

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC ANNUAL RETREAT

ITEM #7: REGIONAL HOUSING SERVICE PORTAL

SUBJECT:

There are numerous housing service agencies across the Hampton Roads region, but no centralized place to access information about the provision of services. Utilizing information collected from the HRPDC and partner agencies, a centralized database can be made to create a “one-stop shop” approach to making information on services and programs readily accessible to the public.

ISSUES:

There are numerous housing related organizations in Hampton Roads that provide varied downpayment/closing cost assistance, first-time homebuyer education, foreclosure prevention, rental counseling, and housing services for persons with disabilities. As there is no centralized place to gather information on available service providers, citizens seeking assistance as well as other service providers routinely contact the Housing and Human Services Manager at HRPDC.

HRPDC staff and partner organizations have been in the process of collecting and organizing information related to the provision of housing services in Hampton Roads, in accordance with the Unified Planning Work Program for FY2011. This information can be a valuable resource to citizens seeking housing services, as well as for local governments, non-profit organizations, and housing service agencies when attempting to provide assistance for those requiring housing support.

Several options are available in making this resource available to the public. Housing and Human Services Manager, Ms. Shernita Bethea, will brief the Commission regarding staff efforts, and seek input on moving forward towards a web-based regional housing service portal.

DISCUSSION