



JULY 2007

Each month, UEDA will send out this electronic bulletin to our members, which will include updates on the latest headlines in community and economic development. We will also feature short articles and a list of upcoming events and activities of interest to UEDA members.

6TH Annual Community Development Summit Held on July 12th...

By William Johnson, UEDA Executive Director

The 6th Annual Community Development Summit, sponsored by UEDA and the City of Milwaukee, has been touted as a huge success. Over 250 participants were given the opportunity to engage in lively discussions and provide feedback on the City of Milwaukee's new *Economic Vision and Strategy Framework*. The excitement and enthusiasm among participants was evident throughout the day as they focused on what they had heard in anticipation of follow-up activities in the near future. UEDA plans to provide opportunities for further discussion and follow-up through quarterly gatherings, to begin this fall. We welcome all of you to join us in completing the work we started!

On behalf of UEDA's Board of Directors and staff, let me offer a heartfelt "Thank You" to everyone who worked so hard to make this event such a tremendous success.

MEMBER FEATURE ARTICLE: Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council's STOPP Initiative in full swing...

By Bethany Sanchez, Director Community & Economic Development

As the number of foreclosures continues to skyrocket in Milwaukee County, the Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council, a UEDA member, continues its work to help homeowners keep their homes and to create policies and programs that will prevent future toxic loans and the board-ups that can come as a result.

MMFHC's **Strategies to Overcome Predatory Practices (STOPP) initiative** utilizes a coalition of community-based organizations, housing industry representatives and government to identify and eliminate fraudulent, unfair, and predatory lending practices throughout Milwaukee County. Lemuel Eaton, MMFHC's Fair Lending Services Administrator, takes calls from borrowers and potential borrowers on a special STOPP hotline (414-278-9190), reviews loan documents and provides input and advice. When predatory loans are uncovered, Eaton coordinates a plan, working in cooperation with other STOPP partners to help the client clean up the borrower's credit, pursue legal options if warranted, and obtain a new affordable home loan, suitable for their circumstances.

STOPP also coordinates a variety of outreach and education activities presenting borrowers and community groups with information about unfair and predatory loan practices, a workgroup seeking ways to refinance troublesome loans, research activities documenting lending and foreclosure problems in Milwaukee County, and a legislative workgroup that is currently providing the Wisconsin State Legislature with technical assistance on proposed legislation prohibiting foreclosure "rescue" scams.

Help the Fair Housing Council help Milwaukee County's homeowners. Refer borrower questions about loans and foreclosures to the STOPP hotline: (414) 278-9190. For more information about STOPP and/or how you can become involved, contact Bethany Sanchez at 278-1240.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Monday, August 20, 2007** is the 28th Annual Hispanic Chamber of Commerce *Jalapeno Golf Classic*. This year's event will be held at the Grand Geneva Resort & Spa. For details, contact Eveyln Agosto at (414) 643-6963 or eagosto@wi.rr.com.
- **Tuesday, August 21 – Wednesday, August 22, 2007** is the National Community Reinvestment Coalition's 2007 Regional Conference, held in the Quad Cities in Davenport, Iowa. Held at the Radisson Quad City Plaza, *Economic Fairness and Mobility: Promoting Opportunities for Building Wealth*, this conference will focus on hot-button banking, rural development and mortgage financing issues. Visit www.ncrc.org for registration information and a full agenda.
- **Save the Date!** WWBIC's Annual Luncheon will be held on **Wednesday, October 24, 2007** at the Midwest Airlines Center. Celebrating 20 years of WWBIC, this event will feature B. Smith as a keynote speakers, who has hosted the lifestyle television show "B. Smith with Style" and has been on Oprah, ABC's Good Morning America, The View and NBC's Today. Visit www.wwbic.com for more information.

- **Save the Date!** The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research will host this two-day conference on *Strategies for Improving the Economic Mobility of Workers* on **November 15-16, 2007**. More information to come this fall.
- **Save the Date – Tuesday November 27, 2007** 7th Annual Brother Booker Ashe Urban Ministry Program at Cardinal Stritch University will be featuring a day-long event: *Faith, Justice and Healthcare: Challenges, Opportunities and the Community of Faith*. For more information, visit www.stritch.edu/bookerashe.

OTHER MEMBER & ISSUE UPDATES

The City of Milwaukee is issuing more than \$930,000 in federal aid for the redevelopment of blighted buildings or expansion projects that add jobs and tax revenue. The funds are provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. **The Mayor released a Request for Proposals for Large Impact Development funding opportunities** throughout the City of Milwaukee, and it will be administered through the Community Block Grants Administration office. **The deadline for proposals is August 13, 2007**. For more information, visit www.milwaukee.gov/cdbg.

Also the **Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee** will hold a **Technical Assistance Session on the 2008 CDBG Grant Application** process on Friday, August 10th from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. This session is for those who are currently funded by CDBG and are interested in renewing funding, and those that are first-time applicants. Email Joyce Mallory at jmallory@nonprofitcentermilwaukee.org for more information or to confirm your attendance.

The launching of the **Wisconsin Nonprofits Association** is just beyond the horizon! Memberships and benefits will be available in September. Stay in touch, help endorse the efforts of this exciting organization and encourage others to visit their website where you can register to receive the latest happenings from the WNA: www.wisconsinnonprofits.org.

City of Milwaukee Housing Trust Fund Update: At the June Housing Trust Fund (HTF) Advisory Board meeting, the board approved a schedule for the City of Milwaukee's Request For Proposals (RFP). The RFP will be issued on August 21, 2007, and RFPs are due to the City of Milwaukee's Community Development Grants Administration office on September 7, 2007. Funding recommendations and approvals will be made in October. Additionally, the Advisory Board established a Finance Subcommittee to continue working on securing ongoing or dedicated funding sources. **Please contact the Mayor and your Common Council member about the importance of continuing to fund the HTF.** Visit www.city.milwaukee.gov to contact them directly; you can also email the Mayor at mayor@milwaukee.gov.

Additionally, there has been some great discussion around approaching Milwaukee County to create a housing trust fund. If you are interested in helping pursue this, their next meeting is **Wednesday, August 15 from 10:30am – Noon at Interfaith Conference, 1442 N. Farwell Avenue, #200**. There is also work to establish a housing trust fund in Waukesha County through the **Waukesha Housing Action Coalition**. They will be meeting on **Thursday, August 23rd from 10:30am – Noon, location to be determined**. Contact Heather Dummer Combs for more information on any of these efforts at (414) 276-9050 or heatherdc@interfaithconference.org.

This bulletin is a service for our members. If you would like to know how you can become a UEDA Member, contact us at the phone number below or visit our website's membership page for details.

If you have a suggestion for an upcoming UEDA Member Bulletin, please contact Kristi Luzar, Program Manager, at Kristi@uedawi.org.

Questions or Suggestions? CONTACT US AT:

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