

DISTRICT BULLETIN

— REFERENCE, RESOURCES AND OTHER —

NCRC'S 2002 ANTI-PREDATORY LENDING TOOLKIT

NCRC's 2002 Anti-Predatory Lending Toolkit provides community groups and consumer advocates with the tools to challenge lending practices that contribute to the problem of predatory lending, including: defining subprime and predatory lending, identifying predatory lending scams, consensus building and NCRC's "Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act" fact sheet. The Toolkit can also be used by financial institutions and government agencies as a primer on predatory lending, including summaries of federal fair housing and fair lending laws, notable lawsuits and best practices and responsible lending.

The 2002 edition of the Toolkit has been significantly enhanced with the inclusion of detailed summaries of federal, state and local anti-predatory lending legislation introduced in the 2001–2002 legislative sessions. Furthermore, the updated Toolkit also includes NCRC's revised anti-predatory lending model bill, "Homeowners Protections from Predatory Lending Act of 2002." This model bill is intended to initiate discussion with legislators, provide guidance and a point of reference when drafting legislation at the various governing levels.

The toolkit is available in PDF format and can be purchased by calling NCRC at 202/628-8866.

MONEY SMART IN SPANISH

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) is pleased to announce the launch of the Spanish language version of its adult financial education curriculum, *Money Smart*. Latino-Hispanic communities have eagerly awaited the Spanish version, which has been available in English since July 2001. In addition to the English and Spanish versions now available, *Money Smart* is being translated into Korean and Chinese. Those versions are scheduled for release in 2003.

The curriculum has been widely adopted across the country and is an integral part of efforts to address the issues of predatory lending, lack of access to conventional banking services and financial education as an important component of comprehensive homeownership programs. Anyone interested in teaching financial education can use *Money Smart*. The materials are easily reproduced and have no copyright restrictions. Copies may be obtained from the FDIC and are free to the user.

For additional information, contact San Francisco Region Community Affairs Officer, Linda Ortega at 415/808-8115.

JOINT CENTER FOR HOUSING STUDIES RESEARCH

The Harvard University Joint Center for Housing Studies recently issued a research paper entitled, *The 25th Anniversary of the Community Reinvestment Act: Access to Capital in an Evolving Financial Services System*. The report examines home purchase and refinance lending from 1993 to 2000, and compares the lending patterns of CRA-regulated entities with entities not covered by the CRA. Among the report's principal findings are that CRA has expanded access to mortgage capital, CRA-regulated lenders originate more home purchase loans to lower-income people and communities than they would if CRA did not exist, and the regulatory framework around the CRA has failed to keep pace with changing industry structure.

The paper can be downloaded from the Center's website at www.jchs.harvard.edu.

HMDA REVISIONS

On June 21, 2002, the Federal Reserve Board published revisions to Regulation C, which implements the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA). The amendments:

- ▶ Set the thresholds for determining the loans for which financial institutions must report loan pricing. Institutions will report the rate spread (between the annual percentage rate on a loan and the yield on comparable Treasury securities) if the spread equals or exceeds 3 percentage points for first-lien loans, and 5 percentage points for subordinate-lien loans
- ▶ Require lenders to report the lien status of applications and originated loans
- ▶ Require lenders to ask applicants their ethnicity, race and gender in applications taken by telephone

Compliance with the amendments relating to the thresholds and lien status is mandatory on January 1, 2004. The amendment requiring lenders to ask telephone applicants for monitoring information is effective for applications taken beginning January 1, 2003.

The June changes follow on other changes that were published January 23, 2002. Among those changes were the requirement that lenders identify loans subject to the Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act (HOEPA).

For more information, and for the complete text of these revisions, go to www.ffiec.gov/hmda.

— CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS —

OCTOBER 22–23

Interested in helping to revitalize distressed urban areas? If so, join bankers, investors and members of community development organizations from around the country at this special conference in East St. Louis, IL. The conference will be held at the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Center, one of the redevelopment success stories of this one-time poster child for down-and-out cities.

If you have questions about the conference or would like a registration form, call Linda Aubuchon at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis at 314/444-8646 or e-mail her at Linda.A.Aubuchon@stls.frb.org. You can register online at: www.stlouisfed.org/community/rays_of_hope.html.

OCTOBER 30–NOVEMBER 2

Don't miss the premiere training event for CDFI practitioners and investors being held in Oakland, CA. The theme of this 18th annual conference, sponsored by the National Community Capital Association, is *Managing Change: The New CDFI Era*.

To obtain a brochure, call 215/923-4754 or visit the NCCA website at: www.communitycapital.org.

— CRA OPPORTUNITIES —



Operation HOPE, Inc., America's first non-profit social investment banking organization, and a leading provider of economic empowerment in underserved communities, **needs YOU** on October 29th 2002!

- ▶ Volunteer to teach youth about the basics of finance in the unified school districts of San Francisco, Oakland and East Palo Alto.
- ▶ We provide the materials, training and students. You provide a minimum of one hour of your time on October 29th 2002 or during the fall semester.
- ▶ Share your financial expertise with youth at one of 12 schools in these 3 communities and empower them to make educated financial choices for their futures!

To volunteer on 10/29/02 or after, call Emily Ausbrook as soon as possible at 415/860-0126 or email emily.ausbrook@operationhope.org

FILLING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Tech Start, a nonprofit corporation based in Nevada, is "filling the Digital Divide" by developing, maintaining and managing a network of community technology centers where new and refurbished computers are used to create programs that provide community service, social interaction and educational environments to low- and moderate-income communities.

Tech Start's mission is to break down the real and imagined barriers to greater success, enhanced educational opportunities and improved quality of life through the utilization of computers and related technology. In an effort to continue this mission, Tech Start has an ongoing need for new and used computers as well as financial support to purchase software and assist with program expenses.

Contact Joseph Sayles at 702/491-0351 or via email: techstart@lvcm.com for more information