



New York State Rural Housing Coalition, Inc.

December 2020

State Announces Funding Round

HOME, Main Street, Access, RESTORE And More Funds Available

New York State Homes and Community Renewal released a request for funding proposals just before the Thanksgiving holiday. The announcement covers both federal and NYS housing programs. Application deadlines vary, but all program applications are due in January.

Ten million dollars will be available from the HOME program administered by HCR. Applications for this program are due by 4:00 PM on Friday, January 22nd. A training webinar for this program will be held on December 1st at 1:30 PM. To register for this training, visit https://meetny.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?service=1&siteurl=meetny&nomenu=false&main_url=%2Fmc3300%2Fmeetingcenter%2Fdefault.do%3Fsiteurl%3Dmeetny%26rnd%3D4761360397%26main_url%3D%252Fmc3300%252Fdefault.do%253Fsiteurl%253Dmeetny%2526AT%253DMI%2526EventID%253D1155061957%2526UID%253D513775252%2526Host%253DQUhTSwAAAATS9zrKYud9Zatyt-o-GUIgERe0jBdqu-JOBfbZUCzuv3WrHNp4paR5UR3tRBgzbcnsxWIOSQQcPgcQsDVC1HvnA0%2526RG%253D1%2526FrameSet%253D2%2526RGID%253Dr490c28385d1cb4717002eb99f444d5b7. Program

materials are available at <https://hcr.ny.gov/nys-home-program>.

This funding round also includes allocations for the three Access to Home programs, Mobile and Manufactured Home Replacement Program, and the RESTORE Program. \$1.3 Million is available for RESTORE programs for emergency repairs for homes occupied by elders, \$3.3 million is available to replace deteriorated mobile and manufactured housing units, \$1.5 million is available for the Access to Home for Medicaid Recipients, two million dollars are available in the Access to Home for Heroes program, and one million dollars are available for the original Access to Home program. A training webinar for all of these programs will be held on December 3rd. To register for this session, visit <https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/onstage/g.php?MTID=ebd3044d6a230522b90d068d84683b001>. The deadline for submitting these applications is 4:00 PM on Friday, January 15th. Program materials are available at: <https://hcr.ny.gov/office-community-renewal-state-housing-resources-funding-opportunities>.

\$6.2 Million is available this year from the NY Main Street Program. The training webinar for this program will be held on December 4th. To register, visit <https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/onstage/g.php?MTID=e2c36786d7af19336955a4ed2ab6d7170>. The deadline for NY Main Street applications is 4:00 PM on Friday, January 15th. Program materials are available at: <https://hcr.ny.gov/new-york-main-street#funding-round-materials>.

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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...

Improving Programs & Services Delivery Webinar

NCRC has a pre-recorded webinar available on Improving Programs and Delivery of Service. The webinar is designed for Housing Counselors. To learn more, visit https://training.ncrc.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=NCRC&WebCode=EventDetail&evt_key=1dd3fc70-52e7-4a44-b520-75a890ebb865&mc_cid=185af303d9&mc_eid=d07b351d0e.

Transformational Leadership Seminar Series

Grantstation will hold a Seminar Series on Transformational Leadership from January to October, 2021. Individual registration for this course is \$549. The registration deadline is January 21st. Register at https://grantstation.com/webinar/transformational-leadership-coached-seminar-experience-new?utm_source=mc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=1125.

Board Development Resource

BoardSource recently published an article on *What Makes A Good Board Member?* The guide is an easy-to-understand refresher for existing boards, as well as a useful ingredient in any orientation packet for new board members. Visit <https://boardsource.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Good-Board-Member.pdf?hsCtaTracking=696a7450-002c-4b60-b27c-aaf3d90415ce%7C909ca445-f8a7-4f53-8bcc-15-eb110595bb> to download a copy.

Rural Delivery is made possible through the generous support of



Five Star Bank

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.

New Director At HomeFront

The Board of Directors of HomeFront Development Corporation welcomes Rebecca Heath to the leadership role as the Executive Director effective January 1, 2021 replacing Sharon Reynolds who will be retiring at the close of 2020.

“Becky has been with HomeFront for 20 years serving in many capacities, and most recently as the Program Director”, said President, Brian Gilchrist. “She brings to the position a vast knowledge of the organization both fiscally and programmatically”.

Ms. Heath, a resident of Fort Ann and life-long resident of Washington County, began her career at HomeFront as a financial assistant and in the past 5 years has honed her skills in the grant writing and grant administration of both state and federal grants. She has over ten years of training in the fair housing arena and extensive experience op-

erating a non-profit, rural preservation organization.

Vivian Gauger, a Board Director, notes, “Her knowledge and dedication will enable HomeFront to continue its mission seamlessly upon the retirement of Ms. Reynolds who has brought HomeFront to its current and successful position”.

HomeFront has authored and administered over \$11 million dollars in housing and community development grants in its’ 31 years assisting low income residents in both Washington and Warren Counties. HomeFront owns and manages four senior housing properties located in Hudson Falls, Warrensburg, Argyle, and Fort Ann.

For more information on the services provided by HomeFront Development Corporation, contact us at info@homefrontdev.org or 518-747-8250.

Cheryl Shenkle-O’Neill Retires

Snow Belt Housing Company, Inc. would like to announce the retirement of their current Executive Director, Cheryl Shenkle-O’Neill. In her 30 years of dedicated service to Lewis County, Cheryl has been an instrumental part of building a successful network of community partners. Her invaluable efforts have enhanced the lives of our community members by revitalizing multiple housing properties and fostering local collaborative efforts to provide all residents with better access to decent, safe and affordable housing.

After diligent search efforts, Snow Belt Housing Company, Inc. has selected Cheryl’s successor and would like to welcome Jaylyn Yuhas-Heames as the new Executive Director. Jaylyn brings vast leadership experience and a successful track record of project development, expansion, implementation and advocacy in the nonprofit sector. She embodies the values that drive Snow Belt Housing Company, Inc. and she is deeply committed to continuing to serve the agency’s mission.

Brownfields Case Studies Published

The NY Dept. of State has published a booklet of case studies of developing Downtown Revitalization Initiative projects on Brownfield sites. Download your copy at www.ny.gov/sites/ny.gov/files/atoms/files/DRI_CaseStudy_BOA-Brownfields.pdf.

HUD Launches Recovery Housing Program

HUD Secretary Ben Carson announced the launch of a pilot program to house those recovering from substance abuse on November 24th. The Recovery Housing Program will provide funding to 24 states and the District of Columbia, all of which have rates of drug overdose deaths above the national overdose mortality rate.

The RHP Notice provides state grantees the flexibility to carry out activities directly or pass funds through to local governments in rural and urban areas throughout the state. Therefore, grantees can streamline the use of RHP funds,

particularly by nonprofits and other subrecipients that currently administer residential programs for persons in recovery from a substance use disorder.

A total of \$24,500,000 was awarded to the grantees in this round. New York was not on the list of grantees for the pilot program. The largest grant was awarded to West Virginia, at \$1,585,000, and the smallest grant was awarded to Vermont, at \$753,000.

More information on this initiative can be found at www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/rhp.

RHC Annual Meeting and Board Vote

Due to COVID-19, the Rural Housing Coalition’s Annual Meeting and Board vote will be conducted completely online. Board ballots will be emailed to members on Monday, December 7th and online voting will be open until Friday, December 18th at 11:00 AM. The Annual Meeting will be held virtually on December 18th.

HUD Increases Section 8 Support Due To COVID 19

On November 17th, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development made \$86.85 million available to public housing agencies in the form of Mainstream funding vouchers to assist non-elderly populations impacted by Coronavirus. Mainstream Vouchers are administered using the same rules as other housing choice vouchers but targeted to serve a special population to ensure residents of low income housing, including those with unique circumstances, receive necessary funding to protect their health and safety against COVID-19.

“Recently, we have learned a great deal about Coronavirus and the impact it has on all of our nation’s people,” said HUD Secretary Ben Carson. “Now, we must apply this knowledge to protect and save lives, especially when it comes to populations that face adversity in the form of mental, physical, and emotional challenges. Understanding the needs of these populations, Mainstream Vouchers provide targeted assistance to non-elderly populations with disabilities in The Department’s ongoing effort to provide resources to combat COVID-19.”

“Mainstream Vouchers are an important tool to assist one of our most vulnerable populations. Providing housing is more important than ever in light of the continued effects of COVID-19,” said Assistant Secretary Hunter Kurtz.

Authorized by the CARES Act, HUD is making a total of \$150 million in Mainstream funding available for PHAs from FY20 and previous year appropriations.

Protect Your Clients From Utility Shutoffs

Currently there is a blanket moratorium on electric, gas, water and telephone shutoffs in New York State. However, these blanket protections are tied to an executive order which is slated to end on December 3rd, 2020. If it is not extended further, utilities may begin terminating service for non-payment.

There is a way for consumers to avoid this by calling their utility company and letting them know that they have experienced a change in financial circumstance. “Self-certifying” is an easy but critical pro-

cess to avoid an unnecessary utility shutoff.

Utility customers are eligible for 180 days of additional protection from shutoffs, but they MUST call the utility immediately to inform them of the financial circumstances that have been changed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, utilities may not be shut off during the holidays.

Any utility customer who experiences a termination of their service should contact the Department of Public Service Emergency Hotline at (800) 342-3355.

Small Business Relief Program

LISC and Lowe’s have partnered on a Rural Relief Small Business Grant program. \$18 Million is available for small business support. This program will support small businesses and enterprises affected by COVID-19 across the country, especially those in underserved communities, including entrepreneurs of color, women- and veteran-owned businesses that often lack access to flexible, affordable capital. Eligible businesses must be located in communities with populations of 50,000 or less. Applications will be reviewed based on criteria designed to prioritize particularly challenged businesses, and the final grantees will be randomly selected from the

top scoring applicants.

Applications must be submitted by December 6th at 11:59PM ET for consideration in the first round. Additional rounds are planned for the period of December 29-January 5, 2021, and January 26-February 2, 2021. A new application must be submitted for each round in order to be considered for funding in that round.

Non-profit organizations are ineligible for the relief funding program at this time, but may be eligible for later rounds of funding.

For more information, visit www.lisc.org/covid-19/small-business-assistance/rural-relief-small-business-grants/.

CPC Launches Small Building Loan Program

On November 16th, CPC launched a new Flex Small Loan program for acquisition, development and rehab of small multifamily rental properties. The new program provides both construction and permanent financing with loans as low as \$100,000. The program was created to address the unique capital needs faced by developers of small projects.

CPC defines small projects as having between 5 and 49 units. Loans can be used by commercial building owners to convert vacant upper story space to rental housing for additional income.

To learn more, visit <https://community.com/cpc-expands-commitment-to-small-multifamily-buildings/>.

Career Opportunities

Client Support

Specialist (Housing)

Alliance for Positive Health seeks compassionate and engaging individuals who have personal experience with successfully negotiating service delivery systems. In addition to a willingness to share from your own experiences, this position requires documentation, time management, commitment, self-motivation, and effective communication. This position assists with targeted outreach to increase engagement of designated target populations, and assists clients in self-advocacy and self-management skill-building.

Successful candidates will be able to build trusting, professional relationships with clients, co-workers and external service providers. If you have strong interpersonal and advocacy skills, the Alliance for Positive Health would like to talk to you!

Job requirements include a High School diploma or GED. Bilingual a plus. Basic computer skills. Ability to maintain professional boundaries within agency and grant guidelines, as well as with clients and external service providers.

For more information, visit www.allianceforpositivehealth.org/get-involved/employment/. EOE

Community Services Project Assistant

High school diploma or GED, Associates Degree preferred and three years' experience in community services and/or related programming. To assist in the overall functioning of the Community Services programs by assisting with reporting, audits/reviews, and serving as a liaison with Community Services staff. NYS driver's license. 35 hours per week. Salary range: \$ 22.31-23.31. The application review process will begin on 12/9/20 and be ongoing until the position has been filled. Applications accepted at Delaware Opportunities Inc., 35430 State Highway 10 Hamden NY 13782. EOE

Vice President of Housing Programs

Belmont Housing Resources for WNY is a highly respected nonprofit organization in the Western New York Community. The Vice President of Housing Programs is an essential member of the Belmont executive leadership team reporting directly to the President, is responsible for the overall administration and management of Belmont's affordable housing and housing counseling programs, ensuring alignment with strategic priorities, government regulations, and organizational objectives in support of individuals and families. The VP will lead the housing programs department to continuously evaluate outcomes, develop systems and processes to increase efficiencies, and provide leadership development opportunities to ensure their team is equipped to meet the needs of the individuals and families they serve. A track record of success leading and managing large programs is also essential.

Bachelor's degree required; Master's degree preferred

5-7 years of leadership experience required; non-profit leadership preferred
For more information and to apply, visit <https://jobs.crelate.com/portal/catapult/job/q5poxse75o3lwcciocfghyqagw>. EOE

Intern

The Affordable Housing Corporation has an unpaid opening for an intern. Reporting to the Assistant Vice President of AHC, the intern will familiarize themselves with the program to be able to update and streamline AHC forms and documents. The intern will also support the Project Managers on coordinating with different Agency departments to bring a funding application from the review stage to the final contract. Qualifications:

- Pursuing a bachelor's degree or higher
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Computer skills – Word Perfect & Microsoft Excel

See the complete job notice at https://hcr.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/04/ahc_intern_duties_2020.pdf. All candidates must submit a resume and letter of interest to InternshipOpportunities@nyshcr.org. 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@rural-housing.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.