

Around the District



Illinois

Interfaith Housing Center receives \$374,000 to fight housing discrimination and promote education

The Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs, Winnetka, Illinois, has been awarded two grants, totaling \$374,000, from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Fair Housing Initiatives Program.

Interfaith will use the grants to investigate allegations of housing discrimination, and work towards eliminating it. The grants will also be used to promote fair housing education and outreach initiatives in 16 northern Illinois communities. Interfaith will educate the public and the housing industry about their rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act, and work to promote equal housing opportunities.

For more information about the award, or the work of the organization, contact the Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs at (847) 501-5762.

Indiana

State of Indiana invests more than \$30 million in emerging technologies in 2006

Indiana's efforts to create a robust innovation economy by investing in entrepreneurial companies with market changing technologies have begun to yield tangible results. This year, the 21st Century Research and Technology Fund has invested a total of \$30.2 million in 28 Indiana ventures that are actively developing and commercializing market changing innovations. These investments have the potential to create 2,000 new jobs in the next three years.

For more information, visit www.iedc.in.gov.

Iowa

Iowa CDFI is awarded \$500,000 loan from USDA Rural Development

Grow Iowa is a certified Community Development Financial Institution serving the southwest area of Iowa. It provides capital for small business, industrial, manufacturing, or affordable housing projects, and was recently awarded a \$500,000 loan from the United States Department of

Agriculture Rural Development through its Intermediary Relending Program (IRP). Local partners and Grow Iowa provided the \$125,000 matching funds needed to create a new \$625,000 fund for business projects in southwest Iowa.

For additional information, visit www.growiowa.org, or contact Debra Houghtaling, executive director, at (641) 343-7977.

Michigan

New loan program to help college graduates and Michigan communities

To help the state's economy, as well as college graduates, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) is offering a new program comprising \$10 million in loans to entice graduates to stay in the state. This plan will offer low-interest housing loans in communities that need economic development. The loans will be available for recent graduates interested in purchasing housing in eight selected Michigan cities.

The cities selected include: Detroit, Muskegon Heights, Hamtramck, Saginaw, Pontiac, Benton Harbor, Flint and Highland Park. The low-interest housing loans are available to those who have received a doctoral, master's, bachelor's or associate's degree from an accredited institution within three years prior to the date of the loan application. Qualified individuals can now apply for the loans, which are approximately 2 percent below market rate.

For further information, visit www.michigan.gov/mshda.

Wisconsin

Communities seeking federal tax credits to facilitate commercial development

On November 28, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported that a group of southeastern Wisconsin communities will create a consortium that will seek federal tax credits to facilitate commercial development in lower income areas of the region. The First-ring Industrial Redevelopment Enterprise, FIRE, will apply for New Markets Tax Credits in 2007. The group's focus will be on older industrial areas in need of redevelopment.