



REPORT TO HOUSING COLORADO MEMBERS: 2009 ACTIVITIES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND CHALLENGES

SECURING RESOURCES AND INFLUENCING SUPPORTIVE POLICIES TO PRESERVE AND DEVELOP MORE AFFORDABLE HOMES

- Preserved the Colorado Division of Housing (CDOH) grants line, currently at \$2.25 million in the face of our state's greatest budget crisis and protected unspent housing funding from being returned to the General Fund through HB 1213. Since its founding in 2005, Housing Colorado has increased the line item amount from its original total of \$115,000.
- Passed six of the seven bills we actively supported, including legislation prohibiting discrimination against deed-restricted condo properties in mountain resort communities.
- Secured a commitment from the Governor's Energy Office to work with housing providers to grow the ARRA Weatherization program for multi-family developments.
- As the new lead organization designated to secure a permanent and reliable funding stream for affordable housing, HC convened a CHIF Interim Steering Committee, launched a Leader-to-Leader listening campaign and integrated CHIF into its organizational infrastructure.
- Provided hands-on advocacy training for more than 140 members, actively engaged 17 legislative leaders and, for the first time, nine Resident leaders at the 4th *Annual Day Under the Dome* event and doubled the Action Network, now reaching over 450 advocates.

EQUIPPING HOUSING PROFESSIONALS TO PRODUCE MORE AND BETTER AFFORDABLE HOMES

HC provided high quality, professional development opportunities for over 1500 affordable housing practitioners through:

- The monthly educational series covering relevant and timely topics, averaged 96 attendees and earned a 95% effectiveness rating. The April session on ARRA related housing issues attracted over 200 attendees. A new networking event attracted nearly 100 attendees in September.
- The 21ST annual conference, *Pathways to Progress*, attracted 520 attendees with 93% rating the overall quality good or excellent. The conference was able to enlist HUD Deputy Secretary Sims as a keynoter, who also took the time to learn about Colorado's unique housing challenges by meeting with housing providers through a series of regional focus groups.
- HC created a new web page offering a guide to ARRA and NSP related funding opportunities, program news, training and analysis. HC's resource rich website attracted over 23,000 hits in October.
- 3,400 housing professionals were kept informed of policy updates, best practices, training, resource and job opportunities through the bi-monthly E-News and publication of both winter and summer newsletters.
- Introduced in 2008, the new searchable resource directory of affordable housing programs, services and providers now offers access to 450 listings.

RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT THE COMMUNITY BENEFITS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- Based on interviews conducted with 35 influential leaders around the state in 2009 to gain their advice on securing more resources for affordable housing, HC will be mounting a statewide public awareness campaign in 2010, grounded on field tested messages

- Published an update to the 2009 Facts Book, 2,200 copies of which have been widely distributed to members, civic leaders and every member of the Legislature
- The online Gallery showcasing innovative and award winning developments around the state has grown to 54 and averages over 500 hits per month.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS AND CREATING A UNIFIED VOICE

- HC convened 9 statewide organizations with large rental inventories to meet with state officials about the need for more ARRA Weatherization funding for multi-family developments
- To help expand state financial resources and tackle systemic budget constraints, HC is actively participating in the meetings of the Colorado Reform Roundtable
- Day under the Dome was accomplished through collaborative efforts with: Colorado Coalition for the Homeless; Colorado Housing Investment Fund Coalition; CoNAHRO; Housing Justice; and, Habitat for Humanity of Colorado
- Housing Colorado continues to coordinate regularly with CoNAHRO and participates in the meetings of the: Colorado Housing Council; Colorado Social Legislation Committee; and, Economic Development Council of Colorado

EXPANDING THE BASE OF SUPPORT

- Despite the impacts of the economy, the number of HC members has remained steady, more than doubling since the merger in 2005 with over 250 members.
- Volunteers put the passion to work through over 540 volunteer engagements ranging from committee work, program presentations and action network activities.
- 32 organizational sponsors and three foundations invested in forwarding our work. For the second time since the merger, sponsorship funding declined due to financial impacts of the economy on the housing industry.

ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

- Growing out of its annual planning retreat, the Board is focused on: enhanced public awareness about the communitywide benefits of affordable housing; budget sustainability; board and staff transitions; and, organizational diversity
- Board Executive Committee: Randy McCall (Key Bank) will serve another year as Board President; Jody Kole (Grand Junction Housing Authority) elected Vice-President in 2009; will become Board President in 2011; and, Darla Goddard was elected Treasurer.
- New Board members: Maureen Hewitt (Total Longterm Care) and David Jansen (BKD) joined the Board in 2009; Diane Miller (Shaw Construction), Bob Koenig (Rocky Mountain Community Land Trust), and Jamie VanLeeuen (Denver's Road Home) will join the Board in 2010.
- Transitions: Founding Board members Bill Callison (Faegre and Benson), Pat Coyle (DOLA-Division of Housing), Karen Lado (Enterprise), and Michael Martinez (Vectra Bank) will be stepping down due to term limits at the end of 2009; Dick Conn will also be retiring. Founding Executive Director Alana Smart will be retiring in January 2010.