

1st of the Month

Affordable Housing Technical Review



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Toni Atkins, Senior Principal at LeSar Development Consultants, finishes up her tenure with us this Friday. On Monday, December 6, she will be sworn in as a member of the California State Assembly representing the 76th Assembly District. We offer her our congratulations and look forward to her continued policy work on issues related to affordable housing, homelessness, transportation, redevelopment and sustainability.

About Us

[LeSar Development Consultants](#) provides a full range of consulting services primarily to local government agencies involved in redevelopment, community development, affordable housing, and homelessness.

Website

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HCD Releases Three MHP NOFAs

On November 22, the California Department of Housing and Community Development released three NOFAs for its Multifamily Housing Program (MHP) totalling \$200 million. The three NOFAs are:

- General component (\$90 million): A competitive bid process with applications due March 3, 2011.
- The Supportive Housing component (\$80 million): Accepted beginning February 15, 2011 on an "over-the-counter" basis.
- The Homeless Youth component (\$30 million): Accepted beginning February 15, 2011 on an "over-the-counter" basis.

For more information and to download the MHP NOFAs, [click here](#).

National Housing Trust Fund Regulations Proposed

Legislation passed by the House of Representatives that includes \$1.065 billion for the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) is awaiting passage in the Senate and the National Low Income Housing Coalition is pushing for the Senate to include this bill in the "must pass" legislation prior to the close of the current session.

"The NHTF was created in the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA) to address the severe shortage of rental homes that are affordable for the lowest income families, but it has not yet been funded," the National Low Income Housing Coalition wrote in a [letter](#) sent to each member of Congress that was also signed by 2,225 organizations. President Obama proposed funding for the NHTF in his FY10 and FY11 budget requests, the coalition's letter said.

The National Housing Trust Fund, which would be administered by HUD, would provide grants to state governments to preserve and increase



extremely low- and very low-income family rental housing as well as increase homeownership opportunities for these families. HUD issued its [proposed rule](#) on NHTF regulations on October 29. Comments are due December 28.

To read the National Low Income Housing Coalition's summary of the proposed rule, [click here](#).

VA Establishes Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has established a new Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program, which will provide supportive services to very low-income veterans and their families who are in or transitioning to permanent housing. The VA will award grants to private nonprofit organizations and consumer cooperatives who will assist very low-income veterans and their families by providing a range of supportive services designed to promote housing stability.

The new SSVF Program is intended to improve very low-income veteran families' housing stability. The [final rule](#) for this program was published in the Federal Register on November 10, 2010 and is effective December 10, 2010. The VA anticipates releasing a Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA) sometime in 2010.

Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

For more information, [click here](#).

State and Federal Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Awards Update

State

On November 23, the California Strategic Growth Council announced its [Sustainable Communities Planning Grants funding awards](#) for this funding cycle. The Strategic Growth Council reports that a total of 189 applications were submitted for the \$23 million available and the combined amount requested from all applications was \$94 million. The report also says that:

- 153 applications were complete and deemed eligible for scoring, per the Program Guidelines.
- 44 were recommended for funding by the Application Review and Ranking Committee, comprised of 30 interdisciplinary staff.
- The total amount of recommended awards for this funding cycle is \$23,050,485.
- Partial funding was recommended for two of the projects.

Federal

HUD received a total of 956 applications (the combined total of Regional and Challenge grant applications). Of these applications, 77 came from California -- 20 Regional grant applications and 57 Challenge grant applications.

The total dollar amount request for eligible Challenge grants (HUD-DOT combined and HUD-only combined) is \$1,207,336,978. This total does not include any grants that failed to meet the application threshold requirements. The total dollar amount request for Regional grants is not

yet available.

In October, HUD announced that 45 regional areas will receive \$98 million in funding through the federal Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants program. Another \$2 million is set aside for capacity-building support.

Only two California applications were recommended for funding: California State University, Fresno Foundation for \$4 million and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments for \$1.5 million.

[Complete list of HUD grantees](#)
