

Coast. The EPA calls the hearings part of a “broad effort to gain a greater scientific understanding of the potential health risks of formaldehyde’s use in pressed wood products.”

Field hearings have been scheduled for these five sites: Triangle Park, NC; Portland, OR; Chicago, IL; Dallas, TX; and Washington, DC.

“We strongly recommend that another field hearing be added to include a Gulf Coast state,” the KHG members wrote in the letter. “Holding field hearings anywhere but the Gulf Coast casts doubt on the serious with which the EPA regards this issue, and threatens to lessen the significance of the hearings.”

The dangers of high levels of formaldehyde in the FEMA-issued trailers has become an issue in the years since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit. The House Oversight and Government Reform held a hearing on this issue in July (see Memo, 7/11). The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a study in July that found that levels of formaldehyde were potentially dangerously high in trailers on the Gulf Coast. The study recommended that residents of the Gulf Coast area displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita be relocated out of travel trailers and mobile homes.

The Katrina Housing Group letter can be found at www.nlihc.org/doc/formaldehyde-letter.pdf

For a list of the current field hearings, click here: www.epa.gov/opptintr/chemtest/formaldehyde/index.htm

FROM THE FIELD

Coalition Documents Poverty in DE; Celebrates 25th Anniversary

The Delaware Housing Coalition (DHC), an NLIHC state partner, released its biannual publication, *Realities of Poverty in Delaware*, in November, coinciding with a celebration of the organization’s 25th year of housing advocacy. The publication includes articles from various authors that cover the issues of poverty among the most vulnerable populations, the impact of poverty on society, and the housing needs of those in poverty.

“We are pleased to include the work of a broad range of grassroots and professional contributors who document the need, offer insight into the root causes, and present viable solutions to addressing the poverty issues we face today in Delaware,” said DHC Director Ken Smith.

A few of the publication’s highlights on at-risk populations include:

- Delaware ranks sixth in the nation in HIV incidences per infection rate, and 25% of those living with HIV/AIDS are in need of assistance in locating affordable housing. As good housing is essential to the health of those with HIV/AIDS and others with serious illnesses, advocates request support of Delaware’s 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, which calls for permanent supportive housing units for those with a diversity of needs.

- Housing and cost burden issues are increasing among seniors (both renters and homeowners) in Delaware. One-third of ELI cost-burdened households are elderly, and of these elderly households, homeowners were found to be more cost-burdened than renters. On a positive note, Delaware is doing well in regards to food insecurity and hunger among the senior population.

The findings of a statewide housing needs assessment, included in the publication, reveal that the number of affordable units under \$100,000 has decreased from 36% to 17% of units since 2000; the percentage of rental units that are \$500 or less has decreased from 25% to 6%. The report also indicates that the number of cost-burdened households has increased significantly, and that a large percentage of those that are cost-burdened are working households. The needs assessment also emphasizes the importance of preserving affordable housing, the housing needs of the homeless and disabled, and the homeownership difficulties faced by low income households in light of the subprime loan crisis.

The publication also includes information on DHC’s ‘Good Neighborhood Project,’ which seeks to promote mixed income communities, strengthen inclusionary programs, and encourage opportunity and access for all people.

Realities of Poverty in Delaware 2007-2008, is available at: www.housingforall.org/ROPO708_100608_online.pdf

NLIHC congratulates Delaware Housing Coalition on 25 years of affordable housing advocacy.

For more information, contact: Gina Miserendino, Grassroots Policy Project Coordinator, Delaware Housing Coalition; grassroots@housingforall.org, or 302.678.2286 x100

RESOURCES

NLIHC Updates Congressional District Profiles

With changes in the House of Representatives in the November election and with the release of new housing data, NLIHC has updated its Congressional District Profiles. These profiles provide housing advocates with useful information on the need