

HUD News Round-Up July 14, 2011

Hi, this is Letha Strothers and welcome to HUD News Round-up. Today we're talking about several key initiatives this week that affect the nation's communities, homeowners, and public housing.

This podcast is produced by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Find out more about this topic and other topics that affect your home and community at www.hud.gov.

This week, the Obama Administration launched Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2), a new and customized pilot initiative to strengthen local capacity and spark economic growth in local communities. Federal agencies will provide experienced staff to work directly with six cities: Chester, PA; Cleveland, OH; Detroit, MI; Fresno, CA; Memphis, TN; and New Orleans, LA. These teams will work with local governments, the private sector, and other institutions to leverage federal dollars and support the work being done at the local level to encourage economic growth community development.

Communities nationwide will be eligible to compete for comprehensive economic planning assistance through a grant competition designed to spark local innovation. Learn more about this initiative at www.hud.gov and click on Press Room and Press Releases.

The deadline for homeowners to qualify for the Emergency Homeowners' Loan Program (EHLPP) is rapidly approaching with all Pre-Applicant Screening Worksheets due by Friday, July 22, 2011.

HUD launched program with NeighborWorks® America in June to help homeowners who are at risk of foreclosure in 27 states across the country and Puerto Rico. The program helps homeowners with a reduced income and who are at risk of foreclosure because of involuntary unemployment or underemployment, as a result of economic conditions or a medical condition. Eligible homeowners can qualify for an interest free loan which pays a portion of their monthly mortgage for up to two years, or up to \$50,000.

Only participating EHLPP agencies found on www.FindEHLPP.org are approved to accept Pre-Applicant Screening Worksheets. Beware of scams. It is free to submit a worksheet or get help completing the worksheet. Learn more [FindEHLPP.org](http://www.FindEHLPP.org) or by calling toll free, 855-346-3345.

This week, HUD awarded more than \$1.9 billion to public housing authorities across the country for major large-scale improvements to public housing units. HUD's **Capital Fund Program** provides funding annually to all public housing authorities to build, repair, renovate and/or modernize the public housing in their communities. This funding can be used to make large-scale improvements such as new roofs and to make energy-efficient upgrades to replace old plumbing and electrical systems.

A recent study found that the country's 1.2 million public housing units need about \$26 billion in large scale repairs. Unlike routine maintenance, *capital needs* are the large-scale improvements required to make the housing decent and economically sustainable.

You can find a full list of agencies receiving funding by reading the full press release at www.hud.gov and click on Press Room and Press Releases.

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