

**The
Housing**



Research
&
Advocacy

Center

news

June 2005

NEW LEADERSHIP CHOSEN FOR THE HOUSING CENTER!

After a long and dedicated process the Housing Research & Advocacy Center's Board of Directors announces that Jeffrey Dillman, Esq. will become the next Executive Director of the Housing Research & Advocacy Center.

Jeff is no stranger to fair housing having worked previously for a fair housing agency and thereafter as a professor at the Milton A. Kramer Law Clinic Center at Case Western Reserve University School of Law where he teaches civil litigation and immigration law clinics.

Jeff is motivated to build on HRAC's mission and move forward on implementing our new 3-year strategic plan. He is poised to open new venues of funding for the agency to continue our vital mission and work toward making The Housing Center the premier Fair Housing agency in Northeast Ohio.

Jeff graduated with his BA in 1986 from the University of

California, Los Angeles; and his JD in 1989 from Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley. He was the Associate Legal Counselor for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees office in Washington D.C., a visiting researcher at the Palestine Human Rights Information Center in Jerusalem, an adjunct lecturer in law at the University of Michigan Law School, a private attorney practicing civil rights law, and a supervising attorney in the Asylum and Refugee Law project at the University of Michigan Law School as well as a visiting Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Dayton School of law.

Jeff begins as our full-time Executive Director on July 1, 2005 and we are excited and motivated to move our agency forward and make it the fore-most fair housing agency in Northeast Ohio. Under Jeff's leadership we will focus on development as well as continue with our educational programs and

increase our visibility in the community as the fair housing expert.

Jeff will hone his development skills and those, coupled with his knowledge of our agency and the state of fair housing in our area, will be the driving force in the changes that you will see, and hopefully be a part of, as our agency grows and continues to change to adapt to changes in our communities

The staff and Board welcome Jeff and look forward to working with him.



Community Development Block Grant Funding.... Where is it going?

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was started in 1974 and is one of the oldest programs within HUD. CDBG provides annual grants based on a formula to many different types of grantees through several different programs. One funding area of the CDBG program is the Entitlement Communities program.

The Entitlement Community program provides annual grants to entitled cities and counties to develop urban communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environments and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. To be eligible to receive these funds the city/county must be: a principal city of a Metropolitan Statistical Area; a metropolitan city with a population of at least 50,000; or, a qualified urban county with a population of at least 200,000 (excluding the population of entitled cities). HUD determines the amount of funding eligible

areas received based upon a dual formula which uses objective measures of community need, including the extent of poverty, population, housing overcrowding, age of housing and population growth in relationship to other metropolitan areas. There are many eligible activities these funds can be used for; however, not less than 70% of the funds received have to be used for activities that specifically benefit low and moderate-income persons and affirmatively further fair housing.

Now, 30 years and millions of assisted people later, President Bush's 2006 budget would virtually dismantle the CDBG program. The plan calls for 18 existing programs under HUD to be consolidated into a new "Strengthening America's Community Initiative" grant program to be administered by the Department of Commerce. Funding is proposed at about \$1 billion less than the CDBG program as it stands today and the criteria for eligibility, though not clearly defined at this time, will become more restrictive. On March 17, 2005 the U.S. Senate voted on the question of amending the CDBG pro-

gram with the stated purpose of the vote to consider fully funding the CDBG program. At the roll call, 68 out of the 100 possible votes raised their voice in favor of fully funding the program.

CDBG has been a critical resource for America's cities and neighborhoods. The program has a proven track record in attracting private investment and is an essential tool for creating and sustaining affordable housing. Your voice counts. Tell Congress that CDBG funding should be maintained as a separate program within HUD, with funding at least equal to current funding and that the eligibility requirements should not become more restrictive.

On April 28th both houses voted against the changes in CDBG and effectively blocked the White House's proposed changes to the program, for this year. The entire budget of 4.71 billion dollars was reinstated and although Congress is still looking at changes in allocation, the program is protected and restored. Many republicans crossed party lines to achieve this "save" of the program. HUD is looking at reallocation based on need by community but nothing will be changed without the involvement of Congress.

This change only protects this year, **keep your voices heard**, Contact your representatives: Mike DeWine, 140 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510. (202) 224-2315 or email: dewine.senate.gov and contact: George Voinovich 524 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510. (202) 224-3353 or email: voinovich.senate.gov.

SAVE THE DATE!!

This year, The Housing Research & Advocacy Center's Annual Conference will focus on **"Access to Housing for People with Disabilities"**

This event is being sponsored by an Educational Initiatives Grant from the Department of Housing & Urban Development. It will be a two-day, multi-tract conference and will take place on **September 22 - 23, 2005.**

Watch our website: www.thehousingcenter.org as well as our newsletter and your mail for additional information on this conference.

The Housing Center Board of Directors:

Sheryl King Benford

Patricia Burgess, Chair

Brian G. Fabo

Carole O. Heyward, Treasurer

Peter Lawson Jones, Vice Chair

Patricia Mearns

Vanessa Randolph

Gay Quereau

Housing Center Staff:

Jeffrey Dillman,

Executive Director

Vance Novak,

Administrative Coordinator

Carrie Bender Pleasants,

Director of Research &
Investigation

Amy Roskilby,

Education & Outreach
Coordinator

Marie Augustin-Glave

Intern

Spotlight on The Board: Carole O. Heyward

Ms. Heyward was admitted to practice law in the state of Ohio in 1993 and since 1998 has focused her practice on issues relating to housing. She has represented a number of fair housing advocacy groups in litigation to enforce the Fair Housing Act.

Carole served as General Counsel of the Housing Research and Advocacy Center providing technical assistance to municipalities (including drafting ordinances relating to housing), participated in Community Reinvestment Act challenges and litigated cases filed to enforce fair housing laws in state and federal courts.

Ms. Heyward is currently the Staff Attorney in the Community Advocacy Clinic at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

The Community Advocacy Clinic provides law students the opportunity to use their theoretical knowledge and gain valuable practical skills by providing legal assistance to community development organizations that focus on improving Cleveland's neighborhoods by engaging in housing and economic development activities.

Ms. Heyward joined the Housing Center Board of Directors in March of 2004, and currently serves as the Treasurer of the Board.

Carole is an avid gardener and enjoys making jewelry. She is a dog lover and owns a golden retriever named "Maddie" and volunteers at the Berea Animal Shelter and also serves on the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

The Housing Center Update Corner...

The staff and Board of The Housing Research & Advocacy Center would like to offer our sincerest thanks and best wishes to Hal Madorsky, former Director of Development and General Counsel, who has left the Housing Center for a position in the Law Department of the City of Cleveland.

The staff and Board truly appreciate all of Hal's efforts on behalf of the Agency and we have only the best thoughts and wishes for him as he pursues this new career path.

The Housing Center also wishes to welcome our new Intern, Marie Augustin-Glave as she begins her work here assisting on our HUD grant. Marie is a Master of Urban Studies student at Cleveland State University and has just completed an internship with the NAACP as a legal intern in the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office.

Marie is a helpful addition to our staff and we look forward to working together.



THE HOUSING CENTER MISSION

To ensure, through research, educational and outreach programs, public policy advocacy and enforcement activities, that all residents are guaranteed equal access to housing.

**THE HOUSING
RESEARCH & ADVOCACY
CENTER**

A New Era of Housing Justice

3631 Perkins Avenue
Suite 3A-2

Phone: 216-361-9240
Fax: 216-426-1290

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #857
CLEVELAND, OH

Check out
our Website!

www.thehousingcenter.org



WATCH OUR WEBSITE

The Housing Research & Advocacy Center will feature many new Education & Outreach Opportunities in 2005. Earn CEU's, and/or CLE's at many of our upcoming Events. Check our website for more information
www.thehousingcenter.org

And **YOU** can help too! Support **Housing Justice** by supporting **The Housing Center**. Complete this form and send it with your tax-deductible gift of:

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other _____

My check is enclosed

You can charge your donation on your VISA or MasterCard at www.thehousingcenter.org

Make checks payable to The Housing Center and send to 3631 Perkins Avenue, Cleveland OH 44114 (envelope provided, too!)

Name _____

Address _____

City, ST _____ Zip code _____

Phone: (____) _____