

improving infrastructure and community facilities.

(3) Encouraging Accessible Design Features. These design features are intended to promote visitability and incorporate features of universal design in new construction and rehabilitation projects. For more information on visitability visit <http://www.concretechange.org>. For more information on universal design, visit the Center for Universal Design at <http://www.design.ncsu.edu:8120/cud/> or the Resource Center on Accessible Housing and Universal Design at http://www.abledata.com/Site_2/accessib.htm.

(4) Providing Full and Equal Access to Grass-Roots Faith-Based and Other Community-Based Organizations in HUD Program Implementation. HUD encourages non-profit organizations, including grass-roots faith-based and other community-based organizations, to participate in the vast array of programs HUD funds. HUD also encourages states and units of local government, universities and colleges, and other organizations to partner with grass-roots organizations *e.g.* civic organizations, faith-communities, and grass-roots faith-based and other community-based organizations that have not been effectively utilized. HUD considers an organization to be a grass-roots organization if the organization is headquartered in the local community to which it provides services and has a social services budget of \$300,000 or less, or has six or fewer full-time equivalent employees. Local affiliates of national organizations are not considered grass-roots. National organizations are encouraged to partner with grass-roots organizations.

(5) Colonias. HUD is seeking to improve housing conditions for families living in Colonias. Colonias means any identifiable, rural community that: is located within 150 miles of the border between the United States and Mexico; is determined to be a Colonia on the basis of objective need criteria including lack of potable water supply, lack of adequate sewerage systems, and lack of decent, safe, sanitary, and accessible housing.

(6) Participation of Minority-Serving Institutions in HUD Programs. Pursuant to Executive Orders 13256 President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, 13230 President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, 13216 Increasing Participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Federal Programs, and 13270 Tribal Colleges and Universities, HUD is strongly committed to broadening the participation of

Minority-Serving Institutions (MSI) in its programs to advance the development of human potential, strengthen the nation's capacity to provide high-quality education, and increase opportunities for MSI to participate and benefit from federal financial assistance programs. A listing of MSI can be found on the Department of Education website at <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCR/minorityinst.html>.

(7) Participation in Energy Star. HUD has adopted a wide-ranging energy action plan for improving energy efficiency in all programs. The purpose of HUD's Energy Star Partnership with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Energy (DoE) is to promote energy efficiency of the affordable housing stock and to help protect the environment. HUD also urges the purchase and use of Energy Star products and providing Energy Star promotional materials. For more information about Energy Star visit <http://www.energystar.gov>.

(8) Ending Chronic Homelessness Within Ten Years. President Bush has set a national goal to end chronic homelessness within ten years, and this has been embraced by Secretary Martinez. A person experiencing chronic homelessness is defined as an individual with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more or has experienced four or more episodes of homelessness over the last three years.

(C) *Research Topics.* Examples of research topics that will further HUD's Strategic Goals and Policy Priorities related to these goals are:

- (1) Increasing Homeownership.
- (a) Increasing minority homeownership.
- (b) Simplifying the home buying process (RESPA reform) and reducing settlement costs.
- (c) Setting appropriate housing goals for the Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSE).
- (d) Countering Predatory Lending.
- (e) Helping low-income homeowners avoid default and foreclosure.
- (f) Evaluating housing counseling.
- (2) Improving Our Nation's Communities.
- (a) Strengthening the economic viability of communities.
- (b) Improving the environmental health and safety of families living in public and privately owned housing.
- (c) Making communities more livable.
- (d) Providing increased public and social services.
- (e) Improving infrastructure and community facilities.

(3) Encouraging Accessible Design Features and Promoting Decent Affordable Housing.

(a) Reducing regulatory barriers to the development of affordable housing, as well as all forms of multifamily housing.

(b) Meeting the housing-related needs of the elderly.

(c) Meeting the housing-related needs of persons with disabilities.

(d) Meeting the housing-related needs of families with limited English proficiency.

(e) Improving housing quality and affordability through technology and design.

(f) Ensuring visitability in new construction and substantial rehabilitation.

(g) Increasing use of universal design in construction and rehabilitation projects.

(4) Providing full and equal access and participation to Grass-Roots Faith-Based and other Community-Based Organizations and Strengthening the Capacity of Grass-Roots Faith-Based and Other Community-Based Organizations to conduct community, housing, and economic development programs.

(5) Meeting and Improving the Housing and Community and Economic Development Needs of Residents of High-Needs areas such as Colonias, Appalachia, the Mississippi Delta, and Tribal Areas.

(6) Increasing Participation of Minority-Serving Institutions in HUD Programs.

(7) Increasing Participation in Energy Star.

(8) Ending Chronic Homelessness in Less than Ten Years.

(a) Preventing homelessness.

(b) Developing creative strategies for expanding the availability of affordable housing.

(c) Strengthening the delivery of HUD-funded rental assistance and assistance provided through the low-income housing tax credit

(d) Promoting Self-Sufficiency among residents of public and assisted housing.

(9) Ensuring Equal Opportunity in Housing.

(a) Reducing housing discrimination.

(b) Improving housing accessibility for persons with disabilities.

(10) Embracing High Standards of Ethics, Management, and Accountability.

(a) Reducing fraud, waste, and abuse in HUD-funded programs.

(b) Improving the effectiveness of HUD programs through program evaluations.

(D) *Eligible Applicants.* You must meet the following conditions:

(1) Have an academic appointment at an institution of higher education and