



Friday, May 23, 2008

• **HOUSING OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM E-NEWSLETTER MAY 2008**

• **2008 AMBASSADOR FOR CITIES AWARD WINNERS**

A review committee made up of members of the NAR Housing Opportunity Advisory Board and the US Conference of Mayors recently selected six cities as 2008 Ambassador for Cities designees. The Ambassadors for Cities program, created in 2004, recognizes local Realtor associations and Mayors who work together to create ongoing programs aimed at expanding housing opportunities in their communities.

The goal is to highlight successful private/public partnerships that will serve as models for other communities around the country. Designees receive a \$5,000 grant to be used to support their program. A public event will be held in each city where the Realtor association's president and the Mayor are awarded the Ambassadors plaque.

2008 Ambassador for Cities designees and program descriptions:

**-Orange County Association of Realtors and the City of Irvine, CA**

Public Officials 101

**-Realtor Association of Southern Kentucky and the City of Bowling Green, KY**

Creating a Credit Responsible Community

**-Asheville Board of Realtors and the City of Asheville, NC**

Mayor's Affordable Housing Task Force

**-Lehigh Valley Association of Realtors and the City of Allentown, PA**

Hometown Heroes

**-Northern Virginia Association of Realtors and the City of Alexandria, VA**

Affordable Homeownership/Workforce Housing and Foreclosure Prevention Outreach Initiative

**-Richmond Association of Realtors and the City of Richmond, VA**

Mayor's Interagency Task Force on Community Infrastructure.

• **HOME FROM WORK TRAIN THE TRAINER**

**Calendar**

**June 23**

Home From Work: Train The Trainer  
Austin, TX

**October 3**

Housing Opportunity Program Grant  
application due

**October 6**

Employer-Assisted Housing: Bring  
Workers Home (One-Day Conference)  
Chicago, IL

**November 9**

Home from Work: Participant Session  
Orlando, FL

**November 9**

Home From Work: Train The Trainer  
Orlando, FL

NAR will host Train The Trainer classes in Home From Work June 23, 2008 in Austin, TX and November 9, 2008 in Orlando, FL. As a certified trainer you can train fellow members on how to use the Home From Work™ program and will be listed as a trainer on Realtor.org. Classes are limited to 14 and the application process is competitive. For more information please email Rodney Tucker, RTucker@realtor.org or call 202-383-01166.

### **. SPONSOR A HOME FROM WORK CLASS**

Rising housing costs create problems for people who can't afford to live close to their jobs. The Home From Work™ program encourages REALTORS® to become advocates for expanding housing opportunities. Specifically, the program teaches REALTORS® how to effectively promote workforce housing initiatives at the grassroots level and to work with public and private-sector employers to establish an employer assisted housing (EAH) benefit. Your association or office can sponsor a training class. For more information contact Rodney Tucker at RTucker@realtor.org or call 202-383-01166.

### **. EMPLOYER- ASSISTED HOUSING OHIO**

On Friday, May 9th, Bonnie Boyd, 2008 Chair of the Housing Opportunity Advisory Board will deliver a presentation on NAR's Home From Work program to a group of 200 elected officials at the 14th District Conference for Elected Officials hosted by Ohio Congressman LaTourette. Ms. Boyd was invited by Congressman LaTourette to participate in the conference so that elected officials from his district can learn how to work with local realtors to address affordable housing issues in their area.

### **. SAVE THE DATE Employer- Assisted Housing Conference: Bring Workers Home**

October 6, 2008, Chicago, IL This one-day conference is designed to educate and raise awareness of Employer-Assisted Housing (EAH). The conference will provide case studies, models of successful EAH program and a forum for REALTORS®, housing organizations, employers, and human resources and employee benefits professionals to connect, discuss EAH programs and find opportunities to work together. Registration opens in early July

If you would like more information about the Housing Opportunity Program please contact us at [housingopportunity@realtors.org](mailto:housingopportunity@realtors.org).

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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®**  
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