



November 14 – 16, 2007 • Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center • Roanoke, Virginia

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***Housing: The Heart of our Communities***  
***2007 Governor's Housing Conference comes to Roanoke***

*Housing advocates, providers and policy makers will gather to discuss topics including foreclosure prevention, homelessness, workforce housing, green building and more.*

**Richmond, Va.** – The 2007 Governor's Housing Conference, Virginia's largest and most comprehensive affordable housing event of the year will be held Nov. 14 through 16 at the Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center in Roanoke, Va. Each year the conference brings together nearly 900 affordable housing advocates, providers, and policy makers to discuss a host of important issues.

“Across the nation the housing market and issues surrounding it are making headlines,” said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Patrick O. Gottschalk. “In Virginia affordable housing is at the forefront of the policy issues we are addressing, and this conference provides the opportunity for housing experts and advocates from across the state to discuss initiatives that can create and improve affordable housing in Virginia.”

The Honorable Governor Timothy Kaine will attend the 2007 Virginia Housing Awards ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 15 at 11:45 a.m., which serves to recognize outstanding and innovative efforts in crafting effective solutions to the Commonwealth's complex array of housing needs. Awards will be given for Best Housing Development, Best Housing Program, Best Housing Preservation/Revitalization Effort, and Best Housing Organization.

The conference opens Thursday morning with keynote speaker Barbara Ehrenreich, the author of *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America*. Ehrenreich is a journalist and advocate for issues such as economic justice and healthcare. Ehrenreich will open the conference with her unique perspective on the challenges facing low-income and middle class workers in today's economy, and how they relate to those issues facing conference attendees, especially in the area of affordable workforce housing.

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The 2007 Governor's Housing Conference includes more than 30 workshops and sessions. Session topics will include: *Regional Homeless Solutions; Mixed Income Housing; Strategies for Foreclosure Prevention; Accessibility and Fair Housing; Incorporating Energy Efficiency and Green Building into Affordability; Innovative Workforce Housing Initiatives; and more.*

Additionally, this year's conference will feature a dialogue on payday lending from both the opponent and proponent perspective.

"The conference brings together experts and policy makers to discuss leading issues of the day in the housing arena, both on the state and national level," said Bill Shelton, Director of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). "DHCD is proud to be a partner in hosting this conference, which addresses important community development and housing issues."

Several state and federal agencies partner to host the Governor's Housing Conference, including the DHCD, Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA), Virginia Housing Commission, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban development – Richmond Field Office, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development.

"The Governor's Housing Conference provides affordable housing organizations with the opportunity to better understand and respond to the increasing diversity of housing needs among Virginia's communities," said Susan F. Dewey, Executive Director of VHDA. "VHDA actively supports this important conference as we continue addressing the housing needs of low and moderate income families in Virginia."

Conference registration is \$185 in advance and \$200 on-site. Registration includes all sessions and materials. For more information, call (804) 371-7000 or visit: [www.vagovernorshousingconference.com](http://www.vagovernorshousingconference.com).

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