

# Local Initiatives Support Corporation eNewsletter



October 17, 2003

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## • Features

### >> **Strengthening Urban Neighborhood Markets**

The Frankford Community Development Corporation has made great strides in revitalizing Philadelphia's Frankford Avenue, acquiring and rehabilitating eight properties in the commercial corridor and spearheading street cleaning and graffiti abatement programs. Frankford Avenue was one of six demonstration sites for a collaborative effort of LISC and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Main Street Center (NMSC) to support the revitalization of urban neighborhood business districts. As a result of their efforts over four years, vacancy rates dropped from 40 to 17 percent, thirty new businesses and 280 jobs were created, and total private investments neared the \$10 million mark. For more information about Frankford Avenue neighborhood business corridor and other case studies, download "A Road Map to Revitalizing Urban Neighborhood Districts", a new report by Neil Carson and LISC, from the [LISC Online Resource Library](#).

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## •• Conferences and Events

### >> **The 2003 LISC Home Ownership Summit: Revitalization through Production**

will be Nov. 3-4 in Washington, DC. The Home Ownership Summit brings together experts in the affordable housing and community development industries to discuss current issues, strategies, and policies. This year, the focus is on homeownership production, which will be addressed through the context of demand: the marketing of real estate and neighborhoods; supply: how to reach scale in housing development; and sustainability: examining both post-purchase counseling and neighborhood stability. Speakers include Assistant HUD Secretary Roy A. Bernardi and Colvin Grannum, Executive Director of Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation. For registration information, visit the [LISC website](#). For additional information, email [summit@liscnet.org](mailto:summit@liscnet.org).

>> **The Fourth Annual CHAM Asset Management Professionals' Conference**, hosted by the Consortium for Housing and Asset Management (CHAM), a collaboration of LISC, the Enterprise Foundation, and Neighborhood Reinvestment, will be Dec. 5-6 in San Francisco. Join asset and property managers, investor partners, LISC/NEF staff, and agency officials at the only conference for nonprofit asset managers. For

**Metropolitan  
Magnets: Study of  
Urban Migration**

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further information, visit [LISC's website](#), or contact Lisa Deller at (212) 455-1619 or email [ldeller@liscnet.org](mailto:ldeller@liscnet.org).

>> **Reinventing America's Older Communities**, a conference sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and the Brookings Institution, will be Jan. 14-16 in Philadelphia. Co-sponsored by LISC, The Reinvestment Fund, Smart Growth America, and the William Penn Foundation, it will explore the face of older communities as they become part of regional strategies and take advantage of redevelopment tools like brownfield remediation, mixed-use development, mixed-income housing, productive use of vacant properties, and retail revitalization. For more information, email [yvette.cooper@phil.frb.org](mailto:yvette.cooper@phil.frb.org) or [jseward@liscnet.org](mailto:jseward@liscnet.org).

>> **3rd Annual New Partners for Smart Growth: Building Safe, Healthy, and Livable Communities**, a conference sponsored by the Local Government Commission, Penn State University, Smart Growth Network, and numerous other organizations including LISC, will be Jan. 22-24 in Portland, Or. This national smart growth conference brings practitioners from all sectors for workshops, tours, and keynote speakers. For more conference information, email [MKelso@lgc.org](mailto:MKelso@lgc.org).

*LISC is hosting, presenting at and/or helping to sponsor all of the events listed above.*

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## ●●● Funding Opportunities

>> **The Johnson & Johnson Community Health Care Program** has partnered with the National Council of La Raza and the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health to provide six two-year grants of \$150,000 each to nonprofit, community-based organizations whose primary objective is to provide creative and effective access to quality healthcare for the medically underserved. Special consideration will be given to projects that focus on the quality of care for children as well as diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease education and prevention. The application deadline is October 31. For more information, go to the [John Hopkins School of Public Health website](#).

>> **The Fannie Mae Foundation** has partnered with Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government to offer the Fannie Mae Foundation Fellowship Program. Thirty-five fellowships are sponsored annually for the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government, a three-week program intended to enhance the management and decision-making skills of leaders who manage housing and community development programs. Focus is placed on organizational strategy, political management, and policy development and includes sessions addressing housing issues, trends, and policies. The application deadline is November 1. For more information, go to the [Fannie Mae website](#).

>> **The Corporation for National & Community Service** announced the availability of \$4 million in Next Generation Grants to provide seed money to start-up and established organizations with new service programs that have the potential of becoming national in scope. The corporation is seeking innovative models in three service areas: programs that engage individuals in an intensive service commitment, volunteer programs for seniors, and programs that connect service with education. The application deadline is November 17. For more information, go to the [Corporation for National & Community Service website](#).

>> **The Microsoft Corporation** has announced the launch of Unlimited Potential (UP), a global initiative focused on providing technology skills for disadvantaged individuals through community-based technology and learning centers (CTLCs). UP initially will provide funding to help CTLCs hire and train technology instructors. The initiative will also help create an online global support network that delivers technology curriculum, research, tools, and help-desk services to CTLCs worldwide. More than \$1 billion will be committed over the next five years. The application deadline is open. For more

information, go to the [Microsoft website](#).

*For more Funding Opportunities please see the [eNewsletter Archive](#)*

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## ●●●● Information Resources

>> **Fannie Mae Foundation: KnowledgePlex®**, a collaborative effort supported by a team of founding partners and created by the Fannie Mae Foundation, has recently launched its redesigned website to assist the efforts of practitioners, grantors, policy makers, scholars, investors and others involved or interested in affordable housing and community development. Some of the features of KnowledgePlex 2.0 are: a comprehensive collection of publications (best practices, articles, case studies, etc.) from all of its partner organizations; the latest housing and community development news stories from national publications in partnership with LexisNexis; a Week in Review e-newsletter summing up the weekly relevant news; topical discussion forums for information exchange; and a calendar of events for industry professionals. Founding partners include Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Enterprise Foundation, National Congress for Community Economic Development, Urban Institute, The Brookings Institution, and many others. Visit the new and improved [KnowledgePlex website](#).

>> **Department of Housing and Urban Development: Fair Market Rents (FMR) FY 2004 Guide**, a collection of datasets, is now available to determine standard payment amounts for the Housing Choice Voucher program, renewal rents for some expiring project-based Section 8 contracts, and to determine initial rents for housing assistance programs. For example, in the case of the Housing Choice Voucher program, the FMR for a given area is the amount that would be needed to pay the gross rent (shelter rent plus utilities) of a privately-owned, decent, and safe non-luxury rental. For more on how Fair Market Rents work and the official FY 2004 FMRs, visit the [HUD website](#).

>> **Metropolitan Magnets for International and Domestic Migrants**, an analysis by William Frey, published by the Brookings Institution, reports on the nation's most populous metropolitan areas and the flow of migrants to these specific urban areas from 1995-2000. The report finds that the largest metropolitan areas experienced heavy gains in international migrants but lost the most domestic migrants, while magnet areas in the Southeast and West attracted large numbers of domestic migrants. For more on migrant flow patterns and to download the study, go to the [Brookings Institution website](#).

*For more Information Resources please see the [eNewsletter Archive](#)*

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## ●●●●● Policy News

>> **State housing trust funds and primary state housing funding pools have weathered a difficult year in many state legislatures, but housing advocates have continued to perform well.** Some highlights include:

- **Florida:** a broad coalition including 1000 Friends of Florida, Sadowski Coalition, Florida Housing Coalition, and LISC successfully preserved the State Housing Trust Funds, maintaining an estimated \$193 million in revenues for housing over the next two years;
- **Louisiana:** the legislature created a new State Housing Trust Fund and housing advocates prepare to seek a 2004 appropriation for the Fund;
- **Ohio:** Coalition on Housing and Homelessness in Ohio, Ohio CDC Association, LISC and other housing and community providers were successful in doubling real estate recordation fees, generating an estimated \$90 million in dedicated housing funds over the next two years;

- **Washington State:** proposed State Housing Trust Fund reductions were turned into an increased \$2 million appropriation now totaling \$80 million;
- **Virginia:** the Housing Partnership Fund was sold to the Virginia Housing Development Authority. Advocates are working with VHDA to create new programs that benefit the work of CDCs.

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