

Regional Bulletin: 06-04

Community Affairs Program



Dear Chief Executive Officer:

I would like to take this opportunity to reacquaint you with the OTS's Community Affairs Program and some of the valuable services provided by the OTS West Region through Community Affairs Liaison Jim Woods.

The Community Affairs Program was created to help thrift institutions understand and meet their Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) obligations and to promote safe and sound community development-related lending, investment, service, and business activities. Principal components of the Community Affairs Program are: (1) outreach to financial institutions, community-based organizations, and other government agencies to help identify community credit and financing needs, as well as community development best practices; and (2) the promotion of partnership building and other initiatives to address unmet credit and financial services needs. The thrift industry has a very successful track record to date in this area, as evidenced by the favorable CRA performances and ratings of financial institutions in this region and throughout the country. Notwithstanding, community needs change over time and there are always new opportunities to further strengthen our communities.

Over the years, the West Region has accumulated a wealth of knowledge and contacts with respect to lending, investments, services, and new business opportunities designed to build communities and help revitalize and stabilize low- to moderate- income geographies. Jim Woods has coordinated and shared such information with thrifts in connection with community development and other training events and would be pleased to do so on a one-on-one basis with you and your management team. If you are interested to learn about local affordable housing projects, economic development initiatives, qualified investment opportunities, community service programs including financial education, and wealth building strategies, please contact Jim for assistance. For your convenience, this assistance can be provided in person, by telephone, or by electronic mail. Jim can be reached by telephone at (650) 746-7040, or by email: james.woods@ots.treas.gov.

Enclosed for your convenience is a brochure that summarizes the OTS's Community Affairs Program.

I encourage you to take advantage of our Community Affairs Program and to meet with Jim to learn about community development initiatives in your communities.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Finn
Regional Director



Community
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Enclosure