

The NPACH Report

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The Newsletter of The National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness

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NPACH Launches Give|10 Campaign

If you find the information in this newsletter valuable, please consider supporting it by joining our Give|10 campaign today. We're asking you to donate just 10 dollars to support our efforts, including:

- "The NPACH Report;"
- Our website, research, and free publications such as "Alternate Viewpoints;" (http://www.npach.org/m-v_hearing_alternate_viewpoints.pdf)
- Our grass roots organizing efforts, such as the campaign to expand the HUD Definition of Homelessness;
- Our technical assistance projects, which help local communities find reality-based solutions to their homelessness needs;
- Our ongoing work with communities recovering from devastating hurricane damage.

Individual donations allow us to continue speaking freely and honestly about the direction of federal homelessness policy and national advocacy. Please join us and become an advocate for the millions of Americans experiencing homelessness.

Learn more about the Give|10 campaign online: http://www.npach.org/give_ten.htm

We welcome contributions to this newsletter from our partners in the field. If you wish to submit a news item or a story from your local community, please contact us via e-mail: info@npach.org.

ACTION ALERT: HUD McKinney-Vento Action Needed

The President's FY 2007 budget includes a proposal to add \$184 million to HUD's Homeless Assistance Grant program. These funds would be earmarked for the "Samaritan Permanent Housing Bonus," a currently unauthorized program that would provide permanent housing and case management services for the long-term or "chronic" homeless population – defined as 'single adults with disabilities who have

been homeless for over a year, or at least four times over a three year period.' **We urge Members of Congress to support the proposed funding increase, while opposing the specific manner in which it is earmarked. Funding increases should be available to assist all people experiencing homelessness. Moreover, local service providers, advocates, and government agencies are best equipped to make decisions about how best to use limited resources – not federal agencies in Washington DC.**

Please download the entire action alert at http://www.npach.org/hmv_alert_24may.pdf and contact your members of Congress, asking them to support proposed funding increase while opposing the language that would earmark these funds for the Samaritan Housing Bonus. Call the US Capitol Switchboard to be connected to your Senator or Representative: (202) 224-3121. Or, if submitting a written request it is best to fax letters to your Members. Fax numbers for House offices may be found at <http://www.house.gov/> and fax numbers for Senate offices may be found at <http://www.senate.gov>.

Call for Endorsements: Expand the HUD Definition of Homelessness

Anchorage, AK, Mayor Mark Begich will introduce a resolution before the US Conference of Mayors at its annual meeting, June 2-6, calling for HUD to expand its definition of homelessness to include people who are sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason, and people living in motels due to a lack of alternatives. NPACH, along with a growing number of national, state, and local groups, is asking that your organization sign-on in support of this expanded definition. We also urge you to contact your local elected officials, mayors, city councils, county commissioners, and others, asking them to support an expanded definition of homelessness. To be added to our sign-on list or to have your local officials listed in support, please contact Brad Paul via e-mail, bpaul@npach.org, or by phone at (504) 524-8751.

The following documents were prepared in support of this effort:

Mayor Begich's Resolution:

http://www.npach.org/homeless_resolution2006.pdf

Questions and Answers About Expanding HUD's Definition of Homelessness

http://www.npach.org/qa_hud_definition.pdf

The current list of national, state, and local organizations that have endorsed an expanded definition:

http://www.npach.org/expand_def.htm#_endorsers

SPECIAL SECTION: HURRICANE SEASON, HOUSING AND PREPAREDNESS

Hurricane Season officially begins Thursday, June 1. The severity of the 2004 and 2005 seasons has forced everyone, from policy makers at the local, state, and federal level, to advocates and service providers, to re-examine their response to disaster housing needs. As the only national housing and homelessness policy group with a permanent presence in the Gulf South, NPACH is uniquely positioned to work with communities in hurricane-affected areas. *We would like to thank the Gulf Coast Ecological Health and Community Renewal Fund at Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors for supporting our efforts in the region.*

Congressional Black Caucus Braintrust Conducts Katrina Housing Briefings; NPACH to Present

In recognition of National Homeownership Month in June, the Congressional Black Caucus Housing Braintrust will host a series of briefings entitled "The Katrina Housing Series: How Congress Can Raise the Roof for Katrina Survivors."

The purpose of The Katrina Housing Series is to expose the challenges and complexities involved in assuring the creation of a safe and affordable housing stock in the Gulf region. The Caucus hopes to gain perspective on the roles of private and non-profit developers, local and state governments, and federal agencies in the reconstruction process. The Caucus also wants to create momentum around rebuilding with both equality and the environment in mind, with special emphasis on disparities between homeownership and renting opportunities, and how safety and affordability can be the foundation for reconstruction.

Descriptions of the briefings are available at http://www.npach.org/katrina_housing_series.pdf.

The briefings will take place each Tuesday in June from 3-5PM and are open to the public. For more information please contact Aysha House-Moshi or Liz Havstad in the Office of Congresswoman Barbara Lee at (202) 225 2661.

NPACH, ACHR Sponsor Community Exchange Between Gulf South and Tsunami-affected Region

NPACH and the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights have arranged for a community exchange between citizens of hurricane-ravaged areas of the Gulf South and villagers from areas in southern Asia recovering from the December 2004 tsunami. From June 22-26, housing activists and residents from Aceh, Indonesia and coastal Thailand will visit New Orleans and southern Mississippi to tour the region and meet with community groups. In return, community leaders from some of the hardest-hit areas of New Orleans, including the Lower 9th Ward and New Orleans East, will travel to Thailand in late July to learn firsthand about the survivors of the tsunami's efforts to rebuild their homes and lives.

Learn more on the web: <http://www.npach.org/exchange.htm>

To financially support the exchange or for further details contact Tom Carton at NPACH, tcarton@npach.org

Hurricanes, Housing, & Homelessness: Planning for and Responding to Disaster Housing Needs

NPACH, the Coalition to End Homelessness (Broward, FL), the South Florida Regional Planning Council and the United Way conducted a workshop on confronting housing and homelessness needs in the aftermath of natural disasters, on Tuesday, May 9. Jeremy Rosen of Volunteers of America, Laura Tuggle of New Orleans Legal Assistance, Laura Hansen of the Coalition to End Homelessness and Brad Paul of NPACH joined over 50 advocates and agency representatives in discussing lessons learned from the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons. An ad-hoc committee was formed to communicate issues, concerns and hurricane policy recommendations to Florida's Congressional delegation.

Pensacola to host Gulf States Disaster Recovery Symposium

NPACH will present at the Gulf States Disaster Recovery Symposium, Pensacola, Florida, on Tuesday, June 6. This event has been jointly planned and hosted by the Florida Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (FLVOAD), FIND, United Way, Florida Catholic Conference, workforce and homelessness agencies, and many others including partners in other Gulf Coast states. The purpose of this Symposium is to assemble key planners and decision-makers providing human services and housing for those affected by disasters.

National Health Care for the Homeless Council Annual Conference, June 8-10

NPACH will present on hurricane preparedness at this year's National Health Care for the Homeless Council conference, held in Portland, OR. The conference, "Natural and Unnatural Disasters: What We Have Learned About Poverty, Homelessness, and Health Care" is designed for HCH professionals, including administrative, clinical and support staff, board members, and clients. It will also be of value to others who provide health care and support services to homeless people, as well as government officials and advocates. Full conference information and registration materials are available online.

<http://www.bphc.hrsa.gov/hchirc/conference/overview.htm>

Commentary: Understanding Poverty and Homelessness in America

(From "The Christian Science Monitor")

"The US Conference of Mayors has requested by resolution that the ICH and the president call for all federal departments and funding sources to adopt a common definition of homelessness. Perhaps they should listen more to the mayors who are actually seeing what goes on in their cities and towns every day, instead of depending on numbers gathered by four hours of schlepping through the streets of our biggest cities one night a year.

“This kind of effort and cooperation would go a long way in helping all communities provide a consistent level of help and support for children and their parents. It might even give us a valid count. But instead, ICH met in Denver to celebrate numbers that don't seem to have much real meaning to people across America struggling to find shelter and keep their families intact.”

Read this entire commentary online: <http://www.npach.org/22may06.htm>

PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

NCHE Releases Briefing on Housing Agency and School District Collaboration

The National Center for Homeless Education has released a new briefing detailing some of the best practices in collaboration between housing agencies and school districts as they serve homeless and highly mobile students. The briefing explains how this type of collaboration can help reduce the frequency of family moves and promote school stability for children and youth experiencing homelessness.

The document is available for download:

http://www.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/housing_collab.pdf

Global Green USA, LANO Present Workshop in New Orleans: Green Affordable Housing

Global Green USA and the Louisiana Association of Non-profit Organizations will present a green affordable housing stakeholders workshop on Wednesday, May 31, from 1-4PM at the Ashe Cultural Center in New Orleans. Participants will discuss creating green building criteria for the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency Qualified Allocation Plan. Those wishing to attend should RSVP immediately to Andrew Muhl via e-mail, andrew@lano.org.

Learn more about Global Green USA online: <http://www.globalgreen.org/>

Journal on Primary Prevention: Call for Submissions to Special Issue on Homelessness

The Journal of Primary Prevention, in partnership with the National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness is preparing a special issue on homelessness prevention. JPP encourages various types of papers: original research, practice-oriented reports from the field, and literature reviews. Prospective authors should contact Dawn Jahn Moses of the National Resource and Training Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness at 617-964-3834 ext. 36 or dawn.moses@familyhomelessness.org in order to indicate interest, receive more detailed submission guidelines, and/or ask questions about the issue. The deadline for submission is June 1, 2006.

The full announcement is available on our website: http://www.npach.org/jpp_submissions.pdf

World Urban Forum, June 19-23, 2006

The World Urban Forum was established by the United Nations to examine one of the most pressing issues facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies and policies. It is projected that in the next fifty years, two-thirds of humanity will be living in towns and cities. A major challenge is to minimize burgeoning poverty in cities, improve the urban poor's access to basic facilities such as shelter, clean water and sanitation and achieve environment-friendly, sustainable urban growth and development.

Learn more about World Urban Forum III, to take place in Vancouver, British Columbia, June 19-23, 2006 at United Nations Habitat's website: <http://www.unhabitat.org/wuf/2006/default.asp>