



State Budget Update

As this is written, the April 1st State budget deadline looms. New York State leaders have agreed on a \$131.8 billion budget for the 2009/2010 Fiscal Year. Using a combination of funding from the federal stimulus program, a series of tax increases that includes tax rate increases for high income earners, and extensive program cuts, the State leadership claims to have closed a budget deficit that had risen to nearly \$17.7 billion.

Affordable housing advocates were left disappointed and dismayed that the Governor and legislative leaders, as was the case with the federal stimulus package, failed to recognize the opportunities for economic stimulus found in so many affordable housing and community development programs.

On the bright side, the leaders of the Senate and Assembly managed to achieve restorations to the Rural and Neighborhood Programs, thereby preventing the damage that would have occurred if Governor Paterson's cuts had remained. The budget bills filed this weekend restore over \$2.2 million in RPC cuts by using a combination of State general funds and savings in other program areas achieved by using federal stimulus money. As of this writing, annual funding levels for the RPCs can not be determined

because *Rural Delivery* has learned of several technical 'glitches' in the budget negotiations. Based on our understanding of the budget, RPCs can expect to be funded in an amount that will exceed \$85,000 per group. We have also learned that in an effort to achieve parity between programs, the Rural Housing Coalition will experience a funding reduction of 25%.

The Legislature was unable to overcome Administration resistance to restoring cuts to the Rural Rental Assistance Program. RRAP, which has been the key to New York's success in leveraging Section 515 funds, sustained a cut of nearly \$2 million. While attempts to restore funding to the program failed, Senate negotiators did succeed in including language that will allow new units of RRAP for the current year. Funds to support the new units are being provided through a \$188,000 member item from Senator David Valesky (D-Oneida).

In a major blow to affordable housing advocates, over two hundred million dollars in cuts to the State's major capital programs were not restored. Advocates took the position that New York State could have provided important stimulus funding for low income communities across the state by maintaining the level of investment at last

year's funding levels. These cuts hit rural communities particularly hard as funding for programs such as Rural Area Revitalization were completely eliminated. The important HOPE/RESTORE program that provides emergency repairs for low income elderly homeowners was cut from \$4.4 million to \$400,000.

There is somewhat better news in the area of homeless and supportive housing. The budget bill includes:

- 1) A complete restoration for existing SRO Support Service units and most of that are needed for new units coming on-line (the budget was restored by \$4.4 million for a total of \$20.48 million).
- 2) Full funding for all of the NY/NY III youth aging out of foster care units (the budget was restored by \$1.25 million for a total of \$2.1 million).
- 3) Full funding for all of the NY/NY III HIV/AIDS units (the budget was restored by \$1.3 million for a total of \$5.8 million).

In addition, the legislature added back key homelessness prevention funding. The budget bill includes \$3.685 million for Homelessness Intervention Program (HIP) and \$5.719 million for Homelessness Prevention Programs.

Thanks to everyone who got involved in advocacy during this difficult negotiation.

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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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Bits and Pieces...

Save The Dates!

Dates for the 2009 series of RPC Peer to Peer trainings are being set, while other details are yet to be finalized. Mark your calendars for those dates that have been firmed up: Kingston on May 12th, Batavia on May 20th, and Elizabethtown on June 3rd. More information on these trainings will be mailed directly to RPC directors in the near future, along with information on the other, as-yet-unscheduled session. Keep your eye on your mail for details and registration information.

CCR Notice To Vendors and Contractors

HUD has posted the following security notice regarding the DUNS number used in electronically applying for HUD funding on its website:

“If you have received letters or telephone calls claiming to be from the Department of Transportation and concerning CCR registration, do not respond. Do not provide your DUNS number of trading partner identification number (TPIN). Contact CCR immediately if you feel that your TPIN has been compromised.

Some companies who complied with the fraudulent requests have suffered financial loss. The DOT Office of Inspector General is working with Secret Service to handle these issues. CCR is also aware of the problem.”

Fundraising Summit Slated

The Center for Nonprofit Success is pleased to invite you to the Fundraising Summit taking place in New York City on June 3-4, 2009.

The summit will be held at New York University-Kimmel Center, 60 Washington Square South, New York, NY 10012. For more info on the New York Summit and the cost go to: <http://cfnp.org/ny2009.aspx>.

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.

Notes From March Housing Trust Fund Corporation Board Meeting

At the March 3rd meeting of the Housing Trust Fund Corporation Board, the following items were presented:

- 1) The budget was presented for review. The budget would be presented for adoption at the March 31st HTFC board meeting.
- 2) The Board adopted a resolution establishing a non-voting Advisory Board, similar to the Homeless Housing and Assistance Corporation.
- 3) A resolution was adopted allowing counties within the impact area of the Greater Catskills Flood Remediation program to close on the purchase of homes flooded after April 1, 2004. The purchased homes are to be demolished by the counties and the land to remain undeveloped in perpetuity.
- 4) The Board approved financing for the refinance and repair of a 74 unit Homes for Working Families project in North Tonawanda. The project, originally funded in 1999, has been operating at a significant loss since 2002. Other efforts to

Save The Date!

The dates for the 2009 Rural Housing Coalition Conference have been selected. Plan on being in beautiful downtown Saratoga Springs on Monday and Tuesday, November 16th and 17th for the 30th anniversary conference. Because we know how many of you love the conference in Saratoga, we have made arrangements with the Saratoga Hilton to allow our conferees to come in the day before, Sunday, November 15th at our special conference hotel rate of \$99 per night. This will allow attendees to enjoy Saratoga's wonderful restaurants, museums, clubs and the baths before the conference actually begins.

See you in Saratoga in the fall!

stabilize the project had proven unsuccessful.

- 5) The Board authorized a \$45,000 seed money award for a 6 unit small project proposed by a Harlem-based sponsor.
- 6) The Board authorized an Urban Initiatives award of \$100,000 to Home Headquarters in Syracuse for the renovation of a 2 story building in the Salina Street corridor. The building will house a technology center serving the neighborhood. The project is co-funded by Syracuse University.
- 7) Authorized an IDDP award to the Hudson Valley Housing Development Fund Company, Inc. in support of a project to preserve an existing Section 515 project. The \$180,000 in IDDP funds will supplement other funding for the project, including tax credit proceeds and Rural Development financing, and will specifically be used for needed site improvements including handicapped accessible sidewalks. Gary Hallock noted that this is the first IDDP brought to the Board since

since the IDDP program was reinstated.

- 8) Extension of an existing contract for Green Building consulting services in the amount of \$132,000. Since the launch of DHCR's interest in Green Building technologies, DHCR has been able to train project review staff in many of the issues related to green building. This has allowed DHCR to reduce its dependence on outside consultants for project reviews. DHCR staff expects to be able to cut the demand for consulting services by 50%.
- 9) Approved an unlisted negative declaration under SEQR for the Cedar Avenue Apartments project in the Bronx.

Under New Business, the SEQR staff proposed changing procedures to allow project review staff to make SEQR determination for some Type 2 actions, rather than bringing them all to the Board for approval. The affected actions include small projects, including RARP and UI applications for maintenance/repair/rehabilitation work.

Avoid RPC Payment Delays

Coalition staff have been advised that, prior to approval of 2009-2010 contracts for the Rural Preservation Program and the Rural Rental Assistance Program, grantees must provide DHCR's Community Services Bureau with copies of documentation of Workers Compensation and Disability Insurance coverage. This is a new requirement of the Office of State Comptroller, and lack of the appropriate documentation could prevent the issuance of payment under these contracts.

RPCs will be required to submit forms DB-120.1 and C-105.2. These forms are issued by your insurance carrier. If you do not have

these forms in your files already, you are encouraged to contact your carrier at once to request the forms so that your payment processing is not delayed. Pat Doyle of the Community Services Bureau sent out an email recently to all RPCs detailing the information that will be required to process your contract and issue your next payment. RPCs should also double check their status at the Office of Charities Registration to make sure that all required Charities Registration filings have been received. To check on the status of your organization, visit: http://bartlett.oag.state.ny.us/Char_Forms/search_charities.jsp.

President Signs FY09 HUD Spending Bill

On March 10th, the Senate passed and the President signed HR 1105, the omnibus FY09 appropriations bill. The bill includes nine FY09 spending bills, including the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies spending bill, for the fiscal year that began on October 1, 2008.

The bill provides for increases for most HUD housing and community development programs. Among notable improvements over FY08 funding levels are increases to the Public Housing Operating Fund, HOME, and Policy Development and Research. Total HUD funding increased from \$37.6 billion to \$41.5 billion.

The Senate passed the final bill by voice vote after overcoming opposition to earmarks contained in the bill. The House passed HR 1105 on February 25th. For more information on the specific budget lines, visit the National Low Income Housing Coalition's budget chart at www.nlihc.org/doc/FY10-presidents-request.pdf.

Regional Meetings For Housing Counselors Slated

The Division of Housing and Community Renewal will host a series of regionally-based meetings for housing counselors this month. Commissioner Van Amerongen will welcome housing counselors and legal service providers working on foreclosure and default issues. The meetings will cover the Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan; the 2008 NYS Subprime Lending Reform Act; and Mandatory Settlement Conferences. Sessions in Buffalo and White Plains were concluded in March. The April meetings will take place in:

Banking Department Schedules Hearings

The NYS Banking Department has scheduled a series of Banking Development District (BDD) Hearings during April. Your testimony on the manner in which the program addresses the needs of unbanked/underbanked populations, your thoughts on improvements to the program, etc., would be of GREAT assistance in the Department's evaluation of the BDD program. The dates and locations are as follows:

- Thursday, April 2nd - NYC-Adam Clayton Powell Building, 8th Floor, 163 W. 125th Street
- Monday, April 6th, SYRACUSE - Oncenter, 800 South State Street
- Wednesday, April 8th, SARATOGA - Saratoga County Arts Council, 320 Broadway
- Monday, April 13th, BUFFALO - True Bethel Baptist Church, 907 East Ferry Street

All hearings are scheduled to start at 1:00 PM and end at 4:00 PM. If you have any questions, comments, etc., please contact Yuli Franklin directly at (212)709-1699.

Hauppauge, April 1st, 11:00 AM. Hauppauge Public Library, 601 Veterans Memorial Hwy., Suite 100.
Saratoga Springs, April 7th, 1:30 PM. Saratoga Public Library, 49 Henry Street.
Syracuse, April 14th, 11:30 AM. CNY Development Services, 800 South Wilbur Avenue, 3rd Fl. Auditorium.
New York City, April 24th, 9:30 AM, 15 E. 27th St., Prince George Ballroom.

Please RSVP (with location) to Shannon Sexton-Bates by email at ssextonbates@nysdher.gov.

Three Foundations Join To Help Non-profits Weather Tough Times

The Center for Nonprofit Excellence of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, the Community Foundation of Dutchess County/Ulster County Community Foundation, and the Dyson Foundation have invited nonprofit leaders throughout their region for a series of seminars specially designed for today's economic climate. "Managing Nonprofits Through Difficult Times" offers a dozen programs, from "Fundraising in a Recession" to "Adapting Your Strategic Plan to the Economic Crisis." The three foundations decided a strategic alliance was necessary among them.

"In the coming year, most nonprofits will face a perfect storm of declining donations, reduced government aid, and increasing demand for services," said Jennifer Dowley, President of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. "We're offering these seminars to help our non-profit community prepare."

The Center for Nonprofit Excellence of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation serves as a resource for the hundreds of nonprofit organizations in the tri-state region. Registration is required for the seminars, which run through May. The locations of the seminars vary throughout the Hudson Valley, western Massachusetts and northwestern Connecticut. Some material is available as webinars. Registration is available online at www.cfdcny.org/page10003473.cfm.

For more information contact Jennifer Dowley at (413) 528-8039, or by email at jd@berkshiretaconic.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 online.

Career Opportunities

Executive Administrative Assistant

Provide administrative and organizational support to the Executive Director; including facilitating and coordinating daily activities and long range initiatives. Min. Req.: BA in Business or related field with some experience or AS plus two years experience or H.S. Diploma/GED, plus five (5) years of administrative office experience. AND a valid driver's license that meets agency's insurability criteria and access to a reliable personal vehicle.

Community Relations Coordinator

Maintain, expand and promote community partnerships and agency presence. Design and implement marketing plans, including web outreach; participation in community activities, creating paid and earned advertising. Build on agency branding and program awareness in the community. Maintain and expand donor outreach programs and identification of new funding opportunities. Min. Req.: BA with 2 years experience or AS with 5 years experience or High School diploma/GED and 7 years experience in Community Relations, Marketing or related field, AND a valid driver's license that meets agency insurability criteria and access to a reliable personal vehicle.

The next newsletter deadline is April 15th. Submit your articles, notices, and photos to colin@ruralhousing.org.

Energy Auditor

Conducts home/building energy evaluations for developing and evaluating remediation work scope components. Initiates and tracks utility account energy usage data and coordinates with staff to complete application processing. Provides energy services information to home/building owners. Min. Req.: High School Diploma or equivalent plus two (2) years construction and/or energy conservation experience. Experience in home energy auditing preferred AND valid driver's license that meets the agency's insurability requirements and ability to stoop, bend and occasionally lift up to 50 lbs.

Energy Services Packager

Provides information about TCAction's programs and facilitates the application process for those services. Identifies participants' eligibility and outlines financial program opportunities. Monitors and tracks service delivery and ensures positive participant outcomes. Minimum requirement: High School diploma or GED, AND two years of professional marketing, or construction/contractor business and/or energy conservation experience AND valid driver's license that meets agency insurability criteria and access to reliable transportation.

Energy Services Bookkeeper

Responsible for overall daily maintenance of financial records and reporting for energy services programs; includes participant and vendor communications. Creates service invoices and assists energy services packagers in job cost and inventory analysis. Facilitate applications and processing of participant applications. Minimum requirement: High School Degree or equivalent with 3 years bookkeeping experience AND valid driver's license that meets agency insurability criteria and access to reliable personal vehicle.

Information Technology Assistant

Diagnose hardware and software systems, implement solutions and provide support; monitor Help Desk. Manage and support database programs and reporting. Maintain and expand agency website; serve as computer room facilitator, expand staff computer skill/knowledge base. Min. Req.: AS Degree plus 3 yrs experience or High School diploma/GED plus 5 years experience in computer technology with database management and website programming experience; AND a valid driver's license that meets agency insurability criteria and access to a reliable personal vehicle.

For all of these jobs.....

For detailed job descriptions: access our website: www.tcaction.org. Mail, fax, or email resume w/ cover letter to Professional Development Director, TCAction, 701 Spencer Road, Ithaca, NY 14850; Fax# (607) 273-3293; email: jobs@tcaction.org. Applications accepted until Friday, April 10, 2009. AA/EEO.

HUD Awards NSP Funding

Two counties in New York were the recipients of Neighborhood Stabilization Funding directly from HUD in awards announced on March 19th. Nassau County and Orange County received \$7.7 million and \$2.1 million, respectively to address the foreclosed housing stock.

This funding is similar to the NSP funding NOFA that was issued by the NYS Housing Finance Agency earlier this year. That funding was targeted to pre-identified communities. HFA staff have advised that they expect a subsequent NSP funding round to be announced. That funding round is expected to have more liberal eligibility requirements, and rural communities may actually qualify for funding in subsequent NOFA rounds.

RPC Reapplication Training Offered By Capital District Regional Office

Staff of DHCR's Capital District Regional Office are inviting RPCs in that region to take an advance look at the revised application for NPP and RPP funding at <http://nysdhcr.gov/Forms/NPPRPP/ocdcsb85.ofm>. As in past years the purpose of this form is to develop the work plan that you will pursue in your next program year (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010).

Since the application contains some significant revisions and some companies have new staff who will be working on it the regional office has decided to offer review sessions to set out their expectations on how the form should be completed and to answer questions. CDRO staff

expects that the sessions will last less than two hours.

A series of group sessions are scheduled on the following dates:

Plattsburgh on April 1st from 10:00 AM to Noon -Community Room in Plattsburgh City Hall

Beacon on April 2nd from 10:00 AM to Noon - Meadowridge II community room, 134 Matteawan Rd, Beacon

Albany on April 3rd from 10:00 AM to Noon at Hampton Plaza in the Ballroom

Staff will also be available after the sessions to answer individual questions. You must RSVP to John Serio if you plan to attend at jserio@nysdhcr.gov.

Visit our website at www.ruralhousing.org
