



RD Rural Delivery

New York State Rural Housing Coalition, Inc.

July, 2014

Cabinet Appointments Advance

On June 24th, the Senate Budget Committee approved, by a vote of 15 to 6, the nomination of current HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan to be the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). On June 25th, the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee approved Secretary Donovan's nomination by a vote of 9 to 1. Having cleared the two committees of jurisdiction, the nomination now awaits consideration by

the full Senate, which is expected to confirm Secretary Donovan without controversy.

San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro was nominated for the position of HUD Secretary in anticipation of Secretary Donovan moving to OMB. Mayor Castro's nomination was approved by the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs on June 25th by a vote of 16 to 6.

During the same session, the

Banking Committee approved, by voice vote, the nomination of Laura Wertheimer for the position of Federal Housing Finance Agency Inspector General. Ms. Wertheimer is currently with the law firm Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr.

Still awaiting a full Senate vote is the nomination of Nani Coloretti for the position of HUD Deputy Secretary, which was approved by the Banking Committee on April 29th by a voice vote.

Kalthoff Honored At Ribbon Cutting

On June 27th, Coalition Chair Charlie Kalthoff was honored at the ribbon cutting of an HHAP facility in Almond, New York. Redeveloped by ACCORD Corporation, the homeless housing facility is now known as Kalthoff House. Charlie retired in early 2014 as Executive Director of ACCORD Corporation, which is based in Belmont, NY and serves all of Allegany County.



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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...

Continuum of Care Awards

On June 19th, HUD announced the award of more than \$23 million in Tier 2 Continuum of Care awards to 58 projects within New York. The rural awards ranged from a low of \$13,000 for the Sullivan County CofC to more than \$185,000 for the Oneida/Madison CofC. More than \$18 million of this award went to the New York City Continuum of Care.

Save The Date!

Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress will hold their annual breakfast on September 29th at Anthony's Pier 9 in Newburgh. The 8:00 AM breakfast will feature Jose Gonzalez of the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York as keynote presenter. Adaptive Reuse of Vacant Buildings will be a major discussion topic for the day.

Rural Rental Housing Report Released

During the next week, the National Rural Housing Coalition will officially release its newest report, "Rural America's Rental Housing Crisis," on the state of affordable rental housing in rural communities.

The report highlights not only the substantial contributions that federal rural housing programs have made to improve rural housing conditions, but also the challenges to preserving and maintaining these gains in an era of budget austerity.

"Rural advocates are deeply concerned that USDA's current preservation efforts will not be enough to sustain its rental housing portfolio. If Congress and the Administration do not implement real reforms, rural communities may lose this vital resource," says Bob Rapoza.

The report may be viewed at http://ruralhousingcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/NRHC-Rural-America-Rental-Housing-Crisis_FINAL.compressed.pdf.

Federal and U.S. 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.

CHDO Training On HOME Final Rule

Registration is open for July workshops for Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) to orient them to changes in the 2013 final rule for the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program. The sessions will focus on the final rule's CHDO-specific provisions, and offer strategies to build and demonstrate the capacity an organization needs in order to receive CHDO set-aside funds. The HOME statute requires that 15% of a participating jurisdiction's HOME allocation be set aside for use by organizations that meet CHDO criteria.

The two and one-half-day July trainings will be held in Louisville,

Houston, Salt Lake City, Fort Worth, Kansas City, KS, New York, Detroit, and Memphis. HUD offers travel and lodging scholarships for CHDOs with budget limitations. More workshops are scheduled in other cities throughout the summer.

CHDOs can register for the July workshops at the CHDO Workshop News page at: <http://bit.ly/1jXTiTd>. Get more information about the final HOME rule at OneCPD: <https://www.onecpd.info/home>.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition's summary of key provisions of the final HOME rule are found at: <http://nlihc.org/issues/other/HOME>.

Budget Request Seeks Restoration Of HUD Programs

President Obama's FY 2015 budget request contains some good news for housing, if enacted. Following drastic program cuts in the 2013 and 2014 budgets, the current budget proposal seeks to turn around the negative impact of those cuts.

- The proposal seeks to increase funding for housing counseling programs by one-third, to \$60 million
- Increases Homeless Assistance Grants by \$301 million over 2014 levels
- Proposes \$15 billion for Project Rebuild
- Proposes \$1 billion in mandatory funding for the National Housing Trust Fund
- Includes \$600 million for the Section 202 and 811 programs
- Will provide tenant-based rental assistance to 2.2 million low-income families
- Lead Hazard Control programs will increase by \$10 million

The President's budget also proposes changing the budget cycle for Project Based Rental Assistance from the fiscal year to a calendar year basis, making funding cycles more predictable in future years

Sadly, not all is good news. The budget proposal decreases the line for the HOME program to \$950 million from \$1 billion, nearly down to the level of the 2013 budget. CDBG funding appears to be about \$200 million less than last year. HOPWA funding will increase only very slightly, to \$332 million. FHA and Ginnie Mae Mortgage Loan Guarantee authority remain flat.

An overview of the President's budget request for HUD is found at <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/>.

NHTF Final Rule

Now At OMB

On June 11th, the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) at the Office of Management and Budget posted a notice that the final National Housing Trust Fund regulations are at OMB and that a final rule is expected to be released sometime in July, 2014. While a posting does not guarantee that a final rule will be published by the date specified, the OIRA listing is a good sign and a positive step toward implementation of the NHTF. The NHTF was authorized by the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 and HUD issued a proposed rule on October 29, 2010.

RRP Training Offered

Renovation, Repair and Painting training (Initial) for contractors will be offered at 3 locations in the Albany area in July, sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension. The trainings are free. The federal EPA RRP rule applies to contractors, painters, plumbers, carpenters, electricians, window replacers, roofers, and landlords. The certification from this training is good for 5 years.

Pre-registration is required. Register online at: https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events.cfm?dept=201.

*Have
you renewed your
membership in the Coalition?
The new membership year started
July 1st. Thanks to all who have
already re-joined. Call Marlene Papa,
Membership Committee Chair, at
(518) 458-8696 for more
information.*

Career Opportunities

Rehab Specialist

WCCRC seeks candidates for Rehab Specialist position located in Stamford, NY to start immediately. This is a temporary part-time (16-24 hours / week) position that has the potential to become permanent.

The Rehab Specialist's job purpose is to inspect routine and complex structural building systems at various stages of construction, alteration, and repair to assure compliance with approved plans, specifications, codes, ordinances and regulations; and to assist in the review of building plans and specifications to determine compliance with applicable codes, ordinances, rules and regulations for WCCRC building programs. To create and revise building rehabilitation project work estimates and to oversee and monitor rehabilitation projects to ensure that work is properly performed. 3 years experience in the journey level trades or as a contractor in a variety of building construction activities. Typically, work is performed at construction sites and in an office environment; exposure to outdoor elements; extensive use of the telephone and computer; ability to walk on uneven ground; reach (including overhead), squat, bend, lift, crawl, and, climb; push, pull, and carry up to 50 pounds; drive daily to various locations within the WCCRC service area. Possession of, or ability to obtain and maintain an appropriate, valid NYS driver's license. Ability to obtain within 3 months a certificate of completion for lead-safe work practices.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a cover letter, including salary requirements, and résumé via e-mail to info@westerncatskills.org.

Development Coordinator / Grant Writer

WCCRC seeks candidates for a full-time Development Coordinator / Grant Writer position located in Stamford, NY.

The purpose of this position is to maintain and nurture relationships with existing funding sources for WCCRC; identify new funding sources for possible support based on priority funding areas; develop proposals and applications for these sources; and coordinate and advance the efficient and effective operation of a comprehensive development program to include areas such as special events, donor relations, and annual giving.

The Development Coordinator / Grant Writer reports directly to the Executive Director and works very closely with funders such as HCR, Regional Economic Development

Executive Director

The Albany County Land Bank Corporation's first Executive Director will forge strategic and tactical alliances, develop and implement policy, and manage the financial reporting and health of our organization that will confront and end the problems distressed properties cause to our neighborhoods. He/She will support county-wide and local revitalization strategies and efforts through strategically acquiring, improving, assembling, demolishing, and selling vacant, abandoned, and tax-delinquent properties.

This role requires a bold leader and spokesperson that is fluent in financial and real estate issues. You need a high level of emotional energy and a visible passion for the mission and all it can accomplish. You must have vision and be farsighted

Councils, DOS, HUD and other Program Staff to meet these goals. Qualifications:

- Minimum of 5 years experience in grant development, or similar experience, plus a Bachelor's degree, or equivalent combination of education and work experience.
- Computer and Internet literacy and familiarity with Word, Excel, and other Microsoft programs required.
- Personal commitment to WCCRC's mission and goals.
- Residence in or willingness to relocate to the WCCRC service area and its surrounds. (No relocation package provided.)

Qualified candidates are invited to send a cover letter, including salary requirements, and résumé via e-mail to info@westerncatskills.org.

about our future potential. You must be comfortable in a room with diverse stakeholders and see that as an opportunity to build bridges to new ideas and discovery. You must be prepared to be outspoken, stand up for what you believe, push back against the tide for your beliefs, and take calculated risks. Lead by example, with observable behavior to back up your word. And don't forget that sense of humor.

Specific qualifications include Educational background in Urban Planning, Real Estate Development/Finance, Public Administration or closely related field.

Please submit resume and a cover letter to: Mike Jacobson, Board Chair, c/o Habitat for Humanity Capital District, 200 Henry Johnson Blvd. , Albany, NY 12210. Email to Mike@HabitatCD.org. EOE

Career Opportunities

Community Development

Consultant/Planner

Thoma Development Consultants is seeking one or two team members to join our staff of professionals as a Program Manager and/or Planner. Entry-level and experienced individuals will be considered. Salary will be commensurate with experience. The successful candidate(s), as individuals and as team members, will be responsible for providing a varied array of community development services to our customers in the Central and Finger Lakes areas of New York State, including planning, grant writing, grant administration, project implementation, and economic development services. A degree or comparable experience in planning, community development, or similar field is desired. Candidates with AICP certification are urged to apply. Background or experience in any of the following is helpful: comprehensive planning, ag and farmland protection planning, land use and zoning, grant writing, grant administration, economic development, downtown revitalization, housing, and sustainable development. Candidates should possess excellent written and verbal communication skills, enjoy working with the public, and thrive in a collaborative working environment. Basic knowledge of GIS is preferred but not required. Please submit a cover letter, with salary requirements and resume, to: Thoma Development Consultants, 34 Tompkins Street, Cortland, NY 13045 or via email at tdc@thomadevelopment.com. Thoma Development Consultants is an equal opportunity employer.

Executive Director

The Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of New York State is seeking an experienced community development professional to lead this highly regarded statewide coalition of Neighborhood Preservation Companies, Community Housing Development Organizations and supporting professional organizations. The Executive Director is the public face of the coalition, working closely with an engaged board and a small staff. The Executive Director will have a broad perspective, a can-do attitude, coupled with energy and creativity. Bachelor's degree required; graduate work in political science, public administration, urban affairs, public policy, urban planning, social services or related field preferred; or, a combination of education and experience that provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities. At least 3 years of management experience. To view the full job description, visit: <http://newyork.us.jobs/viewjob.asp?jobid=10719201>. Apply with salary requirements to: NPCNYS, Attn: Joseph Sluszka, 100 State Street Suite 710, Albany, NY 12207. EOE

Director of Communications

RUPCO is seeking an accomplished Communications Professional with at least 10 years of experience, ideally in a leadership role in a complex organization, non-profit or for-profit, covering areas of media relations, corporate communications including website content, social media, newsletters and communications with funders and donors. Experience with fundraising, special events management and/or donor software management shall be considered a plus. The ability to lead an organization interested in transforming knowledge into exciting and useful messages and disseminating these messages to the right audiences through the best distribution channels is critical. Experience & insight into best practices in how to democratically distribute the brand across a large agency of employees and volunteers is highly desirable.

The Director of Communications & Resource Development is a key member of the Senior Management Team at RUPCO and shall report to the Chief Executive Officer. In addition to communications, the position shall also carry out responsibilities to raise awareness and funding for the agency and its mission through individual giving, special events, sponsorship and grant writing.

RUPCO welcomes & encourages diversity in its workforce & all individuals are encouraged to apply. RUPCO is an equal opportunity employer. Please submit cover letter including salary history and resume by July 18, 2014 to: RUPCO, Inc., 289 Fair Street, Kingston NY 12401. Resumes may be emailed to jobs@rupco.org.

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.

AHC Grant Awards Announced

On June 17th, the Governor's Office released the awardees in the latest round of AHC funding. Winning grant applications are:

Arbor Housing and Development: \$300,000 for the rehab of 30 units;
Village of Argyle: \$330,000 to rehab 12 units;
Better Housing for Tompkins County: \$300,000 for the rehab of 24 units;
Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation: \$600,000 for 100 units of rehab in multiple counties;
Village of Canajoharie: \$288,000 to rehab 11 units;
Center for Urban Rehabilitation and Empowerment: \$300,000 for 12 units of home improvement;
Town of Cheektowaga: \$450,000 for the rehab of 30 units;
Community Development Corp. of Long Island: \$1 million for rehab of 60 units;
Community Housing Innovations: \$640,000 for acquisition and rehab of 16 units;
City of Cortland: \$280,000 for acquisition and rehab of 8 units;
Cortland Housing Assistance Council: \$375,000 for acquisition and rehab of 15 units;
City of Fulton: \$188,658 to rehab 15 units;
Greater Rochester Housing Partnership: \$315,000 for new construction of 9 units;
Greater Rochester Housing Partnership: \$625,000 for the acquisition and rehab of 25 units;
Village of Greenwich: \$330,000 to rehab 12 units;
Town of Hempstead: \$200,000 for new construction of 5 homes;
Lackawanna Housing Development Corp.: \$300,000 for rehab of 33 units;

Long Island Housing Development Fund Company: \$727,500 for 20 units of home improvement;
Near Westside Neighborhood Association: \$300,000 for the rehab of 20 units;
Neighbors of Watertown: \$350,000 for the rehab of 10 units;
NeighborWorks Home Resources: \$500,000 for home improvement of 30 units in multiple counties;
North Country Affordable Housing: \$273,000 for rehab of 13 units;
North East Area Development: \$200,000 for the rehab of 25 units;
City of Oswego: \$400,000 for home improvement of 18 units;
Otsego Rural Housing Assistance: \$335,000 for home improvement of 24 units;
Putnam County Housing Corp.: \$200,000 for rehab of 10 units;
RUPCO: \$350,000 for acquisition and rehab of 15 units;
Town of Saratoga: \$330,000 for 12 units of home improvement;
Village of Scotia: \$325,000 to rehab 12 units;
Village of South Glens Falls: \$310,000 to rehab 12 units;
Southtowns RPC: \$250,000 for rehab of 25 units;
Tioga Opportunities: \$180,000 for home improvement of 18 units;
Utica NHS: \$462,000 to rehab 14 units;
West Side NHS: \$400,000 for the rehab of 15 units;

Final Rule Enacted

On June 25th, HUD implemented five voucher reform changes authorized by the FY 2014 Appropriations Act. Effective July 1, 2014, the five changes are subject to final rulemaking by HUD. The changes will include HQS inspections every 2 years for HCV assisted units, rather than annually; a utility allowance cap; amendment to the definition of 'extremely low income'; the use of alternative inspection sources for required biennial inspections; and creates a definition of 'consortia' for public housing agencies.

These changes are expected to streamline voucher administration, and some have been under discussion since 2007.

The Federal Register notice is at: <http://1.usa.gov/lpPAqJh>.



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Multifamily Owners Reminded of Enhanced Voucher Tenant “Right to Remain”

HUD’s Office of Multifamily Housing Programs sent a memorandum to all owners of HUD-assisted multifamily housing on June 5th, reminding them that households with “enhanced vouchers” have a “right to remain” in their homes. The Office of Public and Indian Housing sent a similar reminder to public housing agencies on May 22nd.

Enhanced Vouchers (EVs) are provided to residents of properties with private, project-based assistance when an “eligibility event” takes place. The most typical eligibility event is when a project-based Section 8 contract expires and the owner decides not to renew the contract, that is, “opts out.” Prepayment of certain unrestricted HUD-insured mortgages (generally Section 236 and Section 221(d)(3) projects) is another type of eligibility event.

There are two key features that make EVs enhanced:

1. A household receiving an EV has the right to remain in its previously-assisted home, and the owner must accept the EV. Instead of accepting an EV, a household may move right away with a regular Housing Choice Voucher (HCV). A household accepting an EV may choose to move later, but then its EV converts to a regular HCV.

2. An EV will pay the owner the difference between a tenant’s required contribution toward rent and the new market-based rent charged by the owner after the eligibility event (also referred to as “housing conversion action”), even if that new rent

is greater than the PHA’s basic voucher payment standard. A PHA’s regular voucher payment standard is between 90% and 110% of the Fair Market Rent (FMR). In most cases, a household will continue to pay 30% of its income toward rent and utilities. However, households must continue to pay toward rent at least the same amount they were paying for rent on the date of the housing conversion action, even if it is more than 30% of their income. The memorandum states, “The purpose of this special payment standard is to allow the family to remain in the property after the eligibility event.”

The memorandum concludes, “Concerns have been raised to HUD that some families and owners may not be fully aware of the enhanced voucher ‘right to remain’ in accordance with the Act, particularly after the initial year of assistance. When the administering PHA conducts the oral briefing with tenants and/or owners regarding the use of enhanced vouchers, it is important to emphasize to both parties that families have the ‘right to remain’ pursuant to section 8(t) of the Act, and that this ‘right to remain’ extends beyond the initial year of assistance.”

The National Alliance of HUD Tenants has pressed for such a memorandum because some of its members have been threatened with eviction by owners who fail to recognize the statutory right to remain.

Read the Multifamily memorandum at: <http://1.usa.gov/1p9QZnv>.

Harvard Study Released

The Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard released the 26th State of the Nation’s Housing report last week. The report notes that while there is some improvement in the housing market nationally, certain sectors continue to struggle. Some interesting factoids from the study:

- Multifamily housing construction is outstripping single family production, increasing this year by 25% compared to 15% for single family home production increase;
- Over 7 million homes remain vacant and off the market, contributing to tight inventories;
- Over 25% of homeowners with mortgages were under water in high poverty and minority neighborhoods in 2013;
- The home ownership rate fell in 2012-13 for the 9th straight year;
- The number of single-family homes rented during 2006-12 increased by 3.2 million;
- More than four out of five households with incomes below \$15,000 (roughly equivalent to full-time work at the federal minimum wage) paid more than 30 percent of income for housing in 2012, and two-thirds paid more than 50 percent;
- Due to a \$3 billion reduction in HUD’s FY2013 budget, an estimated 42,000 fewer households received housing vouchers in 2013 than in 2012;
- In 2013, the homeless population in the United States fell by 4 percent.

To review the entire report, visit http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/research/state_nations_housing.

Did you know?

that one of the workshops scheduled for the 35th annual affordable housing and community development conference will be a training by USDA staff on changes in the Guaranteed Rural Housing Program set to take effect on September 1st?

Request For Expressions Of Interest: Rental Housing Development

The Town of Prattsville has recently completed a Long Term Community Recovery Plan to outline a strategy to rebuild the Town after Hurricane Irene and Lee and develop programs and projects that will help to make residents safe in the future. The Town is also participating in the New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program. As part of that participation, the Town will have access to \$3.0 million in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funding and preferred access to other community development and hazard mitigation resources. It is the Town's intention to use these funds to develop a Town Commons to include senior housing, a health center and a community center. The initial phase will include the acquisition of property out of the floodplain suitable for development of floodsafe affordable replacement housing for seniors, build the necessary infrastructure to support the Town Commons and to develop a health center.

The Town desires to develop a working relationship with a private, public or nonprofit developer or developers of affordable housing to help it advance a multi-phase development initiative for a 20+ acre site located on County Route 10 in the Town of Prattsville. It is the Town's intention to purchase the property and extend public infrastructure to the site. The mix of land uses for the site includes, but is not limited to:

- affordable homes for purchase;
- affordable senior rental housing;

- market rate homes for sale;
- development of support services including a regional senior center;
- green hazard mitigation infrastructure;
- open space; and
- recreation amenities among other potential uses.

At this time, the Town is soliciting expressions of interest from developers with experience in the development of affordable housing for the first phase of the initiative. It is the Town's intention to submit an application for funding to the New York State NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program to support the first phase of affordable replacement



housing.

The Request for Expression of Interest should include:

- A letter of interest not to exceed two pages that summarizes the company/team, affordable housing qualifications, experience with NYS affordable housing programs and experience managing affordable housing units;
- Corporate qualification materials not to exceed ten pages;

- Resumes (key staff only)
- References from municipal representatives, developers or other sponsors the developer(s) have worked with directly on the development and/or operation of affordable housing in New York State. Include references from financial institutions that have helped finance projects in the Company's portfolio.

An electronic submission must be received by the deadline of 12:00 PM, on July 31, 2014 to the Prattsville Local Development Corporation, Kevin Piccoli, Chairman, 14517 Main Street, PO Box 418, Prattsville, NY 12468. It is strongly preferred that responses be submitted by email to kpicolli@aol.com. All late or incomplete submittals will be rejected. No verbal or faxed submittals will be accepted.

Proposals will be reviewed by Prattsville Local Development Corporation (PDC) and Town Board and a preferred developer or developers will be selected. The Town or PDC may request an interview with representatives of some submitters. The Town Board will select the preferred developer(s). The Town reserves the right to reject any and all REI's and to negotiate the terms of the agreement with the selected developer(s) prior to entering into a written agreement.

Questions concerning this Request for Expression of Interest or the review process may be directed to Kevin Piccoli, Prattsville Local Development Corporation, by email at kpicolli@aol.com or by phone at (201) 888-4936.

Opening Doors Amendment Suggestions Sought

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) is seeking feedback on possible amendments to Opening Doors: the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness (Opening Doors). Suggestions are due by August 8th.

Opening Doors, released in 2010, provides a federal government framework with target dates for ending homelessness among different populations. Specific goals and target dates are:

- Ending homelessness among veterans by 2015.
- Ending chronic homelessness by 2015.
- Ending homelessness among

children, youth, and families by 2020.

Opening Doors was amended in 2012 to elaborate on the plan's section regarding ending youth homelessness. Now USICH is seeking potential amendments that reflect best practices, legislative changes such as enactment of the Affordable Care Act, and the impact of constrained federal funding.

USICH Executive Director Laura Green Zeilinger said in an email to stakeholders, "This year, we're considering amending the plan again to include more of what we've learned from our progress. For instance, through the tremendous advances made by communities, we have

gained critical new insights on the necessary components of effective homeless crisis response systems. In addition, health care reform has meant new innovations and approaches in bringing Medicaid to bear on ending homelessness. Also, due to a lack of Congressional support for needed affordable housing investments, we will not reach our national goal to end chronic homelessness in 2015. However, if Congress supports the President's 2015 budget, we can reach the goal in 2016."

Submit recommendations and votes supporting other stakeholder ideas at: <http://bit.ly/1nWDdOx>. A participation guide is available at <http://bit.ly/USICH2014>.

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'Like' us on Facebook for up-to-the-minute news.

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