



Save the Date!

Advocacy In Albany

March 12 – 16, 2011
Albany, NY

HFHI Leadership Conference

March 22 - 25, 2011
Atlanta, GA

HFH-NYS Spring Conference

June 11, 2011 (*tentative*)
Broome Community College
Binghamton, NY

Check your Calendars!

Please check your calendar now while there is still time and let us know if you have any conflicts! June 11th is tentative date for upcoming **Spring Conference**.

Did you know ???

HFH-NYS provided
— **\$1.2 M** —

in funding and gifts—in-kind for NYS Affiliates in FY 2009–10!

We are privileged to work toward exceeding that goal in the coming year!

GROWING FOR SUCCESS: Sustainable Landscaping

Affiliates Manual Coming Soon!

HFH-NYS is pleased to be able to offer Affiliates this new information book on Sustainable Landscaping.

There are many things you consider when you are starting a new home with a partner family but you may not have thought about how the choices you make regarding the landscaping will impact the quality of life of the family and the long term affordability of their home.

Growing For Success: Sustainable Landscaping Affiliates Manual is a practical guide for Affiliates to partner with their families toward developing a sustainable landscape for their new home. Providing families with resources to keep them healthy, minimize lawn maintenance, lower utility costs, and increase the overall enjoyment of their home are only a few of the benefits available through the guide.

This book is to be used as a companion to the “**Growing for Success: Sustainable Landscaping, Family Manual,**” which is coming this Spring!

These publications are made possible by a generous bequest from Dorcas Suzanne Kent to support sustainable landscaping and gardening in New York State.

AHC Grant Applications Sign Up Now!

If your Affiliate is intending to apply for Affordable Housing Corporation funding for the 2011-2012 construction year, notify *Mary Vivona* at HFH-NYS as soon as possible. Completed applications will be **due by January, 2011**.

If you haven't yet considered taking advantage of this grant opportunity, call HFH-NYS for details. AHC funds are used to make homes more affordable for families and provide approximately **\$30,000** per home to Affiliates. This grant application is for new construction only and Affiliates must be members of HFH-NYS to participate.



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Managing Your Escrow Accounts

Managing escrow accounts is a crucial business process that helps protect an affiliate's assets while ensuring the organization is sustainable. For escrow administration to be effective, however, proper analysis, financing, and reporting of these accounts needs to be performed on an annual basis. The approaching year end presents an excellent opportunity to revisit the tools affiliates need to accurately evaluate the upcoming year's escrow funding.

HFH-NYS has created a how-to guide which walks affiliates through the process

of analyzing escrow accounts. The guide provides steps for computing required balances and cushions; as well, it outlines proper procedures for resolving account shortages and surpluses. This exercise is considered best practice by HFH International and is instrumental in helping partner families anticipate tax and insurance costs for the year.

The steps detailed in the guide are compliant under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA). More information about RESPA's escrow regulations can be found at the [HFHI](#) and [HUD](#) websites.

HFH-NYS's "Escrow Management Guide" can be found on the [HFH-NYS website](#).

Repair Program Funding

Have you ever wished you could do some repairs on other homes in the area you are building? Do you need smaller projects to keep your volunteers engaged in between your new home construction projects?

Repair programs are part of HFHI's **Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative**, and in response HFH-NYS is working on funding for this service. Plans are underway for a pilot project to start in 2011 with open enrollment in 2012.

If your affiliate has a strong interest in taking part in the pilot project, **contact HFH-NYS by December 1st**. Otherwise begin the discussion about whether this program fits into your affiliate's plans and watch for further details as HFH-NYS develops this new funding opportunity.

Capacity Building Conference Series

HFH-NYS is presenting a conference series focused on the unique challenges of small and rural affiliates. These conferences will help your Affiliate:

- Become more effective as a business
- Create a high-performing Board
- Develop a successful and practical strategic business plan
- Find new sources for financial and in-kind resources
- Build community relations

and much more...

Space is limited. If your Affiliate has an interest in this program, please contact Judith Nelson for more information.

MORTGAGE PROCESSING SERVICES

HFH-NYS has partnered with AmeriNational to provide Affiliates with efficient, professional mortgage processing services

[More information](#) regarding this program is available to Affiliates.