

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



APRIL, 2008

Neighborhood Preservation Coalition
of New York State, Inc.

State Legislature Increases Preservation Program Funding; Capital Programs See Historic Increases

Gov. David Paterson and Leaders of the New York State Legislature came to a final budget agreement on April 9 that included funding increases for the Neighborhood and Rural Preservation Programs.

The Neighborhood Preservation Program is funded at \$13.9 million for FY'08-09, allowing eligible Neighborhood Preservation Companies to receive a contract award of \$88.4K. The Rural Preservation Program is funded at \$6.2 million, giving Rural Preservation Companies contract awards of \$90.9K. Currently, there are 154 NPCs and 67 RPCs in the programs.

“Once again, the State Legislature demonstrated its strong support for our efforts to address this state’s affordable housing crisis by funding the programs best suited to deliver desperately needed housing services in New York State,” said Coalition Executive Director Joe Agostine, Jr., adding, “We are most grateful to all members of the Legislature and especially to our Housing Committee Chairs Assemblymember Vito Lopez and Senator John Bonacic.”

Funding levels for other state housing programs include:

?? \$60 million for the Housing Trust Fund Corp., which over-

sees a variety of programs to create decent affordable housing by providing loans and grants for the rehabilitation of existing vacant or underutilized housing, as well as the construction of new housing;

?? \$54 million for the NYS Housing Finance Agency for its Mitchell-Lama Rehabilitation and Preservation and All Affordable programs, which provides flexible, low-cost financing to owners of state-financed Mitchell-Lama developments who, in return, keep rents affordable and rehabilitate their

properties, as well as to owners who build 100% affordable housing projects;

?? \$45 million for the NYS Affordable Housing Corp., which is administered through NY Homes and creates homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income families by providing grants to governmental, not-for-profit and charitable organizations to help with the construction and renovation costs;

?? \$36.5 million for the Homeless

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THANK YOU!!

Gov. David Paterson

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver

Assembly Housing Committee Vito Lopez

Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno

Senate Housing Committee Chair John Bonacic

And All Members Of The

New York State Legislature

**For Recognizing the important Work Being Accomplished by
Neighborhood and Rural Preservation Companies Across
This State and For Giving Us The Necessary Resources
Needed To Address the State’s Affordable Housing Crisis!**

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Housing Assistance Program, which provides capital grants and loans for housing and support services for the homeless. Funds can be used for the acquisition, construction or rehabilitation of housing for homeless persons and families, include special needs populations;

?? \$25 million to fund homeownership counseling for families facing the crisis of possible foreclosure, as well as to prevent similar occurrences;

?? \$17 million for the Homes for Working Families program, which provides assistance to the Housing Trust Fund Corp. to facilitate bond financing for the new construction or rehabilitation of family or senior rental projects;

?? \$17.8 million for the Public Housing Modernization program, which provides grants to housing authorities across the State for capital improvements and repairs;

?? \$15 million for a flood relief program, which will assist homeowners affected by repeated flooding in certain counties in the Southern Tier, and Mohawk and Hudson Valleys;

?? \$4 million for the Access to Home program, which provides funds to not-for-profit organizations and municipalities to make the homes and apartments of low- and moderate-income New Yorkers with disabilities more accessible;

?? \$4.4 million for the RESTORE program, which provides funds to help elderly residents make emergency repairs to dangerous conditions in their homes;

?? \$6 million for the Rural Area Revitalization Program, which provides financial and technical resources to New York communities for the restoration and improvement of housing, commercial areas and public/community facilities in rural communities;

?? \$5 million for the Main Street

Program, which provides financial resources and technical assistance to business improvement districts and other not-for-profit organizations that are committed to revitalizing historic downtowns, mixed-use neighborhood commercial districts, and village centers;

?? \$5 million for the Infrastructure Development Demonstration Program, which provides assistance with the cost of infrastructure improvements, such as sewer, water and utility lines, in association with development of affordable housing;

?? \$6 million for the Homeownership and Economic Stabilization for Long Island Program (HELP), which provides employees of participating businesses financial assistance to purchase and rehabilitate a home on Long Island; and,

?? \$3.5 million for Urban Initiatives, which provides financial and technical resources to New York communities for the restoration and improvement of housing, commercial areas and public/community facilities in urban neighborhoods.

Coalition members and friends are urged to send their own messages of "thanks" to their local legislators and to the legislative leaders who made these historic funding levels a reality in this year's budget. And, "I want to thank all our members and friends who stood with the Coalition while we advocated for funding restorations and increases," noted Agostine, adding that, "the Coalition remains a strong and forceful advocate in Albany for all of the state's affordable housing programs."

LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAY

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009

**Hearing Room C, L.O.B.
Albany, NY**

***Save the date and come to Albany to support the
Coalition's Legislative Agenda!!***

Join The Bandwagon For Excellence In Homeownership Education

For those of you engaged in housing counseling or financial literacy services, you should consider joining a new trade association created in 2007 to ensure that comprehensive and quality financial literacy, pre- and post-purchase homeownership education and counseling services are available to all New Yorkers.

The NYS Coalition for Excellence in Homeownership Education (CXHE) will represent housing counselors and financial literacy educators, community development professionals, financial services professionals, lenders, state and local government officials, health and human services professionals, or any other individual, agency or organization that supports the promotion of high-quality housing counseling services.

CXHE will work to elevate the professionalism of the industry to (1) ensure salaries and benefits are competitive, thereby allowing for the recruitment and retention of skilled staff; (2) promote sustainable funding for counseling agencies across the state; (3) advocate for policies, programs and resources that support the availability and accessibility of comprehensive and quality financial and homeownership education services; (4) provide access to training, testing and accreditation for providers; and (5) promote the National Industry Standards for homeownership education and counseling.

Membership dues for 2008 are \$25 per organization, agency or individual. For information on how to join, or to submit questions or concerns to CXHE, interested persons can use their blog at <http://cxhe.wordpress.com>.

Job Opportunities

Program Manager - needed for Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of NYS. The successful candidate will be responsible for managing all existing contracts of the organization and providing technical assistance and training on a variety of organizational development issues. Excellent oral and written communication skills, excellent computer skills including experience designing and producing materials and reports, and the ability to manage multiple projects & meet deadlines are necessary. Familiarity with community development/housing data and its application, in addition to familiarity with Federal and State affordable housing programs a plus. Bachelor's Degree in related field required. Competitive salary, commensurate with experience, health insurance and other benefits available. Position available immediately. Send letter and resume to Joe Agostine, Jr., Executive Director, NPC of NYS, Inc., 40 Colvin Ave., Suite 102, Albany, NY, 12206, or email to agostine@npcnys.org. EOE.

Director - for the New York Mortgage Coalition, a small, but growing organization which works collaboratively with banks and community groups to support community outreach and education, financial literacy training, homeownership counseling, and homebuyer assistance services to underserved constituencies. Candidates must be highly creative, hard-working, self-directed individuals with a demonstrated interest in affordable homeownership and foreclosure prevent programs. Must have extremely strong interpersonal skills and a commitment to the work of non-profit housing counseling organizations. The ideal candidate will have strong

fundraising capacity, the ability to manage multiple tasks and projects, facility at Coalition-building, and a strong interest in community development. A BA/BS is required, Masters preferred. Salary: \$60-\$70K depending on experience. Women and people of color are strongly encouraged to apply. Fax your resume by April 30 to Irene Baldwin at (212) 747-1114 or email to Irene.b@anhd.org.

Board Position In Manhattan Remains Open

The Neighborhood Preservation Coalition continues to seek a representative from Manhattan to serve on the board of directors.

The board meets bi-monthly and is charged with establishing policy, legislative advocacy, and fundraising to support the Coalition's varied technical assistance activities.

NPC executives and/or executives of CHDO's are eligible.

For any questions, more details, or to express your interest in serving contact Executive Director Joe Agostine, Jr. at (518)-432-6757.

A Gentle Reminder . . .

**The Coalition's 2008
Annual Membership Drive
Has Begun!**

**Please pay your dues
ASAP . . . Your financial
support helps to keep our
Legislative Advocacy on
target, strong and united!**

Thank You!

OUR MISSION

The Neighborhood Preservation Coalition will unify, educate, empower, and strengthen community organizations in their provision of affordable housing and community revitalization activities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

☛Karen Mallam, *President*

☛Joseph G. Barden ☛Francisco Rivera
☛Delaine Cook-Greene ☛John Denelsbeck
☛Jeanne DiLascio * Helen Hogan
☛Linda S. Goodman ☛Miriam M.E. Garcia
☛Dennis Hanratty ☛Gary Beasley
☛Eduardo LaGuerre ☛Beth Farr
☛Judi Orlando ☛Cathy Mickens
☛Joseph Sluszka

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Neighborhood News
Legislative Action
State-wide Annual Conference
Regional Workshops and Roundtables
Training and Technical Assistance
Strategic Planning
Board and Staff Development
Housing Design and Development
Community Assessments and GIS Mapping
Fundraising and Organizational Development

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Register Now For Main Street Conferences

The NYS DHCR, the Housing Trust Fund Corp., and the Office for Small Cities, in collaboration with the New York Conference of Mayors, are hosting one-day Main Street Economic Development Conferences in the Hudson Valley and Western New York.

The conferences will be held April 24, 2008, in the Hudson Valley/Hyde Park area at the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home and in Western New York/Buffalo area on May 15, 2008, at the Adams Mark Hotel.

Participants will learn about the resources dedicated to revitalizing the economic life of our downtowns and will be able to discuss strategies, share experience and learn from others. Go to www.nycom.org for more info and to register.

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Coalition Joins SEFA Campaign

The Neighborhood Preservation Coalition is now a part of the State Employees Federal Appeal (SEFA), allowing people to donate funds to the Coalition through work-place giving. The Coalition requests that members and friends with connections to state employees encourage those workers to designate the Coalition for their planned work-place giving.