Community Group Resources
STATE ASSISTANCE

Of the eleven cabinet offices reporting to the Governor, none are more involved in the day to day lives of poor and low income people than the Executive Office of Communities & Development.

The Executive Office of Communities & Development administers a wide range of programs for public housing development, construction and management, community services, and anti-poverty efforts.

One of its major components is (DCA) Department of Community Affairs. The three divisions of DCA are Community Development, Community Services, and Social & Economic Opportunity.

The Division of Community Development is responsible for administering all state-aided public housing programs for low income elderly, handicapped and families; administrative procedures, standards, and management operations of 218 local housing authorities; financial supervision of divisional programs; review of all relocation activities; and administration of the rental assistance program.

CONTACT: Karen Falat,
Administrator
(617) 727-7131
100 Cambridge St.
Boston, MA 02202

The Bureau of Housing Development and Modernization monitors and supervises all state-aided public housing acquisitions and developments. Handles pre-application review and allocation of modernization and extraordinary maintenance funding. Provides technical assistance to local housing authorities who provide state-aided housing for the handicapped.

CONTACT: William Reagan—
Housing Development
100 Cambridge St.
Boston, MA 02202
(617) 727-4096

Allan Isbitz—
Modernization
100 Cambridge St.
Boston, MA 02202
(617) 727-4096

Other offices that are under the Division of Community Development are as follows: If you wish further information please call the numbers listed below.

CONTACT:
Bureau of Accounting Services
(617) 727-7134
Bureau of Construction Services
(617) 727-4906
Bureau of Housing Management
(617) 727-5884
Office of Rental Assistance
(617) 727-5884

The Office of Local Assistance is responsible for assisting local governments with community development, planning and management problems. It assists state-local problems either by providing direct staff assistance or by referral to the appropriate state government office and officials.

CONTACT: Richard Kobayashi,
Director
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 727-3253

The Division of Community Services assists local governments with community development, planning and management problems. It assists local communities in dealing with state-local problems. It also provides training programs and satisfies the information needs of comprehensive planning and management funds for communities under 50,000 in population.

CONTACT: Ellis Goldman,
Administrator
Division of Community Services
One Ashburton Place
16th floor
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 727-7001

The Office of Neighborhood Improvement and Relocation administers state and federally-aided Urban Renewal programs and the Chapter 121A program. It also administers the relocation statute, Chapter 79A.

CONTACT: John Sawyer, Director
100 Cambridge St.
Boston, MA 02202
(617) 727-7180

Other offices under the Division of Community Services are:

Local Advocacy and Policy Section
(617) 727-3197
Energy Conservation Project
(617) 727-7127
Special Project to Encourage Building Re-Use (617) 727-3197

Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) works through private developers in the provision of mixed income housing in the Commonwealth. The agency utilizes an interest subsidy program which reduces the rent on low and moderate income units in MHFA developments by subsidizing the interest rate down to 1%. The agency also utilizes a rental assistance set aside to reduce rent for low-income tenants to 25% of income.

CONTACT: William White,
Executive Director
MHFA
45 School St.
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 739-9770

The Division of Social & Economic Opportunity

David Entin, Administrator
(617) 727-7004
Commonwealth Service Corps
(617) 727-4075
Office of Resource Development
(617) 727-4074
Commission on Indian Affairs
(617) 727-6966

State Building Code Commission

Charles Dinezio, Executive Director
(617) 727-6916

In addition, the Department of Community Affairs maintains a separate Western Mass. Regional Office in Springfield, which provides the entire range of DCA services for the four western counties.

Western Massachusetts Regional Office
115 State St.
Springfield, MA 01103
(413) 736-4581

continued from front page

This new peoples' organization has accomplished much during the months of its formation and will change the course of its city's history and improve the conditions of life in New Bedford. The participation of the member organizations who came to the Congress in September established a solid foundation for the new organization. The initial steps have been good ones, and those that follow will make the city, state, and federal governments sit up and take notice.

Julie Bearse
GAIN
16 So. Water St.
New Bedford, Mass.
(617) 996-3741

Jobs, credit unions, neighborhoods emphasized
SPRINGFIELD LDS HEARING

Over 80 Western Massachusetts residents turned out to speak and listen at the first Linked Deposit System hearing held by state treasurer Robert Crane in Springfield on October 7. Speakers representing community groups, labor unions, human service agencies, credit unions, senior citizens, public officials, Hispanic groups and local community development programs all supported the concept of the state depositing its funds only in banks which meet local credit needs. Several bankers, however, testified that they are already doing the job and such a state investment program is not needed.

Gerri Bilik, chairperson of the Social and Economic Opportunity Council, began the hearing by speaking of the Council's work developing the Linked Deposit idea as part of the People's Platform during the last year, and presenting it to the treasurer in July of 1977. She spoke of the potential benefits to come from such a system, and cautioned that to be of real value the system must: (1) be targeted to local credit needs which otherwise would not find financing, (2) be established with objective criteria so that all potential depositories can see how they stand in the rankings and evaluate the program's benefits to them, and (3) be open to public inspection to assure that the program is administered honestly and effectively.

Paul Winslow, business agent of the local International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union spoke of the loss of jobs in his industry due to local small shops not being able to get credit to expand and modernize. He cited examples of plant closings and testified that many of these could have been prevented if adequate financing had been available. An LDS, he said, would help encourage banks to meet such job-sustaining needs.

Several Western Massachusetts Fair Share members spoke of the needs in their neighborhoods for credit to improve or replace existing housing stock. They indicated interest not only in how state funds are invested, but said they were trying to find out about the investment of $80 million in local city of Springfield funds. Such large amounts of capital should stay home to benefit the people who worked for it, they urged.

Tony Maffeo spoke of the pride of the residents of the Italian south end, despite the neglect of city and private institutions. He cited clear cases of red-lining by banks as examples of the downward pressure on a neighborhood desperately fighting to stay together and not succumb to blight.

Bruce Young-Candelaria came to speak of the needs of the migrant and Hispanic community to get funds to develop and expand small businesses and community enterprises.

Ellen MacKay and other credit union representatives urged the state to include credit unions as eligible depositories under an LDS. They are the most responsive financial institutions in the community, they said, for meeting local needs. State representative Ray Jordan (D-Sprfld) responded that he would introduce legislation next session to make this possible.

The hearing concluded with eloquent testimony by a silver-haired senior citizen. She spoke of how fine a community Springfield had been for her and her husband to raise their family in 40 years ago. She said, after listening to these speakers today she thought maybe the LDS idea could begin to turn Springfield again into a decent place to live.

The next hearings by the treasurer's Special Commission on Linked Deposits will be in New Bedford on October 27, and then in Worcester in early November. Contact SEOC for further information on LDS or the hearings. *J.K.*

PEOPLE'S PLATFORM NEWSLETTER

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