



SOUTHWEST

NCDAREGION VI

Newsletter

Message from the Chair

Dear Region VI Members,
Happy New Year!! As we look back in gratitude for supportive colleagues, new and long-time friendships, and networking opportunities, we look forward to the important work that lies ahead. We are saddened by the recent news of tornado damage in Garland and Rowlett, Texas. If you would like to help, here is the website for suggested donations: <https://garlandtx.recovers.org/>

Across the region, the need for quality affordable housing and meaningful anti-poverty initiatives is greater than ever. Fortunately, there is good news to report on funding for programs that can address these issues. CDBG, HOME and ESG are either level-funded or increased for next year, thanks to the efforts of the HOME coalition and all those that submitted project highlights and surveys from their local communities.

This quarter's newsletter showcases some of these projects. Thank you to the following communities for sharing local stories with our region. Maybe one of these initiatives will spark ideas in your area:

- Little Rock, Arkansas: Conference Highlights
- Bryan, Texas
- New Orleans, Louisiana
- Tulsa, Oklahoma
- Albuquerque, New Mexico : 2016 Region VI Conference



Join us for the latest in community development and housing news at the NCDAREGION VI Winter Legislative Conference in DC; January 20-22, 2016 by going to the link below: http://ncdaonline.org/events/Winter16_Regform.asp

This is an excellent chance to hear directly from HUD Washington staff and connect with your congressional representatives to let them know that great things are happening in their jurisdiction. As we've seen during recent budget negotiations, your voice makes a difference!

Sheryl Kenny

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Upcoming Events

2016 NCDAREGION VI Annual Conference
Milwaukee, WI
June 22-25, 2016

NCDAREGION VI Winter Legislative Meeting
Washington, D.C.
January 20-22, 2016

Region VI Conference
Albuquerque, NM
October, 2016

Arkansas: 2015 NCDA Region VI Conference

The Region VI Annual Conference in Little Rock was a huge success. Thank You to the entire conference planning team for the exceptional 5-day event.

We came away with new ideas and new connections to help us with community and housing development in our home cities and counties.

We were able to tour many of their innovative projects including:



Meals on Wheels Kitchen Facilities and CareLink Respite Center

Find more information [here](#)



Our House Children's Center and Homeless Shelter

Find more information [here](#).



New and improved NSP-funded housing

Find more information [here](#).

Thank you to Little Rock and North Little Rock and other Arkansas communities for coordinating the tour and providing information on the wonderful work that continues to improve the lives of seniors, homeless children and families, and others in need.



Texas: City of Bryan

The City of Bryan Community Development Department recently completed the development of four new, 3 bedroom, 2-bath homes for homebuyers on West 18th Street in Bryan between Sterling and Sims, a low-income neighborhood in northwest Bryan. Three of the homes were purchased by eligible low-to-moderate income households who received CDBG Homebuyer Closing Cost Assistance (3 lots were purchased with CDBG, one lot was non-CDBG). The fourth home was put out to bid and sold as a standard FHA purchase to the highest bidder.

The development illustrated interdepartmental cooperation between the City's Public Works Department, which installed the sidewalks, Bryan Texas Utilities (BTU), which relocated utility poles, Community Development, which coordinated bidding, construction, marketing, and sales, and the City's Finance Department, which made available the General Fund Special Projects short term construction funding of approximately \$394,000, which was repaid from sales proceeds. The original CDBG acquisition cost was also recovered through the sale, which will be used for future eligible housing projects.



All buyers have expressed a high level of satisfaction with their new homes. One buyer recently stated, "I absolutely love the house!!! I haven't missed my old place at all. Thank you all so very much." *Submitted by: Arthur Roach*

Louisiana: Ending Veteran Homelessness

Congratulations to New Orleans for being one of the first communities in the United States to effectively end veteran homelessness. **The following excerpt is from the HUD Exchange*

In June 2014, First Lady Michelle Obama launched the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness by the end of 2015. New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu was galvanized, and returned home filled with determination. He assembled a broad public-private partnership and enlisted these leaders in a committed and very public effort to achieve this ambitious goal – a full year early.

Elected and appointed officials, UNITY of Greater New Orleans (the Continuum of Care lead agency), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and dozens of nonprofit agencies came together to map out strategies, identify veterans in need, organize and implement a process, expand outreach for housing, and more.

The effort employed many strategies. A Master List was updated regularly.

As bottlenecks were identified, the team moved swiftly to overcome them. For example, at the outset, it took 2-4 weeks to determine veteran status, but the VA reduced this to a one-day turnaround. As the lack of rental units emerged as a barrier, the Mayor wrote directly to landlords asking them to participate and many – some veterans themselves – made units available and expedited access. More than 150 Military volunteers contributed, going out at night on street outreach teams as well as helping to furnish and equip apartments for veterans.

Despite the collective efforts, housing placements were not on pace to meet the December 2014 goal. In response, a series of [mid-course corrections](#) were introduced that sharply accelerated the process.

The retooled approach was successful and on January 5, 2015, Mayor Landrieu announced that New

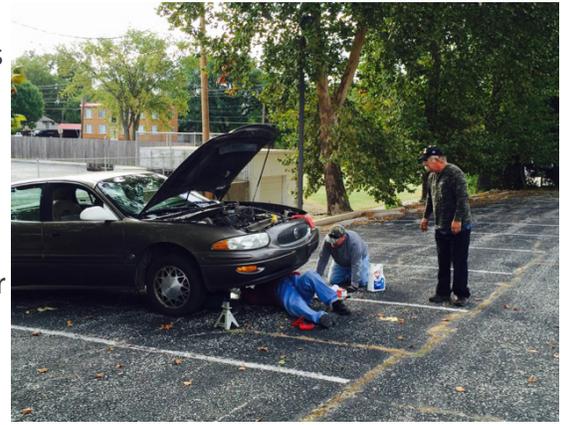
Orleans had become the first city in the United States to end veteran homelessness.

Interviews and site visits were held with stakeholders from the City of New Orleans, UNITY of Greater New Orleans, Volunteers of America, the VA, the Housing of Authority of New Orleans, the State of Louisiana's Housing Corporation, the Mayors Military Advisory Group, and others. The resulting [report](#) – filled with tools, tactics, quotes, and strategies – combines insights and experiences from committed individuals who contributed at all levels.

This guidance document should be useful for other community leaders seeking to mobilize a significant local response as well as to local HUD, VA, and community advocates and providers working to optimize their current activities. For more information visit, www.hudexchange.info.

Oklahoma: Tulsa's Car Care Clinic

A sprawling, low-density population with an inadequate transit system makes Tulsa an auto dependent city. Low and moderate income persons depend on safe, reliable transportation to help them meet basic needs like getting to work, the kids/self to school, doctor appointments or to the grocery store. Many LMI persons are one car breakdown from slipping into extreme poverty. Helping someone repair their brakes makes them safer, and improve safe driving conditions for their family and others on the road around them. Reliable transportation enables our seniors to remain independent, have more opportunity for social activity, and stay longer in their homes.



Tulsa's Car Care Clinic is a CDBG Public Service funded project. Service is by appointment only and available to all eligible LMI individuals with a valid driver's license and current insurance. The project's main service consists of Saturday clinics, available to clients once every three months. Clients are asked to buy the parts (when they can) and volunteers do the labor at no cost. Some repairs performed under this project are diagnostics, tune-ups, oil changes, minor electrical, headlights, tail-lights, starters, alternators, belts, pulleys, heater cores, radiators, wheel bearings, tie rods, ball joints, rocker arms, struts/strut mounts, and wiper motors/blades. Last year Car Care Clinic received \$33,000 in CDBG funds and served 300 clients.

Submitted by: Nancy Robbins

Region VI Newsletter



New Mexico: Region VI Conference

The 2016 Region VI Annual Conference will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

OCTOBER 2016

We look forward to taking a look at the innovative ideas and inspirational projects that this city is working on in order to improve the life of their residents.

Please visit ncdaregionvi.weebly.com as more information becomes available!