

Our House



A Monthly Newsletter by the LISC Center for Home Ownership

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CENTER NEWS

Center Launches “Opening Doors to Home Ownership” Technical Assistance Program

The Center is beginning a new year with Opening the Door to Home Ownership, a new technical assistance initiative geared toward LISC field offices and their partner CDCs. The new program will focus on the following: (1) Affordable Mortgage Access Initiatives; (2) Home Ownership Production Systems and Planning; and (3) Section 8 Vouchers for Home Ownership. In addition to these three major focus areas will be Experts on Call, which will support one-on-one technical assistance activity and the Best Practices in Home Ownership Training Platform, which will include trainings four times a year on topics relating to the three major foci. The Center will finalize program planning and implementation strategies at their upcoming advisory committee meeting on January 16th in Washington, DC. For more information, please contact Hal Wilson at 202-739-9263 or hwilson@liscnet.org.

RESEARCH & RESOURCES

Nation’s Housing Count Up 2 million

Over the 15 months between Census Day, April 1, 2000, and July 1, 2002, the number of U.S. housing units increased by 1.9 million to 117.8 million. Texas had the largest increase of all of the states with nearly 200,000 units. The South had the largest numerical and percentage gains in housing units among regions, followed by the West. For more information, visit www.census.gov.

HAC Releases Rural America Overview

Taking Stock: Rural People, Poverty, and Housing at the Turn of the Century recently released by the

Housing Assistance Council, addresses social, economic and housing issues in rural America. According to the study, although homeownership rates are still high, lack of affordable rental housing, overcrowding and substandard housing conditions are still problems in rural areas. To view the full report, visit www.ruralhome.org.

Mixed-Income Development Outcomes Examined

In *Mixed-Income Housing Developments: Promise and Reality*, Alastair Smith critically examines the mixed-use model of affordable housing development. He finds that a mixed-income approach can play an important role in getting affordable units built, ensuring high-quality housing and decentralizing poverty, but it is not a panacea for these complex issues. For instance, generally, mixed-income developments do not lessen subsidy needs and additional investments will need to be made. Also there is little evidence that tenants in mixed-income developments interact in a meaningful way. To view the full report, visit www.jchs.harvard.edu.

TRAININGS & CONFERENCES

February 6-7 “NAAHL’s 2003 Washington, DC Meeting,” Washington, DC. For more information, call 202-293-9855.

February 10-13 “Force Account and Construction Management,” Las Vegas, NV. For more information, visit www.naihc.net.

February 17-21 “Neighborhood Reinvestment Training Institute,” Atlanta, Georgia. For more information contact NeighborWorks at 1-800-438-5547/202-220-2454 or nrti@nw.org.