Providing Housing for Veterans

Tuesday, June 10, 2014
11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Plaza C

Speaker Bios

Donn Appleman
Special Assistant to the Deputy Administrator
USDA/Rural Development – Single Family Housing
Washington, DC

Joseph Belden
Deputy Executive Director
Housing Assistance Council
Washington, DC

Joseph Belden is Deputy Executive Director of the Housing Assistance Council, a national nonprofit provider of loans, grants, research, information, training and technical assistance for affordable rural housing. Previously a research associate at HAC, he has also worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, on Capitol Hill, and for several policy-oriented research organizations in Washington, DC. Belden is the co-author of Housing in Rural America: Building Affordable and Inclusive Communities (Sage 1998) and Dirt Rich, Dirt Poor: America’s Food and Farm Crisis (Routledge 1986). He is a graduate of the University of Texas-Austin and the Baylor University Law School. He also served three years in the US Army as a battalion personnel and supply clerk at Camp Stanley, Korea; Ft. Bliss, Texas; and Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.
Baylee Crone currently serves as the Vice President, Operations and Programs, and Technical Assistance Director for the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV). In this capacity, she is responsible for oversight of NCHV’s research and communications staff and Technical Assistance Center. The TA Center connects service providers around the country with timely and comprehensive resources to support their program activities.

In addition to providing intensive, one-on-one program development consultations with homeless veteran service providers, Crone regularly gives trainings across the country on several topics related to homeless veterans. Areas of expertise include best practice models for employment placement, job-driven training, legal barriers to employment, affordable housing resources, affordable housing development, Stand Down and Homeless Court development, eligibility and service delivery overlaps between Federal programs, services to homeless female veterans, and services to at-risk veterans and veteran families. Utilizing a strong relationship with partners throughout the country, Ms. Crone serves as a liaison between grantee organizations and their partners in state and Federal agencies.

Crone earned a Master’s Degree in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling with an emphasis on Traumatic Brain Injury at the George Washington University and a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science with an emphasis in Public Service and Global Security from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

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**MODERATOR**

Colleen M. Fisher
Executive Director
Council for Affordable and Rural Housing
Alexandria, Virginia

Colleen M. Fisher has served as the Executive Director of The Council for Affordable and Rural Housing (CARH) since 1996. CARH represents the interests of over 300 companies that are involved in the building, development, financing, management and ownership of housing in rural areas across the country.
Prior to joining CARH, Ms. Fisher served for four years as Industry Relations Manager in the Resolution Trust Corporation’s (RTC) National Marketing Department in Washington, DC. As the RTC’s Industry Relations Manager, Ms. Fisher was the principal liaison between the RTC and the various national real estate and financial services trade association groups and their members. She played a major role in the development of complex marketing campaigns which resulted in the sale of over $395 billion in real estate and loans throughout the country.

Ms. Fisher was Vice President for Government Relations for the National Apartment Association (NAA) from 1983-1991. She worked on major legislation that impacted the multi-housing industry in the tax, environmental and financial arenas.

Ms. Fisher began her career in Washington, D.C. as a Legislative Assistant for former Senator Richard S. Schweiker (R-PA). She was a Majority Professional Staff member on the United States Senate Appropriations Committee, where she worked for former Senator Jake Garn (R-UT) on the HUD-VA and Independent Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. Fisher serves on the board of directors for the National Affordable Housing Preservations Associates, Inc. (NAHPA), a national non-profit dedicated to promoting the long-term preservation of rural housing properties throughout the United States. She was also a member of the Advisory Board for the Housing and Development Reporter (HDR), and served two years on Fannie Mae’s National Housing Advisory Council. She is a member of the Board of the Fredericksburg Festival of the Arts Council in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Ms. Fisher received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Georgetown University and her Master’s degree from George Washington University.