

1st of the Month

Affordable Housing Technical Review



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The Seventh and Coronado project, funded by the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency and developed by the Los Angeles Housing Partnership, has generated approximately 124 living-wage construction jobs. LeSar Development Consultants provided project underwriting services to CRA/LA for this project.

Congress Passes Much-Needed Reforms for HUD Section 811 and 202 Programs

On December 21, in separate actions, Congress passed long-awaited legislation reforming two very complex HUD programs: the HUD Section 811 program, which provides supportive housing for persons with disabilities, and the HUD Section 202 program, which provides affordable housing for very low-income senior citizens.

The reforms to the Section 811 program include simplifying the capital advance program for nonprofit developers; making it easier to integrate supportive housing into larger multi-family developments; and making provisions for additional capital funding sources for supportive housing developments. To read more about this legislation, [click here](#).

The reforms to the Section 202 program allow for refinancing so that older properties can be refurbished and allow for project cash flow to fund supportive services for residents. To read more about this legislation, [click here](#).

National Housing Trust Fund Omitted from Final Tax Bill

The National Housing Trust Fund was omitted from the final Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010

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.

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when a Senate amendment that would have included \$1.065 billion for the NHTF failed in a 43-57 Senate vote on December 15. The House then passed the bill without amendment on December 17, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

The bill, H.R. 4853, also did not include an extension of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit 9% exchange program, the NLIHC said in a December 17 [memo to members](#).

The NLIHC pushed for the Senate to include the NHTF funding in the final bill, sending a letter supporting approval of NHTF regulations to each member of Congress that was also signed by 2,225 organizations. NLIHC said it is already putting together its campaign, expected to launch in early 2011, to work toward getting the NHTF funded in the 112th Congress.

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.

TCAC Considers Making HCD Bridge Loans Permanent

The Tax Credit Allocation Committee (TCAC) will consider approving a recommendation to make permanent existing bridge loans to the Department of Housing and Community Development. If approved, the recommendation would add \$130 million to Multifamily Housing Program (MHP) funds, which also received an additional \$50 million late last year due to disencumbrances and work by the Treasury. A decision is expected in January 2011.

For updates, visit <http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/ctcac>.

VA Releases SSVF Program NOFA, Grant-Writing Workshops to Take Place in January

On December 17, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs released a Notice of Funding Availability for its new 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. Through the NOFA, 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 VA has partnered with the Corporation for Supportive Housing to conduct a series of regional grant-writing workshops focused on the SSVF Program application that will take place throughout the month of January. Each workshop will provide attendees with (i) an overview of the SSVF Program, (ii) an overview of the NOFA, and (iii) advice on completing the application.

The workshops are free; however, pre-registration is required. For more information about the grant-writing workshops and to pre-register, visit [click here](#). For information related to the SSVF program, to download a copy of the NOFA and application or to view taped webinars on the SSVF Program, [click here](#).

National Alliance to End Family Homelessness Conference to Take Place February 10-11

The annual National Alliance to End Family Homelessness Conference is set to take place February 10-11, 2011 at the Oakland Marriot City Center in Oakland. This year's workshops include:

- Rapid Re-Housing for Survivors of Domestic Violence;
- Making the Youth Connection: Serving Young Parents;
- A Rising Tide: How to Respond to Increased Family Homelessness;
- A Snapshot of Housing and Homelessness in the 112th Congress;
- Navigating Blogs, Twitter and the Social Media Universe; and
- One Month or 18? Maximizing HPRP to End Homelessness.

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

Assemblymember Atkins Appointed to Leadership Roles in State Assembly

Former LeSar Development Consultants Senior Principal Toni Atkins, who was elected to the State Assembly in November and sworn in on December 5, received important appointments that place her in a leadership role in the Assembly. On December 16, Assembly Speaker John A. Perez announced Assemblymember Atkins as Majority Whip, a key position in the Democratic Caucus Leadership.



Assemblymember Atkins was also appointed Vice Chair of the Housing and Community Development Committee and will also serve on the Veterans, Health, Judiciary and Government Organization Committees.