



## As Expected, State Budget Offers Severe Cuts

Joint Assembly and Senate hearings on the budget for the next State fiscal year will be held at the Legislative Office Building (Hearing Room B) in Albany on Wednesday, February 3rd. The Legislature will be hearing testimony on the budget proposals for all housing programs administered by DHCR and the Housing Finance Agency on that date.

Governor Paterson's initial budget proposal cuts funding for housing programs along with many other State initiatives, in an attempt to correct the massive State budget deficit. Under the Governor's initial proposal to the Legislature, some budget lines will be cut, others remain flat funding levels from prior years and a proposed consolidation of DHCR with the Housing Finance Agency is expected to save \$3.5 million. Under capital funding programs, the Housing Trust Fund is proposed to be funded at \$29 million, AHC is at \$25 million, the State Low Income Housing Credit is at \$4 million, the Homes For Working Families program is at \$7 million, and the RESTORE program is at \$400,000. Rural Rental Assistance funding is continued at \$14.8 million. The Rural Preservation Program is proposed at \$3.539 million. Main Street, RARP, and Urban Initiatives all remain zeroed out for the second year in a row, as

is the Foreclosure Prevention Program. DHCR expects to lose 16 employees from its payroll.

The budget news comes at a time when there is a great void in the State's housing leadership. In December, Governor Paterson announced that two of supportive housing's staunchest allies in state government would be leaving their posts to pursue new career opportunities. Both oversaw landmark achievements in New York's efforts to expand supportive housing, and their skillful leadership will be missed.

On December 4th, Governor Paterson announced that Priscilla Almodovar, President and CEO of the NYS Housing Finance Agency, AHC, and the State of New York Mortgage Agency would be stepping down after three years. Governor Paterson praised President Almodovar's work with "NYhomes," as the two agencies are known, noting that the number of affordable units financed by NYhomes doubled during her tenure relative to the three previous years. Under President Almodovar, HFA funded its first supportive housing developments, and the agency now has a number of supportive housing projects in its development pipeline. Less than four weeks later, Gov. Paterson said farewell to his Commissioner of the

Division of Housing and Community Renewal, Deborah VanAmerongen, who leaves to serve as a strategic policy adviser at the law firm Nixon Peabody.

Governor Paterson announced that he would seek to consolidate the two positions in an effort to reduce state spending. The Governor has appointed Brian Lawlor to serve as Acting Commissioner of the Division. Lawlor will serve as Acting Commissioner of DHCR until the consolidated director is named in order to ensure a smooth transition for the agency and the continuation of the Governor's commitment to affordable housing.

The Legislative Conference sponsored by the New York Rural Advocates is slated for Tuesday and Wednesday, February 23rd and 24th in Albany. It is important that everyone with an interest in housing and community development issues of rural New York plan to take part in voicing support for the State's ongoing housing programs on those dates. For more information on the Legislation Conference, contact Nancy Berkowitz at (518) 352-7787.

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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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## Bits and Pieces...

### Vouchers Due For RPC Funding

If you have not submitted your Standard Voucher to DHCR for your Strategic Plan Completion Award please make sure that this is taken care of immediately. You must be in good standing with DHCR to access this funding, if you are not, please reach out to your DHCR regional representative to resolve the outstanding issues in order to receive this additional funding.

### Upcoming HUD Webcasts

HUD will be holding a series of online webcasts in early February to explain upcoming changes that will be coming as a result of the Obama administration's proposed 2011 federal budget.

- **Budget Overview Town Hall**  
February 1, 2010, 2:00PM-3:30 PM
  - **Transformation of Rental Assistance**  
February 3, 2010, 11:00AM-12:30PM
  - **Capacity Building**  
February 3, 2010, 2:30PM-4:00PM
  - **What the HUD Budget Does to Address Homelessness**  
February 4, 2010, 2:00PM-3:30 PM
- View the webcast at: [www.hud.gov/webcasts/index.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/webcasts/index.cfm).

### Looking For NORCs

The Rural Housing Coalition is looking for folks that have undertaken housing activities in support of Naturally-Occurring Retirement Communities. We want to learn more about these concepts and how they can feasibly be implemented. If you have expertise in this area that you'd like to share, please email Colin McKnight at [colin@ruralhousing.org](mailto:colin@ruralhousing.org).

Visit our website at [www.ruralhousing.org](http://www.ruralhousing.org)

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.

## **Amanda's Law Carbon Monoxide Alarm Requirements To Go Into Effect February 22, 2010**

As the result of recently-passed legislation, Amanda's Law will go into effect on February 22, 2010. It requires essentially all residences, both new and existing, to have carbon monoxide alarms installed. The specific requirements differ for new and existing residences and also on when the buildings were built and subcategories of occupancy groups.

Probably the most asked question will be the requirement for existing one and two family residences. They will be required to have one carbon monoxide alarm installed on the lowest story having a sleeping area. The proposal to modify the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code, in order to comply with Amanda's Law, is in the process of being adopted as an emergency rule. Additional information on the the proposed code text and legislation can be found at: [www.dos.state.ny.us/code/COAlarm.htm](http://www.dos.state.ny.us/code/COAlarm.htm).

## **Consolidated Annual Performance Report Available for Public Comment**

In accordance with the provisions of the National Affordable Housing Act, the State of New York is making a draft of its Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER) for Program Year 2009 available for public comment. The CAPER analyzes New York State's progress in implementing its HUD-approved Annual Action Plan for 2009.

The public is invited to review the draft New York State CAPER and to offer comments on the document. The draft 2009 CAPER, as published for public comment, will be available during the public comment period on the New York State Division of Housing and Commu-

nity Renewal website at [www.nysdhcr.gov](http://www.nysdhcr.gov). In addition, copies can be requested by e-mail at [DHCRConPln@nysdhcr.gov](mailto:DHCRConPln@nysdhcr.gov) or by telephoning 1-866-ASK-DHCR (1-866-275-3427).

The public comment period will begin on Friday, February 26, 2010 and end on Friday, March 12, 2010. Written comments must be postmarked no later than March 12, 2010. E-mail comments must be sent by that date. Comments should be addressed to Brian McCarthy, NYS DHCR, Hampton Plaza, 38-40 State Street, Albany, NY 12207 or e-mailed to: [DHCRConPln@nysdhcr.gov](mailto:DHCRConPln@nysdhcr.gov).

## **NYSERDA Offers Rebates For New Appliances**

New York State recently received federal approval to provide consumers with rebates to replace aged appliances with new energy-efficient refrigerators, clothes washers, freezers and dishwashers through a program called the Great Appliance Swap Out. The deal will be offered during President's Week in February, with rebates for high-efficiency appliances ranging from \$50-\$105

for a single unit and up to \$555 for the purchase of a three appliance package. The program encourages recycling by offering a larger rebate to consumers who recycle their discarded appliances. The state can issue nearly 170,000 rebates totaling \$16.8 million.

For more information, [www.nyserda.org/economicrecovery/appliance.asp](http://www.nyserda.org/economicrecovery/appliance.asp).

## **Housing Trust Fund Corporation Board Meeting Notes**

At the January 13th meeting of the Board of the Housing Trust Fund Corporation, two economic development projects were awarded Small Cities CDBG grants.

A \$330,000 award was made to the Town of Plattsburgh in support of the new construction of a 57,000 square foot factory for a company that makes insulation. The project will create 22 new jobs.

A \$350,000 grant to the Town of Cortlandville will support the relocation from the Village of Canastota of an existing manufacturer to a larger manufacturing plant in Cortland County. This relocation will retain the company in New York State and create 52 new jobs.

In other business, the board voted to increase a tax credit award by \$270,000 to Waterloo Partners to cover increased costs of project renovations due to requests from DHCR's design unit. The next meeting of the Board will be on February 2nd.

## **Small Cities/Main Street Deadline Announced**

The Office of Community Renewal at DHCR has announced the deadline for the 2010 round of Small Cities CDBG and Main Street funding. \$40 Million in CDBG funds, and \$5 million in Main Street funding, will be available in this funding round. Applications for this funding round are due on April 23rd.

To view the NOFA, visit [www.nysdhcr.gov/Programs/NYS-CDBG/CDBG\\_2010NOFA.pdf](http://www.nysdhcr.gov/Programs/NYS-CDBG/CDBG_2010NOFA.pdf).

## Lead Safe Trainings Scheduled

DHCR will co-sponsor two trainings in March on Lead Safe Work Practices. This course will cover how to identify the existence of lead based paint; how lead based paint affects the body; the dangers it presents to people, especially children and pregnant women; where lead-based paint is most often located and how to use safe work practices to handle lead-based paint hazards.

This course is designed for con-

tractors, persons working with families living in homes built prior to 1978, family members living in homes built prior to 1978 and persons doing renovations or remodeling their homes.

Co-sponsored by the Housing Assistance Program of Essex County, the March 9th training will be held in Lake Placid at the Hall of Fame Room of the Olympic Center, 2634 Main Street.

On March 18th, the training will be held in Albany County at the Cornell Cooperative Extension, 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville.

These trainings are free to attend. For more information on start times and registration information, please visit [www.nysdhcr.gov/General/Calendar/#mar18](http://www.nysdhcr.gov/General/Calendar/#mar18). As of press time, additional sessions of this training are also scheduled in April in Schenectady.

## VA Homeless NOFA

The Department of Veterans Affairs is announcing the availability of funds for applications for assistance under the Capital Grant component of VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program. This Notice contains information concerning the program, funding priorities, application process, and amount of funding available. Appli-

cants who do not require funding for acquisition, renovation or new construction to create new housing for homeless veterans should not respond to this NOFA. Per Diem- Only (PDO) funding will not be given under this notice. If your agency is in need of funding for operations-only, your agency should apply under a Grant and Per Diem; PDO Funding

Notice. An original completed and collated capital grant application (plus three completed collated copies) must be received in the Grant and Per Diem Field Office, by 4:00 PM on March 31st. For more information, visit the Federal Register notice at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-1296.htm>.



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