium, NY Public Library for the Performing Arts, 11 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY, 1:00-4:00 PM.

February 6th- SUNY Oswego Metro Center, 2 South Clinton Street, Syracuse, NY, 1:00-4:00 PM.

February 7th- George Eastman Museum, 900 East Avenue, Rochester, NY, 1:00-4:00 PM.

February 15th- Skidmore College, 815 North Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY, 1:00-3:30 PM.

To RSVP for your seminar, visit: www.surveygizmo.com/s3/4139537/NYSCA-Guidelines-Seminars-2018.



Affordable Housing Program Training

The Federal Home Loan Bank of New York is hosting a series of workshops on changes to the processing and scoring for the Affordable Housing Program, which supports development of new and rehabilitated affordable housing. The upstate training sessions will be held at the following locations:

- Syracuse, NY | February 20, 2018, 10:00 AM-Noon.

- Albany, NY | February 26, 2018, 10:00 AM - Noon.

- Glens Falls, NY | February 27, 2018 2:00-4:00 PM.

- Rochester, NY | February 28, 2018, 10:00 AM - Noon.

The focus will be on the application process for the upcoming funding round. Priorities for AHP funding are adjusted each year. This will be an opportunity to learn about re-

cent scoring changes, how to structure and submit an application, and strategies for increasing your chances of success. These trainings are being held to improve your chances of securing AHP funding for your project in the next round of funding from the FHLB-NY.

Register at: www.surveygizmo.com/s3/4143047/2018-AHP-Application-Training.

Report: Burden To NonProfit Sector Of Government Cutbacks

Governing.com has a new report on the intersection of State and local governments, and the nonprofit agencies they partner with to deliver social services programming, including health care, early childhood education, and housing. The report notes that the nonprofits often are struggling financially. The findings come at a time when charitable giving to nonprofits is expected to be reduced by \$13.1 billion per year as a result of the recent tax deal, and deep cuts to welfare programs that are favored by the White House.

According to a first-of-its-kind report from the largest national associations representing government agencies and nonprofits in human services, governments underpay nonprofits and burden them with costly or time-consuming regulations. To read the entire report, visit: www.governing.com/topics/health-human-services/gov-social-service-nonprofits-report-financial-government.html.

Housing Counseling Best Practices

RCAC will host a 2 hour webinar, **HUD Requirements for Housing Counselors** on April 5, 2018. This course provides an overview of HUD requirements and how housing counselors can easily achieve mastery through best practices. Ensure that your client files and data in your client management system meet compliance standards. For more information, visit: www.events.rcac.org/images/rcac/pdfs/040518%20HUD%20Requirements_ONLINE.pdf.

HUD Announces Wholesale Review Of Manufactured Housing Rules

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development recently announced a top-to-bottom review of its manufactured housing rules as part of a broader effort to identify regulations that may be ineffective, overly burdensome, or excessively costly given the critical need for affordable housing. For the next 30 days, HUD is accepting public comments to identify existing or planned manufactured housing regulatory actions to assess their actual and potential compliance costs and whether those costs are justified against the backdrop of the nation's shortage of affordable housing.

Shortly after taking office, the President issued Executive Order 13771 ("Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs"), directing federal agencies to identify or streamline regulations that are wasteful, inefficient or unnecessary. HUD Secretary Ben Carson followed the President's Executive Order by charging the Department's Regulatory Review Task Force to identify HUD's existing rules that may inhibit job creation or impose costs that exceed the public benefit.

Manufactured housing plays a vital role in meeting the nation's affordable housing needs, providing nearly 10 percent of the total single-family housing stock. It's estimated that more than 22 million American households reside in manufactured housing, particularly in rural areas

where this form of housing represents an even greater share of occupied homes. The manufactured housing industry is also an important economic engine, accounting for approximately 35,000 jobs nationwide.

HUD's regulation of manufactured housing fulfills a critical role to ensure a fair and efficient market that supplies affordable housing for households of modest incomes and protecting consumers. HUD may adopt, revise, and interpret its manufactured housing rules based upon the public's comments it receives and the recommendations of the Manufactured Housing Consensus Committee, a statutory federal advisory committee comprised of producers or retailers of manufactured housing as well as consumers, residents and public officials.

Interested persons may submit comments electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov or by snail mail to: Regulations Division, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW, Room 10276, Washington, DC 20410-0500. Include *Docket No. FR-6075-N-01J Regulatory Review of Manufactured Housing Rules* in the subject line of your comments. The full Notice is located online at: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2018-01276.pdf>.

Join the conversation!

Staff of Rural Preservation Companies are invited to join with their peers on the **NYS Rural Housing Coalition's Peer-to-Peer RPC Forum** on Facebook to discuss issues related to administering housing programs and share ideas on new strategies for addressing housing needs in our communities. Join the conversation today!

Housing Counseling Webinar Scheduled

NCRC will host a live webinar training on February 7th for Housing Counseling agencies. Housing Counseling Program Delivery: Implementing General Standards Part I- will be held from 2:00-3:30 PM.

Whether your Housing Counseling program is new or experienced, it's important to understand the process behind building a program that will achieve the goals of HUD's Housing Counseling program. Join this three-part webinar to identify general program standards, explore best practices and discuss strategies to successfully implement general standards in your housing programs.

There are common threads identified in HUD Housing Counseling programs. These threads are metrics used to ensure programs are providing clients with quality service. In the first part of this webinar series, participants will identify the general standards each program should use as a guide when delivering housing counseling services.

If you have any questions feel free to contact training@ncrc.org. To register for the webinar, visit: https://training.ncrc.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=NCRC&WebCode=EventDetail&event_key=efdf36c6-e3d3-464f-a287-1-d87f06573c5.

Housing Counseling Tips Webinar

Tips and Tools to Optimize Counseling for Your Clients will be held online on March 27th. Learn best practices; how to streamline work flow processes for time management; and learn tips and tools to use with your clients to deliver quality counseling.

This webinar is sponsored by RCAC. The course fee is \$25. For more information, visit www.events.rcac.org/assnfe/ev.asp?ID=1226.

Visit our website at www.ruralhousing.org
'Like' us on Facebook for up-to-the-minute news



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