



New York State Rural Housing Coalition, Inc.

November, 2020

HUD Awards \$9.4 Million In Research Grants To Reduce Housing-Related Health Hazards

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded \$9.4 million to 13 universities and public health organizations on October 26th to improve our understanding of the longer term impact of housing interventions targeting lead and other residential hazards and improve methods to identify and control residential health hazards such as pests, injury hazards, and asthma triggers. These grants are particularly important to improve our ability to protect vulnerable populations, such as children and seniors, from exposure to these hazards.

“We remain committed to improving the health and well-being of all Americans, especially children, by creating safer and healthier homes,” said HUD Secretary Ben Carson. “This research will inform HUD and our partners in our efforts to protect families and eliminate housing-related health and safety hazards.”

“It’s critical that we continue supporting research to develop and improve methods to create housing that supports the health of residents,” said Michelle Miller, Acting Director of the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes. “We know that substandard hous-

ing contributes to injury and illness, which is entirely preventable.”

HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes promotes state and local efforts to eliminate dangerous lead-paint and other housing-related health and safety hazards from lower income homes, stimulate private sector investment in lead hazard control, support cutting-edge research on methods for assessing and controlling housing-related health and safety hazards, and educate the public about the dangers of hazards in the home. The grants are being offered through HUD’s Lead and Healthy Homes Technical Studies Grant Programs.

The research funding was awarded to:

- Franklin & Marshall College in partnership with the City of Lancaster, PA;
- Ohio State University;
- Rutgers University in New Jersey;
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas;
- The University of Missouri- Kansas City;
- Wayne State University in Michigan;
- Silent Spring Institute in Massachusetts, which is partnering with the City of Rochester;
- Johns Hopkins University in Maryland;

- The Tulane Educational Fund in Louisiana;
- University of Kentucky Research Foundation;
- University of Notre Dame, in partnership with Purdue and Indiana University;
- Indiana University in partnership with Greensboro, NC and Ft. Wayne, IN; and
- Sonora Environmental Research Institute in Arizona.

Visit: www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PA/documents/2020_Lead-HH-Technical-Studies-Grant-Awards.pdf for detailed descriptions of each institutions research projects.

ED. Note: The Stronger Together Housing Conference has a related workshop. On November 4th panelists from federal health agencies will speak on the intersection of Rural Health and Housing Issues at 1:00 PM. To attend this webinar, register at www.conference.habitatnys.org.

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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:

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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.



Bits and Pieces...

New E-Mail Protocol

Recently, the email addresses of staff at NYS HCR were modified. At the present time, the old email addresses are still supposed to be working, but it is a good idea to update your contacts in your address book.

The new address protocol is *First Name.Last Name@hcr.ny.gov*.

CHAR 500 Lookup

The Charities Registration Bureau maintains a searchable registry of CHAR 500 filings. If you have any concerns about the status of one of your financial reports, visit www.charitiesnys.com/RegistrySearch/search_charities.jsp to see if the document is on file with the State.

Rural Research Symposium

Freddie Mac will host a Rural Research Symposium on November 9th and 10th. The research and insights presented will focus on both single-family and multifamily rural mortgage markets; including the effectiveness of mortgage products, services and financing, as well as implications for consumers, households, renters, communities and financial institutions. For more information, visit <https://web.cvent.com/event/84ec4ecd-fca3-4c5e-9482-fdc8ed77dcce/summary?rp=00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000>.

Grant Received

The Rural Housing Coalition is pleased to announce the receipt of a 2020 grant from Five Star Bank to support our technical assistance services, and in support of this newsletter. This is a continuation of support provided by Five Star Bank in 2019 and 2018. Thank you so much to Karla Gadley at Five Star for the continuing, enthusiastic support!

Rural Delivery is made possible through the generous support of



Five Star Bank

Take-aways From Conference Workshops

Participants in the Stronger Together conference workshops are getting useful bits of information:

- CARES Act funding will be coming to New York through the Bureau of Housing Services at NYS OTDA. For communities not receiving direct federal funding allocations, ESG funding will be available in two phases. Phase one funding will total \$23 million, and Phase 2 funding will total \$28 million. A streamlined shelter application is expected to be released shortly after November 1st, so be sure to check the OTDA website for updates.
- The Office of Community Renewal has submitted an amendment to the state's Action Plan to HUD and is awaiting approval. The amendment will allow HCR to begin utilizing CDBG and HOME allocations authorized under the CARES Act last spring. Because the CARES Act funding is in response to the Covid 19 pandemic, it will be important to plan programs and projects using any funds designated as 'CV' for purposes that address Covid needs. Examples include rental assistance programs that prevent displacement of tenants once the eviction moratoriums are lifted, or

microenterprise programs that create new job opportunities to help the unemployed.

- The Homebuyer Dream Program to assist first time homebuyers is undergoing a change to the allocation formula to strengthen the role of housing counseling agencies in providing homebuyer education services. The allocation formula will no longer be just based on First Come, First Served. The next funding round is expected to take place in the second quarter of 2021.
- The Fair and Equitable Housing Office at NYS Homes and Community Renewal has a number of worksheets available to assist housing providers to comply with new rules, such as Source of Income and Re-Entry. Review of these issues is included in routine rental project monitoring by HCR's Asset Management staff.

There are still many workshops that will take place at the Stronger Together conference through the first two weeks of November. Register at www.conference.habitatnys.org. The Stronger Together Conference is a partnership between the Rural Housing Coalition and Habitat For Humanity of New York State.

Temporary Exceptions Extended

USDA issued an extension of the temporary exceptions for the Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program on October 29th. The temporary exceptions originally issued on March 27, 2020, pertaining to appraisals, repair inspections, and income verifications for the Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program (SFHGLP) due to the COVID-19 pandemic have been extended until December 31, 2020 and apply to the requirements in the program handbook HB-1-3555 for new loans.

Questions regarding program policy and this announcement may be directed to the National Office Division at sfhgld.program@usda.gov or (202) 720-1452.

Advocates Annual Meeting Slated

The New York State Rural Advocates will be holding its annual meeting and policy retreat on November 9th. The Advocates board will be gathering (safely distanced) at the Otesaga Hotel in Cooperstown. The Otesaga has assured that they can manage up to 40 people at a safe event so please consider joining in-person for the day.

The Advocates will also be making the event accessible to members using ZOOM and ZOOM webinars. In addition to the annual meeting and board election, the agenda includes a discussion of the draft New York State Legislative Agenda. Crystal Loffler, the acting President of HCR's Office of Community Renewal will participate in the morning session. Presenting after lunch is Bob Rapoza, executive secretary of the National Rural Housing Coalition who will review the impact of the National election on affordable housing in rural areas.

Meeting registration for Cooperstown participation is \$65 which covers materials, Monday lunch, breaks and all hotel gratuities. For those participating in the ZOOM meetings please consider a donation of \$25. The ZOOM link and other meeting materials will be provided to those who will be participating online.

Register with NYS Rural Advocates by November 6th to nysrural-advocates@gmail.com or by mailing to PO Box 101, Cambridge, NY 12816.



Executive Director's Column

By Michael J. Borges

Since I started on September 21st, I have embarked on a quest to talk with as many RPC Executive Directors as possible before the end of the year. So far I have talked with 23 RPC Executive Directors out of the 57 around the state.

In addition to reaching out to RPC Executive Directors, an online survey has been sent out to the whole membership to get additional feedback. Both the phone calls with RPC Executive Directors and the membership survey, will help shape discussion and action on various initiatives going forward.

Some of the initiatives that I am currently working on are: 1) Updating the website, 2) launching a

Leadership Academy to train new RPC Executive Directors and RPC staff who want to become Executive Directors, 3) developing an online library of documents, bylaws, policies and RFP's that would be hosted on our new website and available to members, and 4) subscribing to a grants database (Candid) that would enable the Coalition to share notifications of private foundation and corporate grant opportunities.

In addition, more long-term initiatives would be the creation of a purchasing consortium that would enable RPC's to go out to bid for various services and products jointly in order to get bulk discounted prices and more online professional development opportunities targeted to RPC staff.

Hudson Valley Housing Forum

The Pattern for Progress Center for Housing Solutions & Community Initiatives is hosting its 13th annual Hudson Valley Housing Forum: Housing Matters | Shelter from the Storm. The event is designed for professionals working in the fields of community and economic development, affordable and market rate housing, real estate, municipal government, planning and engineering, and community lending.

This week long, multifaceted event is bringing nationally recognized keynote speakers together to discuss policy, trends, and new perspectives for a highly informative, provocative, and timely conversation about the challenges in housing.

The event is being presented entirely in a virtual format, hosted on a Zoom platform over five days from November 16th – 20th, 2020. The sessions are designed in 2-hour blocks of time, which includes a keynote; panel discussion; and a

“SolutionsLounge”.

The “Solutions Lounge” will happen directly after each panel session. The panelists, moderator, and keynote will be available for a facilitated conversation about the challenges presented by the keynote and panelists to answer the question, “So...what are we going to do about it”?

The schedule for the week will cover the following topics:

- Chasing the American Dream of Home Ownership
- Multi-Family Development & Market Dynamics
- Gentrification with Balanced Development
- The Real Estate Market Rollercoaster
- Race, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion in Community Development & Housing

All access passes, as well as daily tickets, can be purchased at www.pattern-for-progress.org/housing-forum/.

Broadband Grant Received

USDA Rural Development announced a grant to expand broadband access in Western New York on October 29th. Seneca Connect will receive \$544,000 to provide broadband service in unserved and underserved rural areas in New York. This investment is part of the \$550 million Congress allocated to the second round of the ReConnect Program.

This network will connect 928 people, five farms and a business to high-speed broadband internet in Cattaraugus, Erie and Chautauqua counties in New York. This grant will provide high-speed internet service to the Cattaraugus Reservation of the Seneca Nation.

On October 26th, USDA announced 10 Community Facilities awards to rural communities in New York, including a number of grants for vehicular equipment, plus a salt shed, a DPW building, a town office building, and a fire station. All of the awards were in the 21st and 23rd congressional districts. The list of community facility awards is found at www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/CF_CHART_Endof_FY2020_Oct282020.pdf.

Redlining Presentation

Ruhi Maker from the Empire Justice Center recently spoke at a webinar hosted by the National Community Reinvestment Coalition on the subject of **Redlining and Neighborhood Health**. You can view the recording of the presentation at https://ncrc.org/just-economy-session-redlining-and-neighborhood-health/?mc_cid=9944e969b8&mc_eid=d07b351d0e.

Career Opportunities

Program Managers

NYS HCR has three job openings posted for CDBG & HOME project managers. They are available online, here: <https://hcr.ny.gov/job-opportunities-0>.

HCR is likely to move quickly with these hires, and hopes to find candidates with program-specific experience. EOE

Construction Project Manager

The Kingston City Land Bank has an opening for a construction management professional to coordinate, integrate and support all activities related to the renovation of homes for which KCLB is the general contractor. This position requires a flexible, highly organized, detail-oriented person with significant experience managing multiple single-family home renovations simultaneously.

For more informaton, visit: <https://kingstoncitylandbank.org/opportunities/jobs/>. 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 online.

Grants Administrator

Habitat for Humanity of New York State, Inc. is seeking a passionate and service-minded individual to serve as a Grants Administrator in Endicott, NY. As Grants Administrator, you will be responsible for overseeing all administrative aspects of HFH-NYS to ensure compliance with contracts. Responsibilities:

- Serve as the primary administrator for HFH-NYS' Affordable Housing Corporation grants, USDA Rural Community Development Initiative grant, and miscellaneous other grants
- Review and approve documents submitted by participating Habitat affiliates to ensure compliance with grant guidelines
- Performs continuous monitoring of contract terms and works with affiliates to ensure that the agency guidelines and contract terms are adhered to by all parties working on the grant
- Update document database as documents are approved and rejected
- Communicate regularly with Habitat affiliates with grant guidelines and reminders
- Assist CEO in grant application preparation and submission
- Prepare and submit timely grant reports
- Assist in training affiliates with grant compliance
- Schedule meetings and trainings calls with participating affiliates

Skills Needed:

- Excellent communication skills, written and verbal
- Meticulous attention to detail; excellent planning, administrative, and organizational skills
- Familiarity with government housing programs and eligibility requirements
- Familiarity with home sales documents (closing disclosures and sales contracts)
- An interest, willingness, and ability to engage community members in the mission of Habitat
- Ability to work independently, as well as in a team environment
- Strong computer skills, specifically Microsoft Office 365
- Knowledge of Sales Force a plus

Desired Education: Bachelor's degree.

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, housing organization working in nearly 1,400 communities across the United States and in approximately 70 countries around the world. Habitat's vision is of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. In support of this global mission, HFH-NYS is an affiliate support organization that provides training, technical assistance, resource development and advocacy to the 43 local Habitat for Humanity affiliates within the state.

Send cover letter and resume to Mary Robinson at mrobinson@habitat-nys.org EOE

Enterprise Announces New York Call For Ideas

The Request for Applications for the New York State Call for Ideas is open until November 6th. This is an open call to support the best ideas of New York State community organizations to ensure stable and safe housing through all economic cycles - with a focus on New York State's most vulnerable renters and homeowners, many of whom are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

Enterprise Community Partners are intentionally focused on supporting innovations that seek to uproot historic and systemic racism that, through redlining and other means, have presented barriers to fair, equitable, and healthy housing.

These policies have harmed Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) for decades, and even more so during the 2008 financial recession and amid Covid-19 and its aftermath. Enterprise's funding awards of up to \$500,000 will focus on ensuring that the people and communities most affected by these systemic impacts are in a stronger position to weather future downturns and have greater opportunities for success, as we foresee that the recovery from the pandemic will be lengthy and challenging.

Organizations serving rural communities are also encouraged to apply with ideas transforming housing outcomes for their most vulnerable

populations that experience persistent poverty.

To learn more and apply, please visit: https://enterprisecommunity-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/cfernandez_enterprisecommunity_org/EbCqIDkscy5Pvdu-muwWODEIBRQo3nOyFLy_iskJU4ZhPQ?rttime=g1Ns7Bx82Eg.

The deadline to apply is November 6, 2020, at 11:59 PM. Contact Lydia Tom at ltom@enterprisecommunity.org with any questions about this opportunity.



Supportive Housing Forum Scheduled

The Supportive Housing Network will host an online forum on Housing & Homelessness: How to Move Forward Post-Pandemic on Friday, November 6th, at 1:00 PM. This panel will discuss using the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to reimagine a more just world where housing is a right, not a privilege. The conversation will center around how to reconfigure our housing and development systems moving forward with a focus on equity. For more information, visit: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_b3hIUb4xRxu0G3LdZ_rpOQ.

Visit our website at www.ruralhousing.org
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