



Tampa Field Office Newsletter
JANUARY, 2005

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

**MAKING THE MOST OF HUD RESOURCES:
Accessing the Right Tools for Your Communities
February 1 & 2, 2005
Tampa Convention Center**

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Deadline extended to January 21, 2005.**
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- **HUD'S Youthbuild Program Delivers \$54 M for Skills & Leadership Training:
Two Florida Programs Awarded \$1.4 M**
- **HUD Awards \$17.6 M in Grants to Help Fight Housing Discrimination in U.S.:
\$733,000 Goes to Five Florida Agencies, Including Two in Tampa Bay Area**
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HUD is the nation's housing agency committed to increasing homeownership, particularly among minorities; creating affordable housing opportunities for low-income Americans; and supporting the homeless, elderly, people with disabilities and people living with AIDS. The Department also promotes economic and community development as well as enforces the nation's fair housing laws. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at www.hud.gov and espanol.hud.gov.

Message from the Field Office Director

Welcome to your first 2005 electronic issue of the HUD Tampa Office's newsletter!

Let me wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year. Although challenged with several natural disasters during the final months of 2004, Floridians in general (and those in the Tampa Bay Area in particular) responded with incredible generosity, cooperation and compassion. Once again, HUD's partners demonstrated their ability to overcome adversity through the creative use of service delivery, programs, staff, funding and volunteerism. As an Agency, HUD commends each of its local partners for this outstanding effort!

As we look forward to another year, I invite you to register for the HUD Resource Conference detailed within this newsletter. Originally scheduled for late August 2004, this conference was rescheduled as a result of our flurry of hurricanes. Its content has been tailored to your needs, both routine and disaster-related. Please take time to review the many workshops and special sessions we have developed. We look forward to keeping you informed of HUD's activities through subsequent e-newsletters throughout the year.

Karen Jackson Sims, AICP
Field Director, Tampa Office

Making the Most of HUD Resources *Accessing the Right Tools for Your Communities*

February 1, 2005 & February 2, 2005
Tampa Convention Center

Join us for informative sessions, site tours and presentations about HUD's programs.
Sponsored by:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Tampa Field Office
The City of Tampa
Hillsborough County
The Tampa Housing Authority

This event is filled with important program information to help our partners better understand HUD programs and help them access the right tools for their communities. Content will include something for everyone. Housing authorities, government, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, real estate brokers, lenders and many more HUD partners will all benefit from attendance.

The following link will lead you to the conference brochure and registration form:
<http://www.hud.gov/utilities/intercept.cfm?/local/fl/news/2004-02-01brochure.pdf>

In addition, you may register online through the City of Tampa's internet site:
http://www.tampagov.net/dept_business_community_services/housing_and_community_development/ (Click on Upcoming Events)

Plan now to attend. The non-refundable advance registration fee is only \$65. It covers workshops, tour, luncheons, reception and breaks. **Advance registrations must be received by January 21, 2005.** The fee for on-site registration is \$85 pending space availability. Cash only, no checks, vouchers or credit cards.

**HATS OFF TO THE WARRICK DUNN FOUNDATION
AND
THE ST. PETERSBURG NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES, INC.**



L to R: Running Back Warrick Dunn, new homeowner Tanya Pickle with her children and Middle Linebacker Shelton Quarles

Congratulations to Tanya Pickle! Thanks to her hard work, this single mother of two, and former resident of the Jordan Park Housing complex, now lives in her own new home. After two years of working hard to save money for a down payment and faithfully attending homebuyer education classes, Ms. Pickle arrived at her home on the morning of December 21, 2004 expecting to attend her real estate closing. Much to Tanya's surprise, she was greeted by former Tampa Bay Buccaneer (now Atlanta Falcon) running back Warrick Dunn who presented her with a \$5,000 check for the down payment. In addition, his Foundation provided furniture throughout the house, kitchen appliances, linen, food, and lawn care implements. Warrick was also joined by Bucs

linebacker Shelton Quarles, another supporter of assisting low income women in becoming homeowners. This home itself was constructed through the combination of funds from the St. Petersburg Housing Authority, HOPE 6, CDBG and CHDO funding. The Warrick Dunn Foundation, St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services and Mt. Zion Human Services are to be commended for their generosity. To date, the program has assisted 52 single mothers to obtain a home.

HUD ANNOUNCES HIGHER FHA HOME LOAN LIMITS TO HELP MORE AMERICAN FAMILIES BECOME HOMEOWNERS

Effective January 1, 2005, FHA will insure single-family home mortgages up to **\$172,632** in low cost areas and up to **\$312,895** in high cost areas. The loan limits for two-, three- and four-unit dwellings also increased. The FHA is sending letters to thousands of mortgage lenders and brokers to make them aware of the higher rates that can help families.

HUD'S YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM DELIVERS \$54 MILLION FOR SKILLS AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING
Two Florida programs awarded grants totaling \$1.4 million

On Monday, December 13, 2004, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson announced that more than 100 young people in Florida who never finished high school would get a second chance to receive their diplomas because of \$1.4 million in grants. The grants are part of \$54 million HUD is awarding through its *Youthbuild Program* to offer job training and leadership skills to young people while putting them back on a path toward graduation.

Two grants, one in Jacksonville and the other in St. Petersburg, will help train young persons for a future in the construction trades while producing seven homes for lower income families, many facing homelessness. Boley Centers for Behavioral Health Care, Inc. (located in St. Petersburg) will receive a Youthbuild grant in the amount of \$700,000. The grant will enable Boley Centers to train 78 youth and construct one new house. Major partners include: the City of St. Petersburg; Eckerd Family Foundation; Juvenile Welfare Board; Mt. Zion; and, Pinellas Technical Education Centers.

HUD AWARDS \$17.6 MILLION IN GRANTS TO HELP FIGHT HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

\$733,000 Awarded to Five Florida Agencies Including Two in the Tampa Field Office Jurisdiction



HUD FHIP Awards

L to R Jack Humburg, Boley Centers for Behavioral Healthcare - St. Petersburg
Karen Jackson Sims, Director, U.S. Dept. HUD Tampa Field Office
Tom DiFiore - Bay Area Legal Services, Tampa
Francine Gordon, Mid- Florida Housing Partnership
Kenya Robertson, HOPE, Inc.
Michael Figgins, Jacksonville Area Legal Aid
Candace Tapscott, U.S. Dept. HUD - Director of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Program Center

On Thursday, October 7, 2004, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson awarded \$17.6 million in grants to 106 groups in the U.S. to help them fight housing discrimination. In a recent ceremony held at the Boley Centers for Behavioral Healthcare in St. Petersburg, HUD presented checks totaling \$733,000 to the five successful recipients in Florida.

The grants, funded under HUD's Fair Housing Initiatives Program, go to public and private fair housing groups and state and local agencies across the country. These groups will utilize the funds to investigate allegations of housing discrimination, educate the housing industry and public about housing discrimination laws, and work to promote fair housing. The two Tampa Bay Area recipients are:

Boley Centers for Behavioral Health Care -- \$90,922

The Boley Centers for Behavioral Health Care, located in St. Petersburg will provide education and outreach services to individuals with disabilities. This 12-month project will serve 400 Pinellas County residents by offering them client-specific workshops such as those targeted to individuals with mental illness or visual impairments, along with information dissemination about enforcement rights and fair housing laws. Reading level appropriate material and a web site will be developed under the leadership of staff that has served the agency for more than 25 years. With partners including the Watson Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired and Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services, Inc., Boley will oversee several activities such as complaint referrals and tester training.

Bay Area Legal Services, Inc. -- \$152,701

Bay Area Legal Services, Inc. Located in Tampa, will engage in a variety of outreach, educational, and training activities in an effort to enforce fair housing laws and to promote the availability of affordable housing on behalf of housing discrimination victims in the City of Tampa and Hillsborough County. The organization will achieve this through various activities such as: recruiting and training 20 testers to conduct rental and lending tests; providing fair housing enforcement training to 30 staff persons, volunteers, and board members; offering education about fair housing rights to protected classes and underserved populations; and working with grassroots, faith-based, and other community-based organizations in HUD programs. Efforts will be targeted to underserved populations, including persons with disabilities, racial and ethnic minorities, and persons with limited English proficiency.

Other Florida Grantees Include:

Mid-Florida Housing Partnership, Inc. (Daytona Beach)

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc. (Jacksonville)

Housing Opportunities Project for Excellence, Inc. (Miami)

The Fair Housing Act bars housing discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, family status and national origin. The Act covers the sale, rental, financing and advertising of almost all housing in the nation. Fair housing investigations are conducted by HUD investigators, state and city agencies working with HUD, and private fair housing groups that receive HUD funds.

Anyone who believes they have experienced housing discrimination is asked to call HUD's Housing Discrimination Hotline at 1-800-669-9777, TDD 1-800-927-9275. You may also visit HUD's fair housing website at www.hud.gov/fairhousing.

HUD KIOSK NOW AT UNIVERSITY SQUARE MALL in Tampa!



Thanks to co-sponsorship with Hillsborough County Government, a new HUD (touch screen) Kiosk is providing the public with valuable information about HUD programs. The Kiosk is located within the University Mall (corner of Fowler and Bruce B Downs). It is on the second floor near the Food Court, between the entrance to the movie theater and the Hillsborough County Children's Board Family Resource and Support Center. Take advantage of this latest technology to research housing programs and obtain printed copies of your research!

Are You on Our Mailing List?

In an effort to keep customers well informed, the Tampa Field Office makes available the following publications:

Tampa Field Office Newsletter

If you need general information about programs, funding, public announcements and local activities, send your request via email to william.j.kalbas@hud.gov or call 813.228.2026 x-2112 to provide your email or postal address.

Tampa Office of Multi-Family Housing E-Letter

If you are in the multi-family housing industry (owner, manager, funding source, etc.) and would like to be on an electronic newsletter mailing list, email: alan_coupland@hud.gov.

Atlanta Homeownership Center Internet News

Those interested in single family housing news may visit the following Internet site <http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/talk/atfallnews.pdf> to register for receipt of this newsletter.
