

## HUD grant helps spread 'fair housing' message

WASHINGTON— The Arizona Fair Housing Center has been selected by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to receive a \$317,651 grant to provide fair housing enforcement activities throughout Arizona, announced Rep. Ed Pastor, D-Ariz.

Pastor, who was instrumental in securing the grant, said the center will conduct media and community education campaigns targeting low- to moderate-income and underserved populations—including non-English speaking individuals, minorities, immigrants, persons with disabilities and the elderly.

The HUD grant funds the second year of a multi-year project that includes the intake and processing of fair housing complaints; the referral of fair housing complaints to HUD, local fair housing jurisdictions, or private attorneys; and housing counseling, mediation and referral services.

“The more people know about their rights, the more empowered they will be to defend themselves against housing discrimination,” Pastor said. “This is especially important during these times when the foreclosure crisis has forced many individuals and families to relocate from their homes to new housing. These funds will help the Arizona Fair Housing Center continue to be a strong advocate and resource to help fight discrimination.”

The Arizona Fair Housing Center, 615 N. Fifth Ave., Phoenix, is a nonprofit agency founded in 1989 and dedicated to promoting fair housing and eliminating housing discrimination. Federal, state, and local fair housing laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of national origin, race, color, religion, sex, familial status (having children under 18 years of age), physical disability or mental impairment. These laws make it unlawful to discriminate in the sale, rental, financing, and insuring of housing.

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