



# Section 8 Newsletter

APRIL 2012

SEMI-ANNUAL PUBLICATION OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## *Volunteers Needed*

*We need you to serve on our Resident Advisory Board.*

*Please see application on the back of this page*

*Are you a grandparent raising a grandchild?*

*Contact 2-1-1 to learn about a special resource event on April 21, 2012*



Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing Act), as amended, prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings, and in other housing related transactions, based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status (including children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women, and people securing custody of children under the age of 18), and handicap (disability). If you feel you have been discriminated against, contact HUD Hot Line at (800) 669-9777 or North County Lifeline at (866) 954-3354 x6226.

## Fair Housing Services Available

April is **Fair Housing Month**. April 2012 marks the 44th anniversary of the 1968 landmark Fair Housing Act. The County of San Diego recognizes the significance of this event and reconfirms our commitment to uphold fair housing laws and to affirmatively further fair housing.

We have contracted with North County Lifeline to serve as our Fair Housing Program Administrator. North County Lifeline has created Lifelines Fair Housing Collaborative with The Center for Social Advocacy (CSA) and South Bay Community Services (SBCS) to provide fair housing services. Through their joint efforts, these organizations sponsor public fair housing educational, fair housing outreach, and referral activities. Contact North County Lifeline at (760) 726-4900 or [www.nclifeline.com](http://www.nclifeline.com) for more information on Fair Housing resources or activities.

In addition to Lifelines Fair Housing Collaborative, the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides resources on fair housing. The [Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity](http://www.fairhousingandequalopportunity.gov) website ([www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/index.com](http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/index.com)) contains a wealth of relevant information regarding fair housing laws that prohibit discrimination in housing.

## The Countdown Is On: Help People Switch Now to Electronic Federal Benefit Payments

*Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury, Financial Management Service*

Everyone who receives social security/supplemental security income or other federal benefit payments by paper check is required by the U.S. Department of the Treasury to switch to an electronic payment option by March 1, 2013.

Make the switch to one of the two Treasury-recommended electronic payment options:

- **Direct deposit.** People with checking or savings accounts can sign up to get their money by **direct deposit**. Their federal benefit payment will go straight into their account on payment day each month. On time, every time.
- **Direct Express® Debit MasterCard® card.** Those who don't have a bank account or who prefer a prepaid debit card, should switch to the **Direct Express®** card. Money will be posted to the card account on payment day each month. Cardholders can make purchases and get cash back with purchases at no charge anywhere Debit MasterCard® is accepted. There are no sign-up fees, overdraft fees or monthly fees. Some fees for optional services may apply. For information on card fees and features, visit [www.GoDirect.org](http://www.GoDirect.org).

### Fast, Free, Easy to Switch

There are three simple ways federal benefit check recipients can make the switch to **direct deposit** or the **Direct Express** card:

- In person at their bank or credit union (*direct deposit only*) or their local federal benefit agency office
- Online at the Treasury Department's **Go Direct®** website, [www.GoDirect.org](http://www.GoDirect.org)
- By calling the U.S. Treasury Electronic Payment Solution Center at (800) 333-1795

To ensure a smooth enrollment process, people should have on hand their most recent federal benefit check or know the 12-digit federal benefit check number and the amount of their last check. For **direct deposit**, people will also need to know their bank or credit union's routing transit number and their account number, which can often be found along the bottom of a personal check.

People who do not choose an electronic payment option by March 1, 2013, will receive their benefit payments via the **Direct Express** card so they will not experience any interruption in payment.

## Volunteers Needed

RESIDENT ADVISORY BOARD

HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### APPLICATION

We are seeking program participants to serve on our Section 8 Rental Assistance and Public Housing programs Resident Advisory Board. The role of the Resident Advisory Board is to assist and make recommendations regarding the development of various Public Housing Authority Plans. Members of the Resident Advisory Board are required to attend at least two meetings a year.

If you are interested in serving on the Resident Advisory Board and have access to transportation, please send your completed application to Anthony McCall:

**Email:** [anthony.mccall@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:anthony.mccall@sdcounty.ca.gov)

**Fax:** (858) 514-6575

**U.S. mail:**

Mr. Anthony McCall

Housing Authority of the County of San Diego

3989 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA 92123

If you have any questions, please contact your housing representative. We will contact all applicants over the next 12 months.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Housing Representative \_\_\_\_\_

In addition to the RAB, are you interested in serving on the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners as a Tenant Commission?

Yes

No

What are your principal areas of interest in serving our community? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What relevant experience or special knowledge do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**

*In addition to the Resident Advisory Board, we need participants to serve two-year terms on the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners as a Tenant Commissioner.*

*Commissioners are paid for each meeting they attend and serve along with the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors.*