

on those who are to respond; including the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This Notice also lists the following information:

*Title of Proposal:* Local Appeals to Single-Family Mortgage Limits.

*OMB Control Number, if applicable:* 2502-0302.

*Description of the need for the information and proposed use:* HUD has allowed interested parties to submit appeals in support of higher loan amounts. HUD's current regulations for loan-limit appeals date back to the early 1980's. Section 203.18(b) of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) permits any party to request an alternative mortgage loan limit to the one established by the Secretary in any area of country at any time. The Federal Housing Administration originally issued Mortgagee Letter 95-27, dated June 2, 1995, which outlined the appeal process, and Mortgagee Letter 2007-01, dated January 3, 2007, subsequently re-emphasized the basic appeal process and added requirements for data used in non-disclosure states and an optional procedures for reviewing new construction sales data. At that time, there were no comprehensive, national data bases of home sale transactions. Appeals by interested parties were also an important part of the loan-limit determination process. Most often, requestors would provide lists of sales from local Multiple Listing Services, which were reviewed by local HUD field offices or, later, Homeownership Centers, for validity and use in updating loan limits.

Starting in 2008, with the passage of the *Economic Stimulus Act of 2008* (ESA), HUD developed a new centralized procedure for managing and updating FHA loan limits. This procedure took advantage of newly available national data sources that compile sale transaction information from county deed recorders, using those data to compute median prices. Area median prices are the fundamental factor used to calculate maximum mortgage amounts. Having this data negates the need for appeals in covered areas because HUD already has access to complete information on home sales. Since 2008, the availability of comprehensive data has increased to where in 2010 it was available to HUD for over 2,000 of the more than 3,200 counties and county-equivalent areas across the country. Counties for which these data are not readily available to HUD generally either have too few sale transaction to compute reliable median

prices, or else are immaterial to the process because median prices are sufficiently below the level that would trigger eligibility for a "high-cost area" loan limits above the national floor. For thin-data counties, HUD uses indirect sources to compute median prices, relying instead upon a combination of information to develop best estimates of median prices/values that match the time period of the transaction data used for other counties.

Since these new procedures took effect in 2008, under suspension of published regulations, the number of appeals received and accepted by FHA has dropped to zero. For the 2010 loan limits, only one appeal was received, and that was rejected because HUD already had comprehensive sale price data for the subject county. For the 2011 loan limits, no appeals were received. As a result, the need for an appeals process to inform HUD of local home price trends is no longer necessary.

*Agency form numbers, if applicable:* None.

*Estimation of the total numbers of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response:* The number of burden hours is 119. The number of respondents is 17, which is based on the actual number of requests received since 2008. The number of responses is 17 and the frequency of response is one per appeal. The burden hour per response is 7. The Federal government burden has reduced over the past 3 years. In 2010, only one appeal was received but rejected due to HUD having sufficient data in support of loan limit. In 2011, no appeals were received.

*Status of the proposed information collection:* This is an extension of a currently approved collection. HUD is still proceeding with the request for renewal of the subject information collection pending OMB's review and approval of HUD's request to eliminate regulations on the appeal process in its entirety.

**Authority:** The *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995*, 44 U.S.C., Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: September 14, 2011.

**Ronald Y. Spraker,**

*Associate General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Housing-Associate Deputy Federal Housing Commissioner.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

### Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. FR-5500-FA-23]

### Announcement of Funding Awards for Fiscal Year 2011; Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant Program

**AGENCY:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, HUD.

**ACTION:** Announcement of funding awards.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with Section 102(a)(4)(C) of the *Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989*, this document notifies the public of funding awards for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant (DDRG) Program. The purpose of this document is to announce the names and addresses of the award winners and the amount of the awards to be used to help doctoral candidates complete dissertations on topics that focus on housing and urban development issues.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Susan Brunson, Office of University Partnerships, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Room 8226, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20410, Telephone (202) 402-3852. To provide service for persons who are hearing- or speech-impaired, this number may be reached via TTY by dialing the Federal Information Relay Service on (800) 877-8339 or (202) 708-1455. (Telephone numbers, other than "800" TTY numbers, are not toll free).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The DDRG Program was created as a means of expanding the number of researchers conducting research on subjects of interest to HUD. Doctoral candidates can receive grants of up to \$25,000 to complete work on their dissertations. Grants are awarded for a two-year period. The Office of University Partnerships under the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research (PD&R) administers this program. In addition to this program, the Office of University Partnerships administers HUD's ongoing grant programs to institutions of higher education as well as creates initiatives through which colleges and universities can bring their traditional missions of teaching, research, service, and outreach to bear on the pressing local problems in their communities.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for this program is 14.517.

On May 24, 2011, a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for this program was posted on Grants.gov announcing the availability of \$400,000 in FY 2011 for the DDRG Program. The Department reviewed, evaluated and scored the applications received based on the criteria in the NOFA. As a result, HUD has funded the applications announced below, and in accordance with Section 102(a)(4)(C) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (103 Stat. 1987, U.S.C. 3545). More information about the winners can be found at <http://www.oup.org>.

Dated: September 9, 2011.

**Raphael W. Bostic,**

*Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research.*

#### Attachment

#### List Of Awardees For Grant Assistance Under The Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant Program Funding Competition, By Institution, Address, Grant Amount And Name Of Student Funded

1. Research Foundation/CUNY for the Graduate Center/CUNY, Dr. Leith Mullings, Research Foundation/CUNY for the Graduate Center/CUNY, 365 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10016. Grant: \$24,997 to Karen Williams.

2. Loyola University, Dr. Marilyn Krogh, Loyola University, 1032 West Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60660. Grant: \$25,000 to Julie Hilvers.

3. The George Washington University, Mr. Edward Berkowitz, The George Washington University, 2121 I Street, NW., Suite 601, Washington, DC 20052. Grant: \$25,000 to Bell Clement.

4. Ohio State University, Dr. Phyllis Pirie, Ohio State University, 1960 Kenny Road, Columbus, OH 43210. Grant: \$24,949 to Nancy Hood.

5. President and Fellows of Harvard University, Ms. Kathryn Edin, President and Fellows of Harvard University, 1350 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138. Grant: \$25,000 to Eva Rosen.

6. New York University, Dr. Ingrid Gould Ellen, New York University, 665 Broadway, Suite 801, New York, NY 10112. Grant: \$25,000 to Michael Gedal.

7. The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois, Mr. David Perry, The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois, 809 S. Marshfield Avenue, Chicago, IL 60612. Grant: \$24,115 to Carrie Menendez.

8. Brandeis University, Mr. Thomas Shapiro, Brandeis University, 415 South Street, Waltham, MA 02454. Grant: \$25,000 to Tanja Kubas-Meyer.

9. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Mr. William Rohe,

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 104 Airport Drive, Ste. 2200 CB# 1350, Chapel Hill, NC 27599. Grant: \$24,964 to Hye-Sung Han.

10. University of Maryland Baltimore, Ms. Julianne Oktay, University of Maryland Baltimore, 620 West Lexington Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21201. Grant: \$20,386 to Kathleen Powell.

11. The Regents of the University of California, Ms. Elizabeth Deakin, The Regents of the University of California, 2150 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 300, Berkeley, CA 94704. Grant: \$24,907 to Carrie Makarewicz.

12. Loyola University, Mr. Philip Nyden, Loyola University, 1032 West Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60660. Grant: \$25,000 to Reuben Miller.

13. The Board of the Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, Ms. Kris Olds, The Board of the Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, 21 N. Park Street, Suite 6401, Madison, WI 53715. Grant: \$24,865 to Darrel Ramsey-Musolf.

14. Temple University, Mr. Jerme Mennis, Temple University, 1938 Liacouras Walk, 2nd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19122. Grant: \$25,000 to Megan Heckert.

15. Louisiana State University A & M College, Mr. Timothy Page, Louisiana State University A & M College, 202 Himes Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. Grant: \$25,000 to Mary Ellen Brown.

16. University of New Orleans, Dr. Renia Ehrenfeucht, University of New Orleans, 2000 Lakeshore Drive, New Orleans, LA 70148. Grant: \$17,075 to Kelly Owens.

17. Research Foundation/CUNY for the Graduate Center/CUNY, Dr. Leith Mullings, Research Foundation/CUNY for the Graduate Center/CUNY, 365 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10016. Grant: \$13,742 to Amy Starecheski.

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#### BILLING CODE P

### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

#### Bureau of Indian Affairs

#### Rate Adjustments for Indian Irrigation Projects

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rate adjustments.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) owns or has an interest in, irrigation projects located on or associated with various Indian reservations throughout the United

States. We are required to establish irrigation assessment rates to recover the costs to administer, operate, maintain, and rehabilitate these projects. We request your comments on the proposed rate adjustments.

**DATES:** Interested parties may submit comments on the proposed rate adjustments on or before November 21, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** All comments on the proposed rate adjustments must be in writing and addressed to: John Anevski, Chief, Division of Water and Power, Office of Trust Services, Mail Stop 4655-MIB, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240, Telephone (202) 208-5480.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For details about a particular irrigation project, please use the tables in **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section to contact the regional or local office where the project is located.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The first table in this notice provides contact information for individuals who can give further information about the irrigation projects covered by this notice. The second table provides the current 2011 irrigation assessment rates, the proposed rates for the 2012 irrigation season, and proposed rates for subsequent years where these are available.

#### What is the meaning of the key terms used in this notice?

In this notice:

*Administrative costs* means all costs we incur to administer our irrigation projects at the local project level and is a cost factor included in calculating your operation and maintenance assessment. Costs incurred at the local project level do not normally include Agency, Region, or Central Office costs unless we state otherwise in writing.

*Assessable acre* means lands designated by us to be served by one of our irrigation projects, for which we collect assessments in order to recover costs for the provision of irrigation service. (See *total assessable acres*.)

*BIA* means the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

*Bill* means our statement to you of the assessment charges and/or fees you owe the United States for administration, operation, maintenance, and/or rehabilitation. The date we mail or hand-deliver your bill will be stated on it.

*Costs* means the costs we incur for administration, operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation to provide direct support or benefit to an irrigation facility. (See *administrative costs*,