



FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

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Director's Dialogue

Local officials and Association staff have been very busy in the past few weeks as federal stimulus funds begin to flow to projects across southwestern Utah. These funds are coming through existing programs and processes, but are typically stand-alone contracts. This means that administrative tracking and contract management activities increase along with the additional dollars. In keeping with the Association's mandate to get funds into projects rather than overhead, the bulk of stimulus funds have been contracted to service providers or funded additional projects. Local communities and clients are seeing direct benefits from the additional funding.

One high priority of the Obama administration is improving energy efficiency. Two programs administered by the Association that deal with energy efficiency are Weatherization and Home Energy Assistance Target (HEAT). The Weatherization program provides income-eligible families with improvements such as furnace or window replacements or additional insulation, thus reducing heating and air-conditioning costs. Over the past two decades more than 50 homes across the region have been improved annually, resulting in savings of thousands of dollars. Additional funding in this program will allow Weatherization crews to assist even more households. Our Weatherization crews have consolidated inventory storage and administrative activities at a new location in Cedar City (2344 West Industry Way, Suite 2, Cedar City, UT 84720). If you are aware of a family who may benefit from this program, have them call (435) 586-0585 to begin the application process.

The HEAT program provides a one-time payment to utility providers for income-eligible families that are not able to keep utility payments current. Normally, this assistance occurs during the winter heating season. Because of extreme summer cooling costs in Washington County, the HEAT program has been extended year-round in Washington County only. HEAT staff are available at 168 North 100 East, Suite 255, St. George, UT 84770. Please call ahead to schedule an appointment at (435) 652-9643.

I would like to welcome the newest member of the Steering Committee. Wendy Allan is a member of the Kane County School Board, and has accepted a seat

on the Steering Committee. We look forward to her participation and contributions.

Finally, the formal budget hearing for the Association's 2010 fiscal year will be conducted on Wednesday, June 10, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. in the Kane County Commission Chambers, Kanab, UT. The proposed budget will be posted on or about May 29, 2009 at the Association's home page: <http://www.fcaog.state.ut.us>. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

15th Annual Charles E. Edson Tax Credit Excellence Award!



The Affordable Housing Tax Credit Coalition (AHTCC) congratulates the winners of the 15th Annual Charles E. Edson Tax Credit Excellence Awards.

These awards are presented to the most outstanding Low Income Housing Tax Credit (Housing Credit) properties in six categories. This national awards program celebrates the best in affordable rental housing development.

The coalition received an incredible number of entries—40 applications from 19 states. A panel of five judges selected six first place finishers and seven honorable mentions.

Ty Tippetts, Color Country Community Housing, Inc. (CCCHI) Executive Director, announces that their little Red Hawk Apartments were proclaimed a winner of the Charles L. Edson award, a National recognition for Excellence in Tax Credit Housing. Red Hawk took top honors nationally in the Rural Division. "While we're excited about this award, we realize that without the many partners, such as the Five County Association of

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Governments and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding that provided critical seed leveraging funds, Red Hawk would not have become reality. So, please accept our gratitude for your support and part in helping us in a very long, trying, but ultimately beautiful affordable housing development. And while the recognition is nice, the real reward is knowing we've done something good for those families and individuals whom we serve."

Staff Spotlights



Kenneth Richards, GIS Intern

Kenneth Richards is the new intern doing the G.I.S. work for the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. Kenneth will be responsible for locating natural hazards in the five counties area and determining the approximate values of property damaged by these hazards.

Kenneth is a student at Southern Utah University. He is working on his bachelor's degree in Geographic Information Systems. He has been attending SUU for the last two years and has approximately two years left.

Kenneth was born and raised in Vernal, Utah. He moved to Cedar City last year to finish school. Kenneth was recently married to his wife Kim who is also from Vernal. They met last year while attending school in Cedar and plan on staying in Cedar until they both finish their degrees.

Utah Rural Single Family Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program



1978 Trailer Home in Ivins

"Jane " didn't know what to do. She loved her property in Ivins, but her 1978 trailer was giving out. The ceilings sagged from roof leaks, old wiring had blackened one wall, and mold was growing in the flooring as plumbing

deteriorated. That was when Danna Alvey with the Five County Association of Governments stepped in to help.

Through the Rural Utah Single Family Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program (RUSFRRP), with funding from the Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund, Division of Housing and Community Development, Danna was able

to negotiate a low interest loan from the State of Utah, locate a contractor, and facilitate the replacement of Jane's old home with a new and affordable one.



Jane's New Replacement Home

At a modest 1090 square feet, the home has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, and a garage. The program requires that construction meets Energy Star compliance. This lowers utility costs, conserves energy and assists the homeowner to pay the bills. The RUSRRP also requires high standards in building construction, and Snow Canyon Construction in Santa Clara easily met the standards. The result is a safe, affordable, modest home that is built to last.

Many low-income homeowners need to make repairs to their property, but do not have the income necessary or the ability to obtain private loans to do so. A recent survey of rural Utah counties shows a significant need for rehabilitation of affordable housing units.

Rehabilitation and reconstruction loans help to: 1) provide safe, decent, sanitary, and affordable housing; 2) preserve the quality of neighborhoods as well as the value of public capital invested in local schools, streets, utilities and other public facilities; and 3) preserve the value of the homeowner's investment. For low-income homeowners, their home represents the majority of their life savings.

Repairs to be done will be determined from a free inspection. Rehabilitation may include alteration, improvement or modification of an existing structure. It may include, but is not limited to: electrical, plumbing or structural defects, roofing, painting, siding, flooring, appliances, hot water heater, removing health and safety problems, alterations for handicap accessibility, heating/cooling systems, and energy efficiency measures including insulation, windows and doors. Improvements such as a new roof can help stabilize a deteriorating home, and a new efficient furnace can keep residents healthy and reduce energy costs. Reconstruction (replacement) may be an eligible option if the existing home is not economically feasible to rehabilitate due to the current value in relation to the work and needs of the occupants.

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The Rural Utah Single Family Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program will provide much needed funding to address inadequate housing for low to moderate-low income homeowners with income at 80% or below the area median income (AMI).

Terms of the loan are structured according to the homeowner's repayment ability, and within 30% of a household's annual adjusted gross income.

**Area Median Income
Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane and Washington Counties**

Household Size	1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person
Beaver, Iron, Garfield, Kane 80% AMI	29,000	33,150	37,300	41,450	44,750	48,100
Washington 80% AMI	31,150	34,450	38,750	43,050	46,500	49,950

For more information about the Rural Utah Single Family Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program, please call Danna L. Alvey at (435) 865-0195 in Cedar City. The Five County Association of Governments serving Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane and Washington Counties is an equal opportunity agency.

16th Annual Human Service Public Forums

Nearly 200 persons from across the region participated in the Five County AOG's 16th Annual Human Service Public Forums. Six separate sessions were held, one in each of the five counties, plus an additional session held by request in Escalante.

This year the sessions were formatted differently and the goal was to review primary concerns from the past documenting data electronically. Information topics from previous years were prepared for review in slide presentation mode. Participants viewed past and current human service topics, then voted to indicate interest and concerns. Generally speaking, the data served to validate prioritizations of greatest need for communities and families with low incomes. Needs included: jobs/economic development, education, health care (including dental and mental health), housing, and transportation. Much support was also given to youth programs. In the larger counties, more participants expressed concern for increased economic challenges than residents in the more rural areas with gardens and closer community ties. Many expressed enthusiastic support for the use of audience response system "clickers". After voting, the results were immediately displayed on the screen for audience review. Appreciation is expressed to SUU for the use of their audience response systems and to all Public Forum participants.

A district summary and individual Public Forum Session results (with additional participant comment) will be available on the AOG website by the second week in June for review.

Garfield County Holds Grand Opening



Garfield County Officials Cut Ribbon for new Senior Citizens Center and Care & Share Buildings

A ribbon cutting ceremony and open house was held on May 18, 2009 for the Garfield Senior Citizens Center and Care & Share facilities located at 67 N. 40 W. in Panguitch. These facilities were designed as a campus approach to

provide a central location to serve clients.

Garfield County utilized funds from the County Capital Investment Fund as well as a grant from the Permanent Community Impact Board Fund (PCIFB) for construction of these much needed facilities.



Garfield County Senior Citizens Center, 67 North 400 West in Panguitch, UT

The Senior Citizens Center has served local residents for many years from the basement of the Garfield County

Courthouse, and the Garfield County Care & Share provided services from the old jail.



Garfield County Care & Share

Garfield County elected officials are very excited about having modernized facilities to provide services to these programs and encourage residents to utilize them to the fullest extent.

***Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
2009***

An extraordinary \$2.5 million dollars was refunded to residences of the Five County area. The funds were generated through the amazing efforts of a small band of volunteers in thirteen sites in all five counties. The volunteers' submitted 2,258 income tax returns for low income individuals and families.

This service is provided free of charge to qualified individuals. VITA is operated by a coalition of programs and individuals who are working to raise the economic circumstances of people who are low income.

There are many partners comprising the VITA program including Utah Community Action Partnership Association, Internal Revenue Service, USU Extension Services, Red Rock Center for Independence, The Volunteer Center, Department of Workforce Services, Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Southern Utah University, Dixie State College, Walmart and the food pantries.

Please submit articles to Diane Lamoreaux via e-mail (dlamoreaux@fcaog.state.ut.us) or in writing to: P.O. Box 1550; St. George, Utah 84771-1550. For other information or services, please call (435) 673-3548 or visit our web site at: <http://www.fcaog.state.ut.us>

**Steering Committee Meeting
Schedule:**

Wednesday, June 10, 2009, 1PM
Kane County Courthouse
Commission Chambers - 76 North Main
Kanab, UT

Wednesday, August 12, 2009 1PM
Panguitch City Office
Council Chambers - 25 South 200 East
Panguitch, UT

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