

## **Resident Services Symposium**

**Talking points by Doris Koo**

**Washington, D.C.**

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- We're at an exciting and pivotal juncture in our efforts on behalf of low-income people. A new national campaign led by the Center for American Progress aims to cut poverty by half in a decade by raising the minimum wage, expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit, and increasing resources for child care and other services. Last week, former Senator John Edwards announced that he will chair the "Half in Ten" campaign.
- The work that all of you in this room are doing – to provide decent, affordable homes with onsite services for residents – is another powerful force in the effort to end poverty. It's also one of the most rational approaches the nation can take to help low-income families become financially independent and achieve their important goals.
- Consider this: Approximately three million low-income families live in government-assisted family housing. If one-third of these families acquired the asset-building skills needed to move to market-rate housing each year, 1 million families could move up and out of poverty in 10 years.
- But as all of you know, moving out of poverty means having the opportunity to participate in mainstream American life. That entails financial literacy, GED certification, computer skills, job training and access to jobs with career potential. It also means ensuring that children have the academic and life

skills necessary to succeed in school and beyond.

- By working together, affordable housing stakeholders, the social services community and policy makers can find better ways to finance housing-based resident services. And we can identify incentives for strengthening the link between social services and affordable housing developments.
- So we are here today to identify existing programs and policies. We want to examine what works. And to find new ways to maximize our resources so more families can improve their quality of life.
- Of course, we would not be here at all without the generous support of Freddie Mac and the Freddie Mac Foundation. We are grateful for their support of today's symposium, and for their strong and enduring partnership with Enterprise.
- In particular, the Freddie Mac Foundation heartily supports Enterprise's national family resident-services work. Right here, in Washington, D.C., the Freddie Mac Foundation is enhancing the resident-services work of several metro area affordable housing organizations.
- Most recently, the Freddie Mac Foundation provided resources to help Enterprise create a peer-sharing and training network for resident services practitioners in the D.C. metro area. We look forward to starting work on the network with many of you in this room.
- Now it's my privilege to introduce Ralph Boyd Jr., Executive Vice President of Community Relations at Freddie Mac, and Chairman and CEO of the Freddie Mac Foundation. Ralph oversees the national capital region's largest corporate

- philanthropic program, which includes corporate giving, employee volunteer activities, and Foundation grant making.
- Over the past 17 years, Freddie Mac and the Foundation have invested more than \$357 million to strengthen families and communities.
  - Ralph began his tenure at Freddie Mac as EVP and General Counsel. Prior to joining Freddie Mac, he was a senior partner at Alston & Bird, served as Assistant Attorney General of the United States for Civil Rights, and was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Boston U.S. Attorney's office. He is a graduate of the Harvard Law School and Haverford College.
  - Please join me in welcoming Ralph Boyd Jr.