

Victoria Reider is new PHFA Board Chair

Victoria A. Reider is the new Chairwoman of the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency's Board. She was appointed Acting Secretary of Banking by Governor Rendell in August and chaired her first PHFA Board meeting on September 14. She formerly was the Banking Department's Chief Counsel, has previously been Chief Counsel for the Pennsylvania Insurance Department, was an executive policy specialist and liaison to the Export-Import Bank of the United States in the Governor's Office of Policy Development, and an independent legal consultant for private clients on insurance regulatory and corporate practice issues. She is a cum laude graduate of Mercyhurst College and received her law degree from Dickinson School of Law. In addition to her PHFA responsibilities and her leadership of the Banking Department, which supervises Pennsylvania's state-chartered banks, other financial institutions, and service companies, she is also a member of six other state-related boards, authorities and commissions.



Victoria A. Reider

PHFA wins three national awards

The National Council of State Housing Agencies has singled out PHFA for recognition of its assistance to victims of Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana. PHFA has also received top honors for its *Pennsylvania Affordable Apartment Locator*, the Agency's on-line service for Commonwealth families seeking rental units, and for the 2005 Annual Report, *A Brand New Day*, in NCSHA's *Annual Awards for Program Excellence* competition.

Multifamily deadline approaches

October 20, 2006, is the first round deadline for submission of applications to PHFA for 2007 PennHOMES funding and Low Income Housing Tax Credits. Check *Agency News* on the www.phfa.org home page for detailed information.

Renovate & Repair Program launched

Under PHFA's new *Keystone Renovate & Repair Program*, qualifying Commonwealth households can borrow up to \$35,000 for as long as 20 years to make repairs and improvements to their homes. The program will bolster local community development efforts and will help prevent predatory lending practices. It will allow families to improve their homes' basic livability, make safety and accessibility modifications, and let them take care of municipal code violations, without refinancing their existing mortgage loans. It may also be used to convert multi-unit properties back into the kinds of single-family dwellings for which they were originally constructed. PHFA will work in partnership with local public and private organizations, which handle the actual application process, to provide the funding to consumers. After all details are complete, the Agency expects that homeowners will be able to apply for *Renovate & Repair Program* loans in November.

Core Communities replaces Brownfields housing program

More communities can participate in the Housing and Redevelopment Assistance funds administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development under the new

Core Communities Housing Program, which has replaced the *Brownfields for Housing Initiative*. The CCHP will be open to any county, regardless of whether the county has enacted an Act 137 Housing Trust Fund. Further, any entity eligible to apply for HRA funds can also apply for CCHP funds. Eligible entities include any county, municipality, or redevelopment authority. Nonprofit organizations may be eligible for funding for certain housing activities under special conditions. Funding will be awarded on a competitive basis. There is no application request limit. Eligible applicants are encouraged to apply for funding for projects that will dramatically improve affordable housing options in core communities. Information about the program, including selection criteria, can be found on DCED's Web site, www.newpa.com/programFinder.aspx. Click on "Community" and scroll down to find the "Core Communities Housing Program," as well as "Housing & Redevelopment Assistance." Complete applications must be submitted to the Department by close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **October 31, 2006**. For additional questions, contact Brenda Bubb, Strategic Investment Officer, at 717.720.7468, or any DCED Regional Office.

Green building conference slated

The Green Building Boom: Energy Efficient, Healthy, and Sustainable Homes and Communities, a one-day seminar planned for Thursday, November 2, in Philadelphia will offer valuable information about building codes and standards, technologies and measurement tools, available resources, and real world experiences from people who have made green building techniques both practical and profitable. PHFA, the Green Building Council, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, the Home Depot Foundation, the Community Design Collaborative, and the Energy Coordinating Agency are co-sponsors. For information, call David Schultz at ECA in Philadelphia, 215.988.0929, extension 224.

Housing Services Conference planned for June, 2007

PHFA's 2007 Housing Services Conference will be held June 27th, 28th, and 29th, 2007 in State College, PA. Do you have expertise to share or a topic you are eager to address? Now is your opportunity to submit a proposal to present at the conference. For details, visit www.phfa.org and click on About PHFA/News and Notices/Request for Proposals. Deadline is November 1, 2006.

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