



President's Award for Innovative Programs



Are you proud of your unique and creative program that at least partially uses HUD or State funds? Apply for the OCCD President's Award to get the recognition you deserve. In order to encourage innovate and excellent programs, OCCD is again requesting self nominations for the "OCCD President's Award for excellence and innovation in the delivery of housing and community development services."

Selection will be based upon (a) the significance of need addressed, (b) the ability to sustain the impact over time, (c) the ability of the project to be replicated elsewhere with similar success, and (d) the scope of the impact on the community. Judging will be based upon a maximum of 25 points in each of these four categories, with a minimum of 60 points necessary to qualify for the award.

OCCD PRESIDENT'S AWARD SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

I. Briefly describe the project/activity:

- Use quantitative description as much as possible.
- Provide budget, showing revenue and expense.
- Describe the intended beneficiaries.
- Identify local contacts with telephone numbers.

II. Briefly describe why the project/activity was needed in community:

- What was the situation that led to this activity being enacted?
- Describe how the project/activity was created.
- Who initiated it and why?
- Name all participants and organizations involved in the effort.

III. Describe the outcome or desired outcome of impact to your community:

- Use quantitative terms (number of jobs created, etc.).
- Describe unexpected outcome(s).
- Was it successful?
- Why was it successful?
- How easily can this activity be duplicated in other communities?
- What would you do differently, if you could start over, knowing what you do?

The OCCD president will select a panel of judges. This panel is made up of at least one Executive Board member, one Policy Committee member and one consultant member and should represent both Entitlement and Small Cities members. No community with a representative on this panel may submit a project/activity for consideration. The panel will make nominations based upon the submissions and the current OCCD president will select the winner.

* The application deadline for this year's award is **June 10, 2011**. Please send 6 copies of all information to Pat Richards, OCCD Office, P.O. Box 776, Urbana, Ohio 43078.

OCCD Spring Quarterly Meeting May 4-5, 2011

By Angela Williams, OCCD Vice President

Greetings!

The Ohio Conference of Community Development will hold our spring quarterly meeting Wednesday, May 4 and Thursday, May 5, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza, Columbus North. I sincerely extend my warmest invitation for all who have an interest in housing and community development issues to attend.

Timely topics to be covered include updates on the impact of the JobsOhio initiative, Fair Housing and the required Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (AI) as well as an informative panel discussion on innovative projects, funding and the future of energy efficiency programs. There will also be best practices sessions on NSP and grant monitoring. It is my hope that the agenda offers something for everyone. If you find that there is a topic of interest that has not been covered, by all means please let me know and I will attempt to incorporate at a future quarterly meeting.

Wednesday morning we begin with some fair housing updates given by Joyce Hill, Civil Rights specialist with the State of Ohio's Office of Housing and Community Partnerships. Joyce will bring us up to speed on the latest in fair housing and recognize two individuals that have been outstanding advocates for fair housing in Ohio. Receiving these awards, are Spencer Well, COHHIO Tenant Outreach Coordinator and T. Brock Robertson, ODJFS Housing Administrator with the Ohio Home Choice program.

Following the fair housing awards, a panel of experts will discuss the importance of incorporating energy efficiency into our programs, as well as practical methods to do so. Larry Falkin, Director of the City of Cincinnati's Office of Environmental Quality will discuss how the city is using its EECBG funds to bring transformative change to Cincinnati. Tom Luckett, Building Inspector / Housing Specialist with the City of Kettering will

share some practical methods to incorporate energy efficiency into housing rehab programs, as well as the value of Home Energy Rating System (HERS) testing. Jerry Tinianow, Director of the Center for Energy and Environment with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission will discuss the Center's energy efficiency programs as well as the upcoming Eco-Summit, which, MORPC will host in 2012.

After lunch and the OCCD business meeting, a best practices panel on NSP will convene. Highlighted by HUD and OHCP, these communities are moving their money and making progress! Of course, each community has learned some valuable lessons along the way. Jackie Sudhoff, Housing Programs Coordinator with the City of Springfield will be joined by Susan Walsh, Director, Hamilton County Community Development and Ken Reed, Vinton County Development Director to discuss the ups and downs of administering the NSP programs while providing tips to help re-start (or start) slow moving programs.

Following the NSP panel, be prepared to discuss the exciting topic of grants monitoring. Presented by Amy Riegel, Senior Community Development Specialist with the City of Dayton, this session will use real examples of how monitoring can make or break the success of a program. The main case study will focus on the City of Dayton and Montgomery County's interactions with the Dayton Urban League while implementing the HPRP.

Risk analysis, desk monitoring, on-site monitoring, risk mitigation plans and correction plans will all be discussed. The session will also discuss how you can work with HUD, the Inspector General and other agencies to help you resolve monitoring issues and have everyone involved feel like they are playing on the same team.

The final session of the day will be our legislative session. Pam Hanover, Esq., Squire, Sanders and Dempsey, L.L.P. will bring us up to date information on pending legislative actions that could have an impact on community development efforts.

After adjourning for the day, please join us for a special reception as we say good-bye to Karen Nelsch. Karen, our long-time Executive Administrator, will be retiring effective May 5th. Karen has been an essential part of OCCD for over 24 years, being largely responsible for the smooth execution of our quarterly meetings. We hope you will join us in giving Karen a great send off.

Thursday we begin with a Fair Housing presentation from the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center entitled "Fair Housing - AI and beyond". The session will focus on the responsibilities of municipalities under the federal Fair Housing Act and related civil rights laws. It will give participants information on how the zoning laws, proprietary initiatives, delivery of municipal services like housing inspections, and the delivery of housing subsidy programs place a municipal government at risk when fair housing laws are not observed. The speakers will deliver the information with case studies on actual current litigation in this area of civil law. The course will describe how to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing as an obligation of receiving federal funds.

It's a busy time at the Ohio Department of Development, ending our Spring meeting will be a presentation from Nate Green, Director, Strategic Business Investment Division, ODOD will provide updates as to the latest changes and how they will impact our communities.

Our spring meeting will conclude with a separate presentation from HUD and the State of Ohio's entitlement and small cities representatives. I have found these sessions to be valuable and an opportunity to ask about things that are specific to our communities.

Before you get on the road, please take some time to look at the OCCD display for a current calendar of events and trainings. We appreciate your input, so please complete the surveys provided at the end of each meeting. Our executive committee reviews these and your suggestions are used for future meetings. I'm looking forward to seeing you all in Columbus!

Thank you and Goodbye



In the fall of 1986, after discovering again that teaching was not my forte, I got my dream job - working for OCCD. It has been a wonderful experience. The job had flexible hours, each day brought a different task so it was never boring (except perhaps mailings) and I got to play with computers which were just then starting to be important.

And the people, it would be impossible to thank all the people, past and present who have made this a dream job. To name a very few: the then president, Norm Failing who called me every day my first year, Beth Pearson who was always my back up when a president wasn't available, my friend and supporter Evelyn King. And Dale Hartie, Susan Walsh, Harry Conard, Oren Henry, Carol Nawrocki, Jim Baker, Linda Donnelly, Jim Lowry and on and on. So to these and all the others who supported me and my efforts - Thank you all.

I know I'm leaving this job in good hands with Pat Richards taking over. With your help and the assistance of Debra and Jack, I know she will do a great job and will help move the organization into its next 50 years.

Spring Quarterly Meeting May 4 & 5, 2011

Tuesday

5:30-7:30pm Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday

8:00 am Registration Opens

9:15-9:30 Welcome – Angela Williams,
Vice President, OCCD

9:30-10:15 Fair Housing Updates and Award

- Joyce Hill, Civil Rights Specialist, Office of Housing and Community Partnerships
- Spencer Will, COHHIO Tenant Outreach Coordinator
- T. Brock Robertson, ODJFS Housing Administrator

10:15-10:30 Break

10:30-noon Energy Efficiency – EECBG and Beyond

- Tom Luckett, City of Kettering
- Larry Falkin, Director of Office of Environmental Quality, City of Cincinnati
- Jerry Tinianow, Director, Center for Energy and Environment, MORPC

12:00-1:15 Lunch/ Committee Meetings

1:15-1:30 OCCD Business Meeting

1:30-2:30 NSP, Moving along, or stuck?

- Jackie Sudhoff, Housing Coordinator, City of Springfield
- Susan Walsh, Director, Hamilton County Department of Development
- Ken Reed, Development Director, Vinton County

2:30-2:45 Break

2:45-3:45 Case Study: Uh-Oh! When a good project goes bad...

Amy Riegel, City of Dayton

3:45-4:00 Break

4:00-4:30 Legislation in the Works

- Pamela I. Hanover, Esq., Squire, Sanders & Dempsey, L.L.P.

5:15-6:30 Reception

Thursday

8:00 am Registration Continues

9:00-9:15 Welcome – Angela Williams,
Vice President, OCCD

9:15-10:45 Fair Housing- AI and Beyond

John Zimmerman,
Miami Valley Fair Housing Center

10:45-11:00 Break

11:00-11:45 What's New at ODOT

Nate V. Green, Director, Strategic Business Investment Division, ODOT
Meetings with Entitlements and Small Cities

Noon

Facts about the Spring Meeting Speakers

Nathan "Nate" Green is the Director for the Ohio Department of Development's Strategic Business Investment Division. He oversees the Offices of Business Development, Grants and Tax Incentives, Financial Incentives, and Loans and Servicing. The Division works to create, retain, and expand job opportunities for Ohioans and focuses on issues that impact Ohio's economy by providing business development, labor/management cooperation, employee training and infrastructure development resources. Nate previously served as the Economic Development Director for the Pickaway Progress Partnership (P3), Pickaway County's economic development agency; Corporate Finance Manager for the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority; and the Ohio Department of Development Governor's Regional Office.

Susan Walsh, Director of Community Development for Hamilton County since 2007, began her career with Hamilton County in 1984. She is responsible for administration of CDBG, HOME, ESG Programs for the county, with an overall budget of approximately \$5 million annually. In January 2010, Hamilton County was awarded \$24 million for NSP 2 as the lead entity for a consortium comprised of the City of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority.

Susan is a certified Housing Development Finance Professional and was awarded the Ohio Community Development Professional Certification in 2007. She is the Immediate Past President of the National Association for County Community and Economic Development (NACCED), an affiliate of the National Association of Counties (NACo) and past President of the Ohio Conference of Community Development. She also serves on the Board of the Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency.

Jim McCarthy is the President/CEO of the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center, Inc. He also serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors for the National Fair Housing Alliance based in Washington D.C. Jim has served as a presenter at conferences organized by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, AARP, the National Fair Housing Alliance, the Coalition on Homelessness & Housing in Ohio, the National Association of Counties, and the National Association for County Community & Economic Development. He has also testified before Congress – specifically the Subcommittee on Domestic Policy – on "Foreclosure,

Predatory Mortgage and Payday Lending in America's Cities."

John Zimmerman, Vice President of Miami Valley Fair Housing Center in Dayton, Ohio is certified by the State of Ohio Department of Commerce as a Civil Rights Instructor in the areas of Fair Housing, Fair Lending, Fair Housing Design and Construction policy and Fair Appraisal. In addition to providing continuing education credits for real estate agents, leasing agents, appraisers, nurses and social workers, he provides seminars on housing and disabilities rights for municipal staff, developers, contractors and other professional involved in residential housing.

Tom Luckett, Building Inspector and Housing Rehab Specialist for the City of Kettering, has over 25 years of experience in the field of construction and remodeling. He holds licenses and certifications as a HERS Rater, Lead Abatement Supervisor, Residential and Commercial Building Inspector, Residential Building Official and Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector, and Instructor as Home Maintenance Class for first-time homebuyers with the Homeownership Center of Greater Dayton.

Joyce Hill, Civil Rights Specialist with the Ohio Department of Development, Office of Housing and Community Partnerships. Joyce began her career as a Fair Housing and Contract Compliance Officer for the City of Zanesville, Ohio from 1991 – 1996. In June 1996 she became the Civil Rights Specialist at the Ohio Department of Development, Office of Housing and Community Partnerships. As Civil Rights Specialist, she is responsible for reviewing ODOT's housing grant applications and programs for compliance with state and federal civil rights regulations – Equal Employment Opportunity, Fair Housing Act, Section 3, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Affirmative Marketing, and Architectural Barriers Act. Joyce provides ongoing, on-site technical assistance and training as requested or needed.

Jerry Tinianow joined Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission in 2009 as the Director of its Center for Energy and Environment. The Center addresses regional energy, land use, water, air quality, food system and material management issues. Jerry was a commercial trial attorney from 1980 – 2002. During that time he held a number of volunteer leadership positions in the conservation movement, including as vice president of the Sierra

Club, which recognized him in 1991 as national "Environmental hero." In 2003 Jerry became the Ohio Executive Director of the National Audubon Society. He directed all Audubon programs in Ohio, and was the developer of the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, an award-winning nature education center just a mile south of downtown Columbus.

Jackie Sudhoff, Housing Programs Coordinator for the City of Springfield, is responsible for the Emergency Solutions Grant, planning and reporting for the HOME program, Shelter + Care and TBRA programs. She also coordinated and wrote the Action Plan Amendment for NSP1 and application for NSP2. Jackie is a member of the local Continuum of Care, the Housing Officer for the Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) programs in Springfield, and is the staff liaison to the Springfield Neighborhoods Associations.

Amy Riegel, Senior Community Development Specialist, has worked for the City of Dayton for five years managing various HUD entitlement and stimulus grants including CDBG, ESG, HPRP, NSP and others. She works closely with the oversight and monitoring of non-profits within the Dayton community. She is currently working to implement the lessons learned into a streamlined monitoring system for all projects. Prior to her work with the City of Dayton, Amy dedicated her professional career to advocating for individuals in poverty.

Larry Falkin serves as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) for the City of Cincinnati, an agency whose mission is to lead the community toward sustainability and the practice of good environmental stewardship. OEQ projects include Green Cincinnati Plan, Electric Vehicle "Free Parking" Pilot Project, EECBG Program, Green Partnership for Greater Cincinnati and USEPA Climate Showcase Communities Grant.

One of the many projects undertaken by the OEQ is the *Green Partnership for Greater Cincinnati*, a collaboration between six major regional institutions (City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Cincinnati Public Schools, University of Cincinnati, Duke Energy, and Cincinnati State) whose goal is to encourage and support efforts that will measurably improve environmental performance, save money for the GPGC partners, and demonstrate commitment and leadership to the Greater Cincinnati community.



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2010-11 Executive Committee

President	Nancy Cook, Sustainability Grants Manager, Department of Planning and Urban Development, Akron
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Debra Mayes
OCCD Training Coordinator

Daylight Savings Time - Spring ahead . . .

11 days until Spring

(as I write this column)

I don't believe I have been SO ready to kiss this cold, snowy, icy weather good-bye!!! And today, March 10, I am looking at snow flurries out my office window....ugh. I saw robins two months ago – the sure sign of Spring. My daffodils and tulips are popping through the cold, damp soil. In 19 days I will be getting my "beach-fix" and I just might not return!! Guess you will know if I am AWOL on May 3.

Moved to the held folder-

On January 25, 2010, from 9 a.m. to noon, OHCP conducted the **FY 2011 CHIP Application Training** at the Embassy Suites Dublin. During the training, OHCP distributed the FY 2011 CHIP application materials and provide detailed instructions regarding the documents.

Holding this training the day prior to the OCCD Winter Quarterly appeared to be a win-win for all – OCCD, OHCP and the Small Cities Grantees. Look forward to this same arrangement in January 2012

After lunch, OHCP followed with NSP 1 providing interested parties with detailed information regarding the new **NSP Request for Payment and Status of Funds** form that must be completed and submitted to draw NSP 1 funds, the program's completion dates and other topics, including acquisition/resale, land banks versus redevelopment, etc. The majority of the meeting was an open forum for participants to ask questions. NSP 1 award recipients are reminded that the funds must be expended and beneficiaries must be verified within the next two years.

On the horizon-

Fair Housing Perspectives on Accessibility/Visitability for People with Disabilities will be presented on May 3, 2011 the day prior to the OCCD Spring Quarterly at the Crowne Plaza North, Columbus. The purpose of this two-part training program is to introduce a fair housing training curriculum that is popular in the greater Cincinnati area. The morning session is a presentation of the 3-hour course designed for **Realtors, residential builders, local government planners, and other housing professionals involved in home ownership**. The afternoon session is a train-the-trainers course to provide the information and skills needed to duplicate the course in your area. This program is an example of affirmatively furthering fair housing and will be valuable **for people who administer federally funded housing and community development programs**.

This curriculum was developed by a fair housing agency, Housing Opportunities Made Equal, and Inclusive Quality, an organization focusing on accessibility for people with disabilities. Under a grant from the Ohio Development Disabilities Council, the curriculum was designed to teach housing providers about accessibility and the related concept of visitability. The course provides information about fair housing requirements, as well as how to most effectively work with the growing market segment of people with disabilities. The highlight of the class is the opportunity to talk with a panel of homeowners with various disabilities who share their experiences in working with real estate agents and buying their homes. Participants will receive copies of the presentation materials at the train-the-trainers session and also materials for similar courses designed for rental property managers, architects/developers, and local building inspectors.

The instructors are Deb Jetter, Education Director at Housing Opportunities Made Equal, and Peg Gutsell, president of Inclusive Quality. Ms. Jetter and Dr. Gutsell have presented the Accessibility class to over 600 housing providers through Boards of Realtors and for private real estate companies in Southwest Ohio. Ms. Jetter has 28 years experience in training real estate professionals on the Fair Housing Act. Dr. Gutsell has an Ed.D. from the University of Cincinnati and 15 years experience in providing training and consulting services on accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities.

The **OHCP Housing Conference** sponsored by OCCD has been scheduled for November 3-5, 2011 at Salt Fork State Park.

Currently Amy Rosenthal, Director of Training and Technical Assistance, Ohio CDC, and I are working on three trainings-

Introduction to Community Economic Development - Training will teach the terminology, fundamental concepts, and financing mechanisms of community economic development. The training shall provide examples of innovative approaches to revitalize the local economy. In addition, the training will discuss the challenges and successes faced by community-based economic development.

Collaboration and Partnerships - Training will provide information on successful community wide collaborations and partnerships with all sectors of the public and private community. The training will teach the skills of creating a collaborative relationship and developing strategies for identifying partnership opportunities within ones community. The training will provide examples of collaboration techniques such as sharing resources,

managing information, and developing capital.

Greening Your Community - Training will focus on efforts community development organizations are taking to promote green in their community. These efforts include education, development, community green spaces, food production, etc. Community Development efforts are often challenged by stagnant, disinvested, often unsafe spaces within their community. The training will discuss how to make these spaces more vibrant through green, environmentally friendly approaches.

By the time you receive this newsletter any or all could be scheduled. Check for those as well as other scheduled trainings on the OCCD Calendar of Training & Events (www.occd.org – Training Center) where you will also find regularly updated information on trainings and events being sponsored by OCCD as well as other partner organizations. In addition, join us on our OCCD Facebook page or if you have comments on the contents of this column or are too shy to comment on Facebook send me an e-mail – trainingcoordinator@occd.org.

A reminder-----OCCD has a Facebook page!



follow us on facebook



This picture was taken the year that Jack and I joined Karen as staff of OCCD – July 2005. Some likened it to a powder keg – how wrong they were! I will sincerely and deeply miss Karen Nelsch. From the very beginning to the days winding down, she has been a wonderful co-worker and friend. We haven't always seen eye-to-eye but we always agreed to just disagree and move forward toward the best interest of OCCD. Sometimes (many times) we have served as a sounding board for one another. Okay, we were "perturbed" and simply needed to get it off our chest! And I have reminded her that I have her home phone number! ! Seriously, she has been THE nucleus of OCCD. Be forewarned present and future OCCD Executive Board and membership, we will spend a lot of time "looking up" policies and procedures that Karen "just knew".

**May good luck and good health be friends
in whatever you do and may trouble be
always a stranger you.**

TESTING

Level One testing for the **Ohio Community Development Professional Certification Program** is scheduled for 1p.m. -Thursday, May 5 following the OCCD Spring Quarterly held at the Crowne Plaza North, Columbus.

For additional information on this certification program please refer to the OCCD website – www.occd.org. Registration is required. You are not required to take course training prior to testing –deadline **April 29, 2011**. This will be a 2 hour open book testing – check the website www.occd.org for "approved materials".

If you are in need of a registration form, request one at trainingcoordinator@occd.org.



Jack Riordan

TO THE OUT HOUSE BEHIND THE POOR HOUSE

Given the sentiment in the House of Representatives and where the Senate Compromise is leaning, plus the signals the President has sent and all the Public Employee unrest in Wisconsin and Ohio our intended destination looks clear. Most of us have been on this journey for a long time without knowing it.

The proposed cuts in funding for programs we administer and the anti-public employee sentiment are both part of a redistribution of Income that has been under way for at least 30 years. As a result of a fundamental change in business investment philosophy, from 1979 to 2008 the share of total income for the top 1 % of income earning households has gone up 125%. The increase for the top 20% went up about 28 %. While real incomes for the bottom 80% has declined. This data is from 2008 report from the Congressional Budget Office reported on Yahoo News from an Article in Mother Jones Magazine by David Gilson and Carolyn Perot.

It gets worse, Households in the top 0.01 percent have average annual incomes of over \$27 million, The top 1% have average incomes of \$1,9 million. The rest of us in the bottom 90% have average incomes of \$31,244. I can hear the cries now that what I am doing is Class Warfare. No! What has been happening in this country is Class Warfare waged by some media in what we called in Vietnam "Psyops", Psychological Warfare Operations. I do not want to deny Wayne Huizenga his 5 houses and yachts in Fort Lauderdale. Anyone my age born in Chicago who can become a billionaire starting out driving a used garbage truck probably deserves most of what his ruthless, hard work and luck got him. I have questions about the guy across the river from Wayne who just finished a palace with the mega millions garnered (I refrain from using "earned") from Foreclosures.

In an article titled, "Record Income Inequality Threatens Democracy" Micheal Norton of the Harvard Business School and Dan Ariely of Duke University reported the results of a survey of representative Americans in which they were asked what they thought was their estimate of wealth controlled by the 20 % of wealthiest Americans. The respondents thought that the richest 20% controlled 59 % of America's wealth when actually the top 20% controlled 84%. Those surveyed were even off on what the poor and middle class control. They estimated that the poorest 20% of us controlled 3% when they actually control 0.1%. Norton and Ariely reported that the 60% less wealthy (that's most of us) control only 5% of America's wealth. America is looking more and more like a Banana Republic.

As a result of the shift in business investment philosophy we are all concerned that the current economic recovery is jobless. This is not the only jobless recovery in the past 30 years. The long term effect of this business policy shift is revealed in a Bush Administration February 2004 report on the effects on the recovery of the economy resulting from their

tax cuts states, "The performance of employment in this recovery has lagged that of a typical recovery and even that in the 'jobless recovery' of 1990-1991" .

One of the successes of Capitalism has been, or at least was, the recognition that to be successful it must generate markets by compensating its worker so they can buy the stuff produced. It is clearly apparent that wealth in America is no longer being generated by production in this country. "Buy American" is only a slogan. Much wealth is now made by importing, marking up, distributing and selling products made by much lower paid foreign workers. In addition to the shift to foreign production, there has been a gradual transition from salaried in-house workers to contracted services on an "as needed" basis. An example of this transfer of risk and avoidance of paying benefits is the use of highly indebted owners of trucks who must also absorb the raising cost of fuel to move the foreign merchandise.

All 60 plus years of my working life, starting at age 12, I have been a wage earner. I was a union member when I worked for Coca Cola and for a short period at HUD as a Field Rep. I was even the president of our local Union. However most of my working life has been in Public Sector Management without the protection of union membership but still enjoying the benefits that Organized Labor established for most wage earners, Health Care Insurance and Retirement. My overall prospective was formed by my father who was in the labor movement all of his working life and as a Union Official as a fireman for over 20 years, however I now believe that it is too difficult to remove non performing public sector employees which hurts the image of public service.

Part of the declining respect for the public sector is just plain envy by struggling workers no longer receiving just compensation. As a result of the media psychological campaign, rather than focus their anger at those really causing their plight, they focus on those still enjoying higher wages and benefits. Those opposed to what you do for the poor and low income and your compensation are not evil. They include many, well meaning politicians wooed and deceived by a very effective media obscuring reality for the benefit of our wealthiest citizens. Those who succeed are not overly greedy or bad. They believe they are being rewarded for making good business decisions. They forget luck and the public environment that makes their success possible, the tax paid police and firemen and children of the poor who make up our Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force. They just do not want to pay to rehab a house for someone who is not working or to pay for the health care for someone on your staff to inspect the work. It is a matter of perspective.

The old lady with cats said, "I wonder what share our wealthiest people have of the wealth of the world. Maybe that is why some people hate us" Then she added with that smile, "It is a good thing you are getting too old to be dangerous."

The opinions expressed by the columnists are the authors and not necessarily shared by the Executive Committee or the members of the Ohio Conference of Community Development, Inc.



NCDA 2011 SUMMER ANNUAL CONFERENCE



The City of Cincinnati is proudly hosting the 2011 summer National Community Development Association (NCDA) Annual Conference, June 22-25, 2011. The conference normally brings more than 150 economic and community development professionals from around the country.

NCDA is a national nonprofit organization comprised of more than 550 local governments across the country that administer federally-supported community and economic development, housing and human service programs, sponsored through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs. The annual conference is a major event for NCDA and its membership, and offers a variety of sessions geared toward the community development professional and is open to all.

Planned sessions included in the 2011 conference are:

- Job production strategies from the field, including the use of CDBG funds for microenter-

prise development and small business lending

- Updates on current issues, including the budget, by top HUD Washington officials
- The use of CDBG and other funding sources to redevelop contaminated areas for new commercial uses where the City of Cincinnati will profile its Strategic Plan for Urban Redevelopment (SPUR), including a tour of selected sites in the city that highlight these redeveloped properties
- HUD's Choice Neighborhoods initiative; an initiative designed to transform poverty-stricken neighborhoods into viable mixed-income communities through coordinated planning and delivery of housing, transportation, education, and economic development resources
- There will be a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit session, including how it works, types of credits, structuring a project, and monitoring requirements. This session will also provide a brief overview of the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC), a program that leverages capital

from investors to spur economic development in low-income areas. The NMTC portion of the training will cover qualification for the NMTC, NMTC process, and the appropriate use of funds.

- A construction management process session will provide a better understanding for CDBG and HOME funded projects, including establishing a project time line, pre-conference responsibilities, inspection of projects, change-orders, and tips to ensure timely project completion.
- An overview of the important components of the HOME Program proposed rule and the HEARTH Act rule, both of which are expected to be issued this spring.
- A one-on-one session with HUD on multiple issues include ways to streamline the consolidated plan document and process to make both more efficient and useful as well as ways to streamlining the current CDBG program regulations, making it easier for grantees to undertake economic development activities.

- Interagency Council on Homelessness' effort to work with local governments to create 10-year plans to end homelessness in their communities

Informative sessions fill the day; however, there is time to meet your peers in a relaxed setting. The conference includes special events showcasing cultural venues of the city. The annual awards luncheon will pay homage to those entrenched in the world of public service and the importance of cultivating a new generation of leaders.

The City of Cincinnati and the National Community Development Association want to welcome you to Cincinnati. Join us to learn techniques to help your city grow and prosper and meet fellow professionals from around the country.

To learn more about the conference or to register, please visit www.ncdaonline.org. For information about Cincinnati, please contact Oren Henry at the City of Cincinnati, 513 352-6264 or at oren.henry@cincinnati-oh.gov.

We look forward to seeing you in Cincinnati in June!



The HUD Report

Submitted by: Jorgelle R. Lawson CPD Director, U.S. Dept. of HUD

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."
(Quote by Anne Bradstreet)

partment. Jeffrey is originally from Cleveland, Ohio. He enjoys sports, movies, hanging out with friends, and spending time with his wife. Jeff is excited about his new position in CPD.

Julie Goodrich Julie comes to CPD from the Defense Supply Center in Columbus where she has many years experience in working with government contracts. Julie is a graduate of Mount Vernon Nazarene University with a B.S. in Business Administration. She also received her Master's in Business Administration from Mount Vernon Nazarene University. Julie holds several awards including DSCC Employee of the Year and Outstanding Young Women of America. Julie is active in her community and is a member of the Ohio/National Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Please take the opportunity to welcome Jeffrey and Julie to our Community Development family.

CPD COLUMBUS FIELD OFFICE UPDATES:

Timely Expenditure of State, Insular Area and Hawaii Non-Entitlement CDBG Funds - States: 34 states have expenditure rates less than 1.0. The overall expenditure rate for states is at 0.91. This is problematic in the tight budget climate we are currently facing. Eight states have an unexpended balance greater than 2.5. Of the 13 states with program years beginning in March or April, all have unexpended ratios of 2.5 less and 8 are below 2.0. States are asked

to continue to expend, and CPD will continue to monitor their status.

CDBG-R Program Status Update - Overall Picture:

- As of March 7, 2011, 64.89% of CDBG-R funds have been expended and drawn down.
- On a regional basis, the average drawdown rate is now over 55% among grantees in all HUD regions, and it is over 75% among grantees in HUD regions 1, 2, and 10.
- The median drawdown rate is 88.22%; 80% of all grantees are now over 50% drawn down.
- Grantees have funded 94.85% of all funds to specific activities in IDIS. About \$50.5 million remains unfunded to activities.

CCR Registration Extended for Some Grantees -

All active CCR registrations that were to expire between March and April 15 have been extended 60 days due to the budget delays and the CCR. This only applies to active registrations and to renewals that have already been submitted but are caught in the backlog. All CPD formula grantees need to be registered in CCR in order to receive their FY-2011 funding. Grantees are also reminded to update their point of contact emails in CCR; the CCR system sends automatic reminder email messages regarding impending expirations, but HUD has learned that the system receives a large number of delivery

failure replies because of outdated/incorrect email addresses.

Properties from Open Space and Neighborhood Facilities Programs -

From time to time, HUD gets inquiries about properties that were funded through the now-defunct Open Space and Neighborhood Facilities Programs. The use restrictions on properties included in these programs were repealed in 1983 by Sections 126(b)(2) and 126(b)(3) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1983. Grantees do not need to consult with HUD prior to disposing of or otherwise changing the use of properties that were funded by these programs. You can request a copy of the 1984 decision from our office if needed.

Dodd-Frank Prohibitions on Deferred Loans Do Not Affect CDBG at This Time -

Title XIV, Subtitle B of the 2009 Dodd-Frank Bill, Minimum Standards for Mortgages, includes a prohibition on deferred loans, which may eventually affect some CDBG grantees who allow deferred payment of loans made to beneficiaries for improvements on their homes until a later sale of the property. This provision of Dodd-Frank will not become effective until either (a) implementing regulations are issued by the new Bureau of Consumer Financial Protections or (b) 18 months after the date of transfer of power to the new Bureau if no regulations have been

issued. The transfer date is July of this year. Therefore, CDBG grantees do not have to worry about these provisions yet, and grantees can continue doing business as normal.

Training on Historic Preservation Basics—Section 106 Compliance and HUD -

The Basic 106 historic preservation training module is designed to allow staff and grantees to learn about compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, and specifically the Section 106 process for federal actions, in a self-directed, self-paced manner. Whether it is an initiation of the unfamiliar, refresher on a specific topic, or quick reference needed to complete the Section 106 consultation process, the Basic 106 training module is accessible whenever and wherever it is needed. The training is accessible via Community Connections, http://www.comcon.org/programs/historic_preservation/index.html

HUD Launches New HOME TA Website - HOME funding recipients can find information about training and technical assistance resources, including the program's 20th anniversary conference, May 2-4 in Washington, DC, at <http://www.hometa.info/>.

In ending this article, I wish each and every one of you a wonderful spring. Please continue to check your e-mails for updates from my office. If there are any changes in e-mail addresses, please let your CPD Rep or Myrna Cokes know as soon as possible.

Spring is here again. I hope by time of the spring meeting the funding adversity will be over, and we will have the FY-2011 funding allocations. Thanks to all of you for executing the NSP-3 amendments in the short timeframe and for continuing to get the HERA and ARRA funds out on the streets where they are so badly needed. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You ---- all Ohio grantees!!!!

STAFFING UPDATES:

The Columbus Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) has recently welcomed two new employees to our HUD family. These positions were funded under the S&E budget and are full-time permanent positions. Their duties will be primarily focused on working with grantees under the formula entitlement programs and competitive SHP.

Jeffrey Idom Jeffrey Idom is not new to CPD. He has spent the last 2 years as a CPD Program Assistant in the Columbus Field Office. Jeffrey is a graduate of Wright State University in Dayton with a B.A. in Sociology. He also received his M.A. in Urban Planning from the University of Akron, with a focus in Community/Economic Development. Jeff has interned at both Stark County Regional Planning Commission and the City of Trotwood Planning De-



Kristi S. Tanner, Assistant Director and COO Ohio Department of Development

JobsOhio to revitalize the State's economy

Throughout the country, jobs are in short supply, and Ohio is certainly no exception. Our communities are deeply affected by unemployment, poverty, and homelessness, which increase as employers leave Ohio for, what may appear to be, better opportunities elsewhere. In fact, with 400,000 jobs lost in the state over the last four years, \$14 billion in payroll went out the door with those jobs: a figure which is unacceptable in today's competitive marketplace.

JobsOhio will combat the current siege that Ohio is under and will work more efficiently to grow jobs and economic development in the state.

We can't continue to approach economic development the way we have in the past. We need to find creative solutions that benefit our citizens, our businesses, our workforce, and our communities. It's not enough to simply help our current employers succeed; we must give them reasons to stay in Ohio. We need to increase and improve the tools in our tool box to help create new businesses, and we need to be more competitive for employers who are considering moving to Ohio. In short, we need to revitalize Ohio's economy.

JobsOhio is the new nonprofit public/private partnership that will lead Ohio's job creation and retention efforts. By bringing practical and sophisticated business acumen to the economic development table, we will more aggressively compete with other states for coveted jobs.

JobsOhio will help in several ways. Among them:

- The creation of JobsOhio will give focus to both community development and economic development. Community development is an important piece of Ohio's economy, and is important to Ohio's future. However, it requires much different skill sets than business attraction and retention. For that reason, it will remain part of Ohio's development efforts, while JobsOhio will focus strictly on business development. The separation will give each function the governance it needs to be most effective.
- By having greater freedom and flexibility than a state agency, JobsOhio will be able to respond to the customized needs of employers or potential employers more swiftly and effectively, and with innovative tools. That flexibility will boost Ohio's ability to compete with other states for jobs.

The health of our communities is greatly dependent on the state's economy. JobsOhio, in partnership with community development efforts, will reform the way to Ohio does business, touching each Ohioan and allowing them to fulfill their greatest potential.

WORTH NOTING

New Members

The City of Marysville is a new member. Greg DeLong is the City Planner. You may contact him at (937) 645-1034 or gdelong@marysvilleohio.org or visit their website www.marysvilleohio.org.

The City of Medina is a new member. Greg Hannan is the Community Development Director. You may contact him at (330) 722-9023 or ghannan@medianoh.org or visit their website www.medianoh.org.

OCCD Membership Renewals

OCCD membership renewal invoices were mailed during the first week in April. Prompt payment insures the financial health of our Association. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Pat Richards at (937) 652-3523.

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for submission of copy for the newsletter is June 8, 2011. Send printed and disk to: OCCD Office, P. O. Box 776, Urbana, OH 43078, Attn: Newsletter Editor. Or, email to: office@occd.org. Or fax to: 937-652-3523.

OCCD YAHOO Groups

Receive development news as we get it and discuss topics of interest with your peers. To join, e-mail Gary Locke at gs44240@yahoo.com

Retirees

OCCD wishes to recognize retiring members. If one of your associates is retiring, please send an announcement with a short paragraph about the retiree. We will publish it in the next newsletter and honor them at the quarterly meeting. Send notices to Pat Richards, P.O. Box 776, Urbana OH 43078 or office@occd.org

Job Openings

Do you have a vacant position? Let OCCD promote it on our web page, with existing mailings or in our newsletter. Call Pat Richards at (937) 652-3523 or e-mail her at office@occd.org for details.

Meeting Evaluations

The OCCD Executive Board wishes to thank all those who take the time to fill out the evaluation forms at the Quarterly Meetings. We especially appreciate constructive suggestions to improve future meetings.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RIDING THE RAIL IN CARROLL COUNTY



Carroll County Ohio is a scenic wonderland of rolling hills, lakes for water sports, streams for fishing, and trails for hiking and biking, and agriculture abounding everywhere. Its beauty is unsurpassed anywhere in Ohio.

It also has an industrial base of a variety of industries that provide employment to many people in the County. In recent years some of that industrial base became threatened due to the aging of a rail line serving some industries and owned by Wheeling and Lake Erie Railway.

Heritage Plastics, with factories in four different states, has its headquarters in Carrollton Ohio, and is heavily dependent upon rail for raw material and shipping of finished products in the manufacturing of plastic pipe. Heritage is one of the top 3 nationwide manufacturers of pipe and electrical conduit

Losing an aging rail line would have been catastrophic to this company. With that prospect looming on the horizon, the Carroll County Commissioners engaged the services of Ohio Regional Development Corp. who worked with sev-

eral entities to provide funding for the refurbishing of the rail line from Carrollton to East Canton. (approximately 26 miles)

The project lasting nearly three years from start to finish cost \$864,862.00. It was a cooperative effort with Wheeling and Lake Erie Railway investing \$250,000.00, Ohio Rail Development Commission investing \$186,798.00, an ARC Grant of \$109,199.00,

and the Ohio Department of Development, Office of Housing and Community Partnerships (OHCP) investing \$318,863.00.

Tom Wheaton, Carroll County Commissioner said, "the redevelopment of this line was absolutely critical to saving 73 jobs at Heritage Plastics, but also of even greater importance, Heritage invested \$289,000.00 in new equipment, making a commitment for the future. According to Commissioner Wheaton, it also preserved a rail line that serves other industries in the area, and creates a transportation system for other potential business in the County for years to come."

"The project will have a positive impact upon Carroll County for several decades," according to Dale Hartle, President of Ohio Regional Development Corp.

2011 NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK 25 Years of Showcasing of CDBG April 25-30, 2011

The U.S. Conference of Mayors, National Association of Counties, National Community Development Association, National Association for County Community and Economic Development, National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies, National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, and the Council of State Community Development Agencies have formed a partnership to promote the 2011 National Community Development Week campaign. The 2011 National Community Development (CD) Week will be celebrated from April 25-30, 2011. It provides the opportunity for grantees to meet with their congressional members, showcase projects and programs, and involve the local community, including local businesses, citizens, and community groups in the week-long celebration. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the National Community Development Week campaign. This annual campaign is designed to focus local as well as national attention on the numerous outstanding accomplishments over the past 37 years of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and over the past 20 years of the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program. National Community Development Week provides an ideal opportunity to educate citizens at the local level as well as members of Congress regarding CDBG and HOME and the importance of both programs on the lives of low- and moderate-income citizens. Please join us in the 2011 national celebration.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony December 2010

Greg DiDonato (OMEGA), Stuart Nicholson (Ohio Rail Commission), Kasey O'Connor (Wheeling & Lake Erie Rail), Carroll County Commissioners – Larry Garner, Tom Wheaton, and Doyle Hawk, Dale Hartle (ORDC), Zach Space Congressional Office – Trish McCullough and Glenn Enslin.

Grant That Helps Low-Income Neighborhoods May Soon Face Cuts

<http://www2.nbc4i.com/news/2011/feb/18/4/grant-helps-low-income-neighborhoods-may-soon-face-ar-400756/>

This link to NBC 4 news story provided by OCCD Member Warren Weber, Licking County Development Manager.

Legislation . . . In the News

By: Pamela I. Hanover, Chair OCCD Legislative Committee

The following is a summary of recent General Assembly activity relating to economic development matters through March 14, 2011.

LEGISLATION RECENTLY ENACTED

House Bill 1 (Governor signed February 18, 2011.) House Bill 1 authorizes the Governor to form Jobs Ohio, a nonprofit corporation with the purpose of promoting economic development, job creation and retention, job training and the recruitment of business to Ohio. The board of directors will be comprised of nine members, with the Governor serving as chair of the board and the other eight directors appointed by the Governor.

The Bill requires the Director (Director) of the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) to contract with JobsOhio as soon as practical for JobsOhio to assist the Director and ODOD to provide services and carry out functions of ODOD, including the operation of programs, all as determined by the Director in consultation with the Governor. All contracts between the Director and JobsOhio are to be approved by the State Controlling Board prior to execution. ODOD is to retain the function of approval and disapproval of awards. All contracts for grants, loans and tax incentives will be between ODOD and the recipient and enforced by ODOD. JobsOhio is prohibited from executing contracts that obligate ODOD for loans, grants and tax credits or incentive awards recommended by JobsOhio to ODOD.

The Bill specifies that the corporation is not a State

agency or public body. Although many provisions applicable to governmental entities do not apply to JobsOhio, the Bill imposes certain requirements with respect to financial disclosures, conflicts of interest and other ethics matters, open meetings and public records. Employees of JobsOhio are not public employees for purposes of the Public Employees Retirement System and collective bargaining laws.

Public money held by JobsOhio is required to be accounted for separately from other funds and may not be commingled with other funds. A chief investment officer of JobsOhio, who will serve at the pleasure of the Governor, will have the power to execute contracts, spend funds and hire employees on behalf of the corporation.

Within six months following the effective date of the Bill, the Director is required to submit a report to the General Assembly recommending statutory changes to improve the functioning and efficiency of ODOD, to transfer specified functions of ODOD to JobsOhio or other existing agencies, or to eliminate designated functions of ODOD.

House Bill 58 (Governor signed March 7, 2011.) This Bill includes a provision expanding for a temporary period the State's job retention tax credit program and the related program for municipal corporations for certain projects retaining at least 1,000 jobs.

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN HOUSE

House Bill 3 (Introduced January 11, 2011; reported out of House Ways and Means Committee on February 16, 2011.) This Bill, as amended, repeals Ohio's estate tax for estates of individuals dying on or after January 1, 2013.

House Bill 10 (Introduced January 11, 2011; fifth hearing in House Ways and Means Committee on March 2, 2011.) This Bill authorizes a refundable credit against State income taxes for completion of a voluntary action to remediate a contaminated site and for the return of the sites to productive use. The credit would be equal to the taxpayers share of 25% of the remediation expenditures paid or incurred for voluntary actions initiated on or before December 31, 2017.

House Bill 17 (Introduced January 11, 2011; referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.) This Bill authorizes a \$2,400 income tax withholding credit for an employer that in 2011 employs for at least 24 continuous months an individual previously unemployed for four consecutive weeks immediately preceding the date of hire.

House Bill 18 (Introduced January 11, 2011; fifth hearing in House Ways and Means Committee on February 23, 2011.) This Bill authorizes a nonrefundable credit against the State's income tax or commercial activity tax for businesses

that increase payroll and expand into a facility that has been vacant for at least six months. The business must employ at least 50% of its Ohio employees at that site.

House Bill 44 (Introduced January 20, 2011.) This Bill creates the State's Small Business Working Capital Loan Program under which the State Treasurer, upon request of the Director of the ODOD, may invest up to \$100 million with participating lending institutions for loans to eligible small businesses.

House Bill 50 (Introduced January 26, 2011; third hearing in House Local Government Committee on March 1, 2011.) This Bill requires that a political subdivision owning land be considered a landowner in determining whether 100% of the landowners of an area proposed for annexation signed the petition in an expedited Type II annexation (one involving no more than 500 acres).

House Bill 56 (Introduced January 26, 2011.) This Bill amends a number of procedures governing residential foreclosure proceedings, including enabling a court to deem foreclosed residential properties abandoned if the plaintiff does not timely seek a writ of execution or if the property fails to sell at sheriff's auction 3 times.

House Bill 101 (Introduced February 15, 2011; referred to House Ways and Means Committee.) This Bill would revise the State job creation and retention tax credit pro-

grams for a six year trial period to permit certain employees who work at home in Ohio to be counted as "employed in the project" as long as they total no more than ten percent of the project employees.

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN SENATE

Senate Bill 14 (Introduced February 1, 2011; referred to Senate Financial Institutions Committee.) This Bill regulates residential mortgage servicers.

Senate Bill 50 (Introduced February 1, 2011; first hearing in Senate Ways and Means and Economic Development Committee on February 17, 2011.) This Bill authorizes a refundable income tax credit for residential landlords who improve a rental unit's energy efficiency equal to fifteen percent of the cost of purchase and installation.

Bollinger Foundation Seeks Nominations for Scholarship Grants

The Bollinger Foundation is now accepting nominations for its 2011 grant awards. The scholarship grants are presented to families who have lost a parent or guardian, with the deceased or surviving parent having worked or continuing to work in the field of public housing, community development, or economic development. Grants are primarily awarded for educational expenses, including special educational needs, school materials, and college tuition.

Please visit their website (<http://www.bollingerfoundation.org>) to make a nomination of an eligible family using their online nomination form before the deadline of **May 18th, 2011**. Nominations can also be mailed to Kelly Bielen, The Bollinger Foundation, c/o IEDC, 734 15th St., NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20005, or faxed to (202) 223-4745. If you would like to have the form mailed, faxed, or emailed to you, please contact Kelly Bielen at (202) 942-9476 or kbielen@iedconline.org.

The Bollinger Foundation is named in memory of Steve Bollinger, who was Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1981-1984. Steve Bollinger was a dedicated professional who passed away unexpectedly in 1984, leaving behind his wife and four young children. The Foundation was created in his memory to provide financial assistance to families of economic development, community development, and public housing workers who have lost a parent or guardian. To date, the Foundation has helped over 110 families with over \$550,000 in grants.

AMY SCHOCKEN JOHN CLEEK WHITAKER WRIGHT

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2011 National/Ohio Fair Housing Month Celebrated

By: Joyce Hill, OHCP Civil Rights Specialist, Ohio Department of Development



On April 11, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968, also known as Fair Housing Act. In 1988, the law was expanded to prohibit discrimination in housing based on handicap and familial status, provide for monetary penalties for housing discrimination and establish design and construction requirements for new multi-family dwellings.

In honor of the enactment of the federal Fair Housing Act, as amended, April, each year, is declared Fair Housing Month nationally and in Ohio. Fair Housing Month is a time to celebrate the progress we have made in opening the doors of housing opportunity, regardless of race, color, gender, nationality, religion, familial status, or disability; and in Ohio, ancestry and military status. It should also be a time to acknowledge the challenges that still remain, and collectively commit to finding viable solutions to those challenges.

According to the National Fair Housing Alliance's (NFHA's) **2010 Fair Housing Trends Report**, housing discrimination remains at a near historic level. At the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), 50 percent of the discrimination claims processed dealt with the violation of the rights of people with disabilities. It appears that disability complaints are more numerous because HUD has devoted one office solely to addressing disability issues; housing providers blatantly refuse to make reasonable accommodations or modifications for people with disabilities; and many developers and architects continue to design and construct apartment complexes that violate the Accessibility Guidelines.

In the report, NFHA applauded HUD and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) for their recommitment to addressing violations of the federal Fair Housing Act and for directly confronting the discriminatory practices of municipalities that receive federal funds as a whole, not just housing program funds. Starting with a landmark settlement requiring that Westchester County, New York construct affordable housing in its most segregated neighborhoods, HUD began to demonstrate its willingness to challenge local jurisdictions that perpetuate segregation or otherwise fail to affirmatively further fair housing with federal housing and community development funding. Meanwhile, the DOJ filed its highest number of Fair Housing Act lawsuits since 2002 and established a dedicated fair lending unit to investigate lending discrimination.

The NFHA report added that America is still far from achieving the balanced and integrated living patterns envisioned by the original Fair Housing Act's authors; and most Americans still live in communities largely divided by race and ethnicity. There is ongoing residential segregation that results in disparities in access to quality education, employment, homeownership and wealth accumulation for communities of color. Additionally, it is believed that housing discrimination and mortgage lending discrimination spiked recently due to the worsening foreclosure crisis and internet advertising that violates fair housing laws. In fact, the foreclosure crisis remains one of the most critical civil rights issues facing Ohio. Families who have suffered foreclosures will feel the impact for many years, in the interruption in their lives, the reduction of their credit scores, the higher cost and limited availability of future credit, and other ways.

"Now, more than ever, as we brace ourselves for impending foreclosures and work to rebuild our communities, we must be vigilant in our fight against fair housing violations," said NFHA President and Chief Executive Officer Shanna L. Smith.

The Ohio Department of Development's Office of Housing and Community Partnerships (OHCP) encourages Ohio community leaders to proclaim April as Fair Housing Month in their communities and undertake special efforts to inform the public about their rights under federal, state and local fair housing laws. By observing Fair Housing Month, communities can demonstrate a commitment to keeping the doors of equal opportunity open; pledge to vigorously enforce fair housing laws to assure equal treatment of all Ohioans; take affirmative steps to remedy past discrimination; and provide citizens with the knowledge that all people have a real opportunity to live in decent, affordable housing in their community.

For more information regarding Ohio Fair Housing Month, please contact Joyce Hill, OHCP Civil Rights Specialist, by telephone at (614) 466-2285 or by e-mail at joyce.hill@development.ohio.gov.

Calendar of Events

2011

April 11-13, 2011 – COHHIO
Housing Ohio 2011 Conference
Info: 614.280.1984

April 28-29, 2011-Fed. Reserve Bank of Cleveland
2011 Community Affairs Research Conf.
Arlington, VA
Registration: www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=927956

May 3, 2011-OCOD
Fair Housing Perspectives on Accessibility/ Visitability for People with Disabilities
Crowne Plaza North Columbus
Registration: Pat Richards 937.653.3523
Training Info: Debra Mayes 937.215.5872

May 4-5, 2011-OCOD
Spring Quarterly Meeting
Crowne Plaza North Columbus
Registration: Pat Richards 937.652.3523
Training Info: Debra Mayes 937.215.5872

May 24-26, 2011 – HUD/ICF
HOME Certified Specialist - Regulations
Hyatt on Capital Square, Columbus
Registration: www.cpdtraininginstitute.com or call -703.902.1264
Info: 614.469.5737 ext. 8266

June 9-10, 2011
Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland Policy Summit
Intercontinental Hotel, Cleveland
Info: communitydevelopment@clev.frb.org

June 22-25, 2011
2011 NCDA 42nd Annual Conference
Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza Hotel
Info: <http://www.ncdaonline.org/>

July 27-28, 2011-OCOD
Summer Annual Meeting
Crowne Plaza North Columbus
Registration: Pat Richards 937.652.3523
Training Info: Debra Mayes 937.215.5872

October 5-6, 2011
Ohio CDC Annual Conf
Mahoning Valley
Info: 614.461.6392

October 25, 2011-OCOD
Holiday Inn, Worthington
Registration: Pat Richards 937.652.3523
Training Info: Debra Mayes 937.215.5872

October 26-27, 2011-OCOD
Fall Quarterly Meeting
Holiday Inn, Worthington
Registration: Pat Richards 937.652.3523
Training Info: Debra Mayes 937.215.5872

November 2-4, 2011 – OCCD/OHCP
Housing Conference
Salt Fork Lodge, Cambridge, Ohio
Registration: Pat Richards 937.652.3523
Training: Shanna Garrett 614.466.2285

November 29-Dec. 1, 2011-OCCH
Annual OHFA-OCCH Ohio Housing Conference
Greater Columbus Convention Center
Info: 614.224.8446

2012

January 24, 2012 – OCCD
TBD
Embassy Suites, Dublin
Registration: Pat Richards 937.652.3523
Training: Shanna Garrett 614.466.2285

January 25-26, 2012- OCCD
Winter Quarterly Meeting
Embassy Suites, Dublin
Registration: Pat Richards 937.652.3523
Training: Shanna Garrett 614.466.2285

April 16-17, 2012
COHHIO Annual Conference
Columbus, Ohio
Info: 614.280.1984

August 13-17, 2012
NeighborWorks Training Institute
Cincinnati, Ohio
Info: 800.438.5547

Nov. 27-29, 2012
Annual OHFA-OCCH Ohio Housing Conf.
2833
Greater Columbus Convention Center
Info: 614.224.8446

Note:

For all OCCD Trainings/Quarterly Meetings contact Pat Richards 937.652.3523 regarding registration information and Debra Mayes (937)215-5872 for additional training information.

*Registration available 6 weeks prior to training on OCCD website- www.occd.org

Individual Websites for Training & Events Information

OCCD – Ohio Conference of Community Development, Inc.
www.occd.org/

OHCP – Office of Housing and Community Dev., Ohio Dept. of Development
<http://development.ohio.gov/cdd/ohcp/CalendarofEvents.htm>

Ohio CDC – Ohio Community Development Corporation Association
<http://www.ohiocdc.org/2009trainingeventcal.pdf>

Ohio Capital Corporation For Housing
www.occh.org/news/events.cfm

Community Connections – The Information Center of CPD-HUD
www.comcon.org

Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland
www.clevelandfed.org

ICF
http://www.icfi.com/Markets/Community_Development/cd-training-1.asp

Ohio Housing Finance Agency
www.ohiohome.org

COOHIO - Coalition on Homelessness & Housing in Ohio
<http://www.cohio.org>

Enterprise Community Partners
www.enterprisecommunity.org