

Current Developments in State Housing Policy

**A Perspective from the
Department of Housing and Community Development**

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Overview

- DHCD emphasizes partnership role in addressing housing and community development issues.
- DHCD recognizes that the ability to leverage resources is critical to increasing impact.
- Budget shortfalls and recession will both increase demand for services and limit available resources.

Housing

- Assume responsibility for overall administration of the Private Activity Bond cap.
- Continue quarterly allocation system for HOME funding for housing development.
- Continue to migrate the allocation formula for homeless shelter support to reward utilization and case management.

Housing

- Work with the network of weatherization providers to explore new strategies to invest increased resources (240% increase in LIHEAP).
- Partner with Virginia Community Capital on housing preservation strategy (MacArthur Foundation proposal).

Community Revitalization

- Implementing new \$38.7 million federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program as part of response to foreclosure crisis:
 - target neighborhoods of highest impact
 - enable households with incomes below 120% of median area income to purchase foreclosed and abandoned properties
 - goal is to both stabilize impacted neighborhoods and to increase access to affordable housing

Community Revitalization

- Continue to assist communities with economic restructuring of traditional downtowns.
- Promote increased access to high speed telecommunications as basic infrastructure for distressed communities.
- Emphasis on creating sustainable communities.

Building Codes

- The Board of Housing and Community Development will soon initiate the process to review the 2009 International Code Council bundle of building and fire codes.
- Key issues that will be considered include:
 - requiring sprinklers in one- and two-family dwellings
 - improved energy efficiency including requiring air leakage testing
 - requiring carbon monoxide alarms in all new and existing homes

Looking Ahead

- Additional state general fund budget reductions are likely.
- New federal administration offers both challenges and opportunities.
- Continue to integrate housing and community development efforts within broader policy context.