Suggested Fair Housing Furtherance Actions

1. Schedule special fair housing activities during April, which is National Fair Housing Month. Many grantees adopt and publish a Fair Housing Month proclamation similar to the sample distributed each year by the CDBG Program.

2. Post and publish any **revisions** to local Fair Housing policies that bring the grantee into compliance with current State and Federal laws.

3. Encourage active participation in community efforts to enact strong fair housing policies.

4. Develop and display informational materials to promote local awareness of fair housing laws and guidelines (e.g., fair housing pamphlets, fair housing logo on official stationery, fair housing policy statements, etc.).

5. Display State and Federal fair housing posters in places of public accommodation throughout the community.

6. Participate in the New Horizons Housing Opportunity Program.

7. Provide funding for local fair housing organizations, and assist in their development.

8. Offer outreach, counseling, and referral services to aid LMI persons residing in areas of minority concentration to find assisted housing outside those areas.

9. Obtain housing units outside areas of minority concentration for use as assisted housing.

10. Acquire sites outside areas of minority concentration for the development of assisted housing.

11. Assemble a comprehensive inventory of available land suitable for the development of assisted housing.

12. Conduct educational programs focused on prospective homebuyers or renters, businesses, local government employees, and members of housing-related industries (e.g., real estate agents, mortgage lenders, builders, homeowners' insurance companies, etc.) regarding fair housing rights and responsibilities.

13. Develop public information and educational programs to provide fair housing information to the community. Recipients can focus these programs on the following types of groups:

Citizen groups concerned with housing issues (fair housing groups, tenant associations);

Organizations representing specific population groups (minorities, women, senior citizens, families with children, single-parent families, etc.) known to have suffered from discriminatory practices in the past; and

Other local organizations (advocacy groups, unions, voters' leagues).

Methods which can be used to inform and involve the public in Fair Housing awareness efforts may include (but not be limited to) the following:
Canvassing the community through a mail campaign, which could involve inserting a flyer in local utility bills or tax statements;

Placing a public service announcement on local radio and/or a community cable television access channel; and

Sponsoring a Fair Housing poster contest in local schools.

14. Use local resources to assess public opinion about the status of fair housing in the community. Suggested contacts for this effort would include:

Fair housing organizations

Public/private community centers and social service facilities

Civil rights advocacy groups

Organizations representing minorities, women, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and other protected status categories

15. Document actions taken at the local level to address fair housing impediments identified in the statewide study. Public notice of this activity, and/or other forms of public participation in the process, can be considered as a qualified furtherance action.

16. Encourage local lending institutions, realtors, insurers, and other housing-related service providers to include the Fair Housing logo and policy statements in all advertising done through the Internet or related means, such as Community Information Networks, local cable access channels, etc.

17. Facilitate development of a local Habitat for Humanity chapter in your jurisdiction, or support activities of local chapters already in existence. A list of active chapters in Missouri can be accessed through the HFH website, http://www.habitat.org.

18. Invite a representative from a Federal or State agency concerned with Fair Housing issues to a local advocacy group