



Housing Segment of the E&I Policy Series
Tuesday, March 23rd, 2010
Lindy C. Boggs International Conference Center
New Orleans, LA

Panelists: Deborah Goldberg, National Fair Housing Center; James Perry, Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Center

Emerging themes across issues:

- 1) Local accountability: federal funding allocated and unspent or not spent locally or for intended purposes
- 2) Need to track dollars that come down through states and municipalities
- 3) High need remains for access to affordable housing and increased number of affordable housing units
- 4) The group identified need for strong advocacy in administrative rules and regulations, the need for HUD subsidized units

Disaster Related Issues:

- Multiple challenges with CDBG funding as funding stream, including: re-purposing of affordable housing dollars; lack of transparency; lack of formula to equally benefit rentals and owner occupied dwellings; inappropriateness for multi-generation families and property ownership; insufficient funding for Alabama
- Federal disaster programs should address holistic recovery, including access to transit, infrastructure, schools and community services
- Federal disaster program should increase resources for hazard mitigation
- Changes to Stafford Act must reflect human rights principles
- Homeowners insurance should create multi-peril insurance that crosses state lines, expand risk pool to Gulf Coast vs. individual states, include formulas for a 100 year flood zone, and be accessible for low and moderate income households
- Inclusionary zoning ordinances must be integral part of recovery
- Disaster exacerbated existing affordable housing crisis- should be part of mitigation, on-going/ future recovery, and current advocacy
- DVP and DHAP vouchers only useful if units are available to use them in; disaster housing recovery dollars must bring affordable and rental housing back on-line

quicker through permanent reconstruction and formulas that benefit rentals proportionate to pre-disaster community needs

- Discrimination suits slow moving; use of Fair Housing enforcement through HUD programs and dollars
- Process for individuals is multi-tiered and should be streamlined; include adequate (including duration) for one-stop wrap-around services and case management, to avoid each agency's rules and regulations, requirements and approval

On-going Crisis:

- Increased funding and housing availability for most vulnerable populations, including the homeless (Shelter Plus Care vouchers; vouchers for Veterans)
- Lack of access to subsidized and affordable housing, rental housing in rural areas
- Need for increased Section 8, 202 and 811 vouchers and housing; closed voucher waiting lists as affordable housing crisis; AMI requirements for housing for people with disabilities must be reviewed/amended
- Vacancies exist in market rate rentals -existing need for affordable units outpacing what is available –unallocated/unspent federal money: advocacy opportunity
- Protective classes must be broadened

Fair Housing:

- Examination and review of Westchester, NY case and fair housing suit on CDBG funds, work and enforcement with DOJ, HUD
- Working to hold parishes and counties accountable of Fair Housing requirements in use of CDBG funds
- New and on-going disaster funding streams and programs must have Fair Housing laws woven throughout

Advocacy:

- Need to recapture national attention, battle "Katrina fatigue"
- Need to move as organized voice
- Need for research and data, especially federal funds that have reached states
- Build on-going and consistent relationships with local officials, even as it relates to federal advocacy
- Involve landlords, private sector, unlikely allies
- Messaging around foreclosure crisis
- Advocacy and outreach around and using the census to ensure accurate count