



NeighborWorks® Training in New Orleans Will Contribute to Gulf Rebuilding

By Olufunke Adebajo

More than 1,200 housing and community development professionals and resident leaders from across the country will attend the NeighborWorks® Training Institute in New Orleans from December 11 to 15, 2006.

On December 13, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac will sponsor a symposium, *Organizing for Social Equity and Community Rebuilding*, which will focus on the challenges in rebuilding communities in the Gulf Coast and across the nation, and explore how those challenges relate to the inequity of a community's socioeconomic framework.

During the five days of training, the Institute will also offer:

- ▶ Volunteer opportunities for participants who want to gain first-hand experience and play a role in neighborhood recovery efforts. Volunteer activities include a schoolyard cleanup, building a KaBoom! playground, painting the exterior of the Seventh Ward Cultural Center, and Operation Helping Hands house gutting;
- ▶ Special site visits with courses in community building and organizing, community economic development, community and neighborhood revitalization, and construction and production management;
- ▶ Three new Native American-focused community development training courses in financial asset-building;

- ▶ Ongoing courses in the Resident Services series; and
- ▶ Four green courses sponsored by the Home Depot Foundation that promote environmentally friendly, healthier communities.

NeighborWorks®' goal is to train 1,000 resident leaders for rebuilding or improving their Gulf Coast communities by the year 2010. To help other organizations and partners in rebuilding, NeighborWorks® will offer customized training on specific Gulf-rebuilding issues over the next several years. For example, NeighborWorks® America has significant expertise in housing rehabilitation, and NeighborWorks® personnel with construction expertise are helping Gulf Coast nonprofits increase their housing production and rehabilitation.

For more information on the New Orleans Training Institute, visit www.nw.org/training.