

**NCDA REGION VI – SOUTHWEST
2004 REGIONAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 13-16, 2004**

This is your invitation to join us at the NCDA Region VI Conference, to be held at the Southfork Hotel in Plano, Texas. In addition, NCDA will be holding the CDBG Basics course October 11-13, prior to the conference. This packet includes registration information **only** for the Conference. Please register for CDBG Basics on the NCDA web site, www.ncdaonline.org.

We have structured the conference with **four training tracks** on various subjects. We will have a HOME track, taught by Monte Franke and sponsored by NCDA; a homelessness track; a homeownership track; and a housing rehabilitation track. In addition, we have sessions on fair housing, CDBG week activities, energy efficient housing techniques, and conflict resolution.

New this year is **New Entitlement Survivor Training**. This session on Wednesday will cover the stuff that other training courses seem to leave out – like where to get the numbers to fill out the Statutory Checklist; how to read and understand the HUD-1 form; income documentation requirements; what should go in your files; what to expect when HUD comes to visit; how to use BOSMAC; etc. Anyone relatively new to the CDBG business should profit from this session. In fact, if you'll e-mail your questions ahead of time to bobb@plano.gov, we'll try to answer as many of them as possible. In the meantime, the "old hands" can benefit from a session on how to mine census data for information that HUD doesn't provide.

One of the most valuable things about any conference is the opportunity to talk with other practitioners. Some of the best outcomes to a conference are obtained in these informal discussions. This year, we want to set this up in two areas – housing rehabilitation and first-time homebuyers. We will arrange **roundtable discussions** on these topics. In particular, the Rehabbers Roundtable is intended for your field staff, as well as the office staff.

Thursday night you'll have the opportunity to attend opening night of Lerner & Loewe's **Camelot** at the Courtyard Theater. Tickets are limited, but the theater assures us that ticket requests received by September 10 should be filled. If you wish to attend, indicate the number of tickets you want and include \$28 for each ticket with your registration. (If over 10 tickets are sold, we'll get a price break and you'll get a refund.) If theater isn't your thing, we'll take you shopping and dining in upscale West Plano. Or you can take the DART light rail into Dallas to any number of fun locations that we'll give you information about.

Friday's luncheon will feature Jake Billingsley of Survivor-Thailand fame. Even if you've never seen the show, you'll find Jake's stories and insights fascinating. And Friday night, you'll enjoy a buffet and casino party – you won't be gambling for money, but you can win prizes. Saturday we have tee times reserved for those who bring their clubs.



As you can see, we have a packed agenda, with something for just about everyone. We look forward to having you come – to learn, to network, to meet new people, and to enjoy some of the fun and excitement of Plano and the Dallas area.

Please note: There is an excellent article on things to do and see in Plano in the August edition of *Texas Highways*. Read it on line at <http://www.texashighways.com/currentissue/?rid=293>.