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Reinvestment WORKS

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NCRC Hosts Its Largest-Ever Annual Conference

By Ryan Conley

In March, Washington, DC thundered with the voices of the National Community Reinvestment Coalition's members and allies as they gathered for NCRC's 2014 Annual Conference. Over 600 attendees came together March 12-15 for four days of workshops, speeches, strategy sessions, and other events, all dedicated to the goal of making our economy fair and accessible to all Americans. This year's conference theme was "A Just Economy: Ideas, Action, Impact."

A major component of the conference's activities were the nearly 40 workshops featuring panels of experts and advocates and covering a broad range of issues, including access to capital and banking services, housing, community organizing and advocacy, workforce and community development, fair lending, and business development. These sessions were critical to the conference's goal of equipping activists, professionals, and policymakers with the knowledge and best practices needed to accomplish

› Continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

Older Adult Financial Exploitation 7
Secretary of Transportation Visits NCRC 9

NCRC Leads Fight to Improve Housing Finance Reform

By Ryan Conley

In 2014, a major advocacy focus for NCRC has been the issue of housing finance reform. On May 15, the Senate Banking Committee voted on the modified version of the Housing Finance Reform and Taxpayer Protection Act of 2013, known as "Johnson-Crapo." Since the beginning of the housing finance reform debate, NCRC has been fighting to bring access and affordability to the forefront of the discussion. Thanks to these efforts, as the legislation evolved, access for underserved communities gained prominence as an issue that, if not properly addressed, would be a deal-breaker for many of the senators on the Committee. Ultimately the bill did not do enough in

› Continued on page 8

Sen. Elizabeth Warren addresses Hill Day attendees

HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan delivers a keynote address on the morning of Hill Day

(Right) NCRC Board Members Dave Snyder, Ernest Hogan (Secretary), Robert Dickerson, Jr. (Chairperson), Jean Ishmon (Vice Chairperson), Dory Rand

2014 NCRC Annual Conference

‹ Continued from page 1

meaningful economic reform on local and national levels.

Throughout the conference, a lineup of government officials and leaders addressed the attendees and spoke about recent accomplishments, projects, and issues relevant to NCRC's mission. Martin Gruenberg, Chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, spoke of his longstanding relationship with NCRC and praised its work over the last two decades. Thomas Curry, Comptroller of the Currency, highlighted NCRC's work on a recent initiative in Appalachia. Steven Antonakes, Deputy Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, thanked NCRC for its partnership, stating that "the work all of you do day in and day out to better serve this nation's most vulnerable consumers, including those in low-income communities and communities of color, should stand as an inspiration to all of us."

Audience and presenter interact in one of nearly 40 workshops

One of the most anticipated events of the conference is Hill Day, the day on which NCRC members visit Capitol Hill to meet with their Congressional representatives. Hill Day began with a keynote address from Shaun Donovan, then-Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, who characterized NCRC's work and its leadership as a moral compass to many in Washington. He also emphasized the role NCRC is playing in housing finance reform, saying "I want to make sure that the fighting you have been doing, the way that you have raised your voices on this issue continues. Because I'll tell you what, you are making a huge difference."

Following Secretary Donovan's rousing affirmation that advocacy matters, NCRC members descended on Capitol Hill to visit their representatives and senators and advocate on access to credit and housing issues. Afterward, members shared their experiences and successes before the keynote address from Senator Elizabeth Warren. Senator Warren expounded upon the major issues that must be addressed in any housing finance reform, echoing NCRC's advocacy, and emphasized that it is an issue too important to be rushed. Hill Day events ended with the presentation of NCRC's Henry B. Gonzalez Award to Senator Tom Harkin for his work throughout his legislative career to help traditionally underserved people build wealth and access economic opportunities. Senator Harkin inspired the audience with his pledge that although he was retiring from Congress, "I'm not retiring from the fight!"

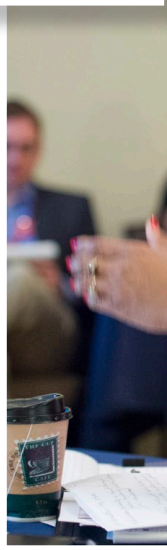
As always, a major highlight of the conference was the NCRC Awards Dinner. Rev. Dr. William Barber II, winner of NCRC's William Proxmire Lifetime Achievement Award, gave an empowering call to action that brought the audience to its feet. Encapsulating the spirit of NCRC's nationwide and diverse membership, he called for building a movement across the country and "lifting up the voices of everyday people." Manna, Inc. and the New Hampshire Loan Fund were also honored for their dedication to expanding financial access for working families and communities. NCRC President and CEO John Taylor followed with a moving speech recounting experiences in

› Continued on page 5

Sen. Tom Harkin receives the Henry B. Gonzalez Award at the Hill Day Congressional Luncheon.

Martin J. Gruenberg, Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, delivers a keynote address on the final day of the conference

NCRC Members attend the Hill Day Congressional Luncheon



2014 NCRC Annual Conference

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his youth that brought him to the cause of economic justice. The evening was both a celebration of accomplishments and a moment to reenergize for the work still to come.

As the conference concluded, participants returned to their communities motivated and prepared for another year of fighting for social and economic justice, and remembering the words of Rev. Barber: "Real movements in this country… don't start from DC down. …Movements start from the bottom up."

For pictures, presentations, and videos from this year's conference, visit www.ncrc.org/conference/. Next year's conference will take place March 25-28, 2015, at the Capital Hilton in Washington, DC. Register today! ■

Thomas J. Curry, Comptroller of the Currency, delivers a keynote address at the Welcome Luncheon

(Above) Conference attendees participate in a workshop.

(Left) Patricia Ross of the Covenant Faith Outreach Ministries/Covenant Community Development Corporation, an NCRC member, participates in a workshop on recent community reinvestment campaigns.

Rev. Dr. William Barber II speaks after receiving the William Proxmire Lifetime Achievement Award.

Rev. Jim Dickerson accepts the James Rouse Award on behalf of Manna, Inc.

2014 NCRC NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Rev. Dr. William Barber II

President, North Carolina NAACP

Senator William Proxmire Award

This award recognizes the individual whose life's work exemplifies the spirit and work of Senator Proxmire's contributions to economic mobility. Senator Proxmire was the author and lead sponsor of the Community Reinvestment Act.

Manna, Inc.

James Rouse Award

This award recognizes the most outstanding urban non-profit organization that best promotes fair and equal access to credit and capital and/or contributes the most in its community toward promoting wealth building in traditionally underserved populations.

Steven Antonakes, Deputy Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, delivers a keynote address on the first day of the conference

New Hampshire Community Loan Fund

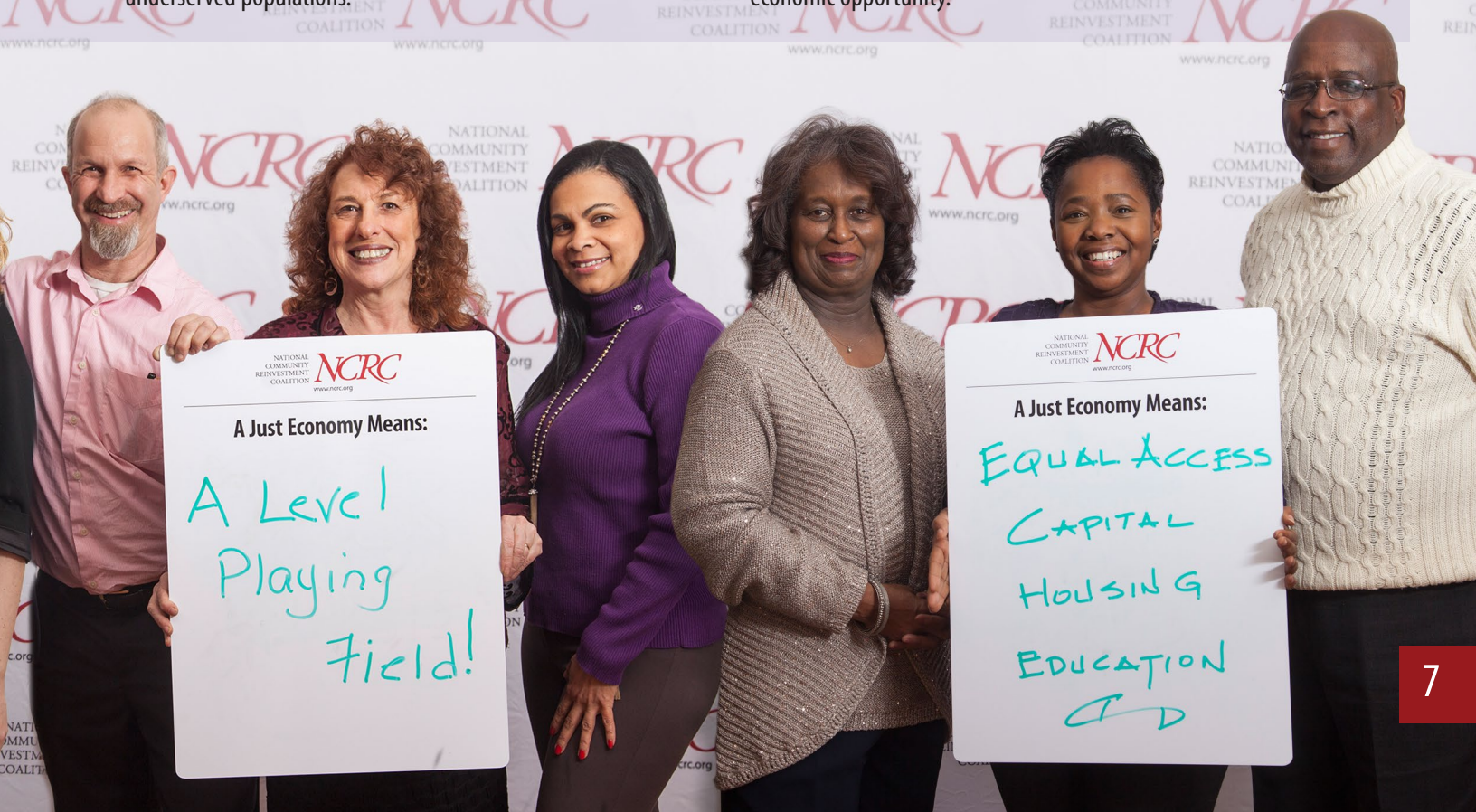
Representative James Leach Award

This award recognizes the most outstanding rural non-profit organization that best promotes fair and equal access to credit and capital and/or contributes the most in its community toward promoting wealth building in traditionally underserved populations.

Senator Tom Harkin

Representative Henry B. Gonzalez Award

This award recognizes the most outstanding government official/agency or for-profit firm that forges the most effective partnerships with community non-profits and assists them in helping traditionally underserved people build wealth and economic opportunity.



NCRC Leads Fight to Improve Housing Finance Reform

Continued from page 1

this area, and although it passed out of committee, the deeply divided 13-9 vote demonstrates the strong opposition to the bill. As a result, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is reportedly unlikely to bring the bill to a floor vote.

The limited support for the bill in the committee vote was a victory that came after months of advocacy by NCRC and its members to expose the many serious problems with the bill. NCRC has argued that if the bill became law it would create a hostile housing market for first-time buyers, communities of color, and working families.

> "The limited support for the bill in the committee vote was a victory that came after months of advocacy by NCRC and its members..."

The first attempt at housing finance reform in the Senate, known as Corker-Warner, called for the elimination of government sponsored enterprises Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, along with their affordable housing goals, without providing a replacement mechanism. The affordable housing goals help to ensure that creditworthy borrowers in underserved communities have access to conventional mortgage credit. They have been very important over the years in helping working Americans become and remain homeowners. In Corker-Warner there were no affordable housing goals and no requirement for the conventional market to serve traditionally underserved communities. In reaction to the proposal, NCRC launched a nationwide campaign to alert its members and other community groups to the damage Corker-Warner would cause to the housing market, the economy, and our communities, and the obstacles to homeownership it would create for millions of Americans.

In August of last year, NCRC released "A Guarantee for the Guarantee: Two Proposals to Ensure that the Future Secondary Mortgage Market Serves All Creditworthy Borrowers," an influential white paper presenting policy proposals to fill a critical gap in the existing legislation. This white paper elevated affordable housing to a prominent role in the debate, and improved the quality of the conversation surrounding access and housing finance reform. Johnson-Crapo partially adopted components of NCRC's proposal, making it a significant improvement over Corker-Warner, but ultimately the access provisions in the bill are still not strong enough to replace the affordable housing goals.

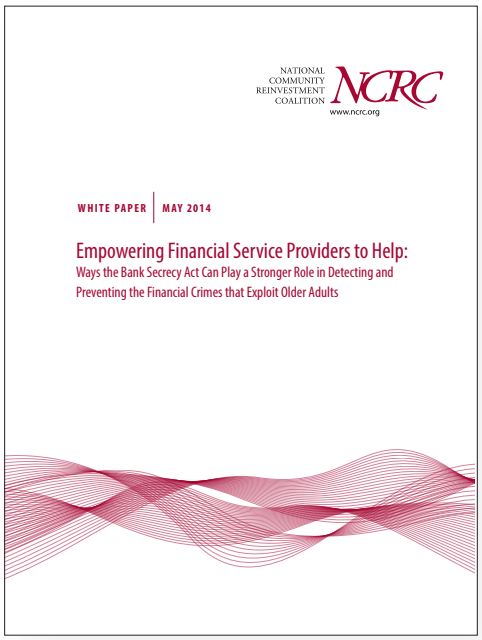
Before the release of Johnson-Crapo, NCRC held an event to bring attention to the need to preserve access to affordable housing and oppose any legislation that doesn't effectively do so. On January 31, NCRC presented the forum "Locked Out: What Losing Fannie, Freddie, and the Affordable Housing Goals Will Mean for the American Dream," featuring panel discussions among knowledgeable guests, which was broadcast on CSPAN. The NCRC Annual Conference in mid-March was an opportunity to hold workshops and all-conference sessions that explained and emphasized the issues at stake and to ask the over 600 attendees to help spread the message to other community groups and to policymakers. This culminated in a big push on NCRC's Hill Day. On Hill Day, NCRC members visited Capitol Hill and met with their Congressional representatives to inform them directly of the consequences of any housing finance reform that ignores the needs of their communities, and the need to ensure that all creditworthy borrowers have access to responsible lending.

The Johnson-Crapo draft was released on the heels of NCRC's conference, and NCRC seized the momentum that it had built during the event to push for a stronger access mechanism and address other problems with the bill before it came to a vote. NCRC released new materials on the bill, laying out access concerns and recommendations for solutions. NCRC's President and CEO, John Taylor, appeared in several prominent media outlets in an effort to increase nationwide awareness of the serious harm the bill could do to economic opportunities for working people. These efforts culminated in a letter to Senators Johnson and Crapo spearheaded by NCRC and signed by over 300 community groups presenting their concerns.

NCRC remains vigilant on this issue and is committed to ensuring that housing finance reform works for all Americans. NCRC recently joined with several national groups to send a letter to Senator Reid asking him to hold off on a floor vote on Johnson-Crapo in the Senate. NCRC will keep up the fight to ensure homeownership does not become the domain of a privileged few.

Want to learn more about NCRC's efforts on housing finance reform? Visit: http://www.ncrc.org/get-involved/hot-issues-take-action/item/935-spotlight-on-housing-finance-reform. ■

NCRC Releases White Paper on Older Adult Financial Exploitation



The National Community Reinvestment Coalition and National Neighbors Silver recently released a white paper on age-friendly banking titled "Empowering Financial Service Providers to Help: Ways the Bank Secrecy Act Can Play a Stronger Role in Detecting and Preventing the Financial Crimes that Exploit Older Adults." The white paper presents recommendations for actions that law enforcement and federal regulators, such as the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, can take through existing law to protect older adults from financial fraud. It also suggests training guidelines for financial service providers to better identify and report suspicious financial activities.

"As the population of older adults in America continues to rise dramatically, there has been an accompanying surge in financial crimes targeting them," said Bob Zdenek, Director of National Neighbors Silver. "Access to safe financial transactions and Age-Friendly Banking for older adults is increasingly urgent. This white paper is the latest step in NCRC and National Neighbors Silver's ongoing work to develop policy recommendations and awareness campaigns to make sure older adults' needs are effectively addressed."

The proposals in the white paper would expand the Bank Secrecy Act, a four-decades-old law that requires financial institutions to track and report transactions with signs characteristic of criminal activity. The suggestions create a tighter collaboration between financial service providers, regulators, and law enforcement to increase the likelihood of capturing more incidents of elder financial exploitation and to generate more information about the nature and prevalence of these crimes nationally.

NCRC recommends the following:

Recommendation 1: Federal financial regulators should eliminate any discretion for financial service providers by issuing regulations that require them to immediately report and share Suspicious Activity Reports with state and local law enforcement agencies.

Recommendation 2: Federal financial regulators should collectively issue regulatory guidance clarifying that state and local Adult Protective Services entities are "responsible law enforcement agencies" for the purposes of disclosing and reporting Suspicious Activity Reports.

Recommendation 3: Federal financial regulators responsible for enforcing the Bank Secrecy Act should collectively reduce the dollar threshold that triggers a financial service provider's "suspicious activity reporting" obligation to $2,000.

Recommendation 4: The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network should include elder financial exploitation instruction as a required component of the mandatory Banking Secrecy Act/Anti-Money Laundering compliance training that each employee of a financial service provider is required to receive.

Recommendation 5: The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau should collaborate to produce and release annual trend reports on elder financial exploitation using information derived from Suspicious Activity Reports.

The third recommendation in particular is important because it brings policy closer in line with the average amount lost by a victim of fraud. Taken together, the recommendations increase oversight of the aspects of financial fraud

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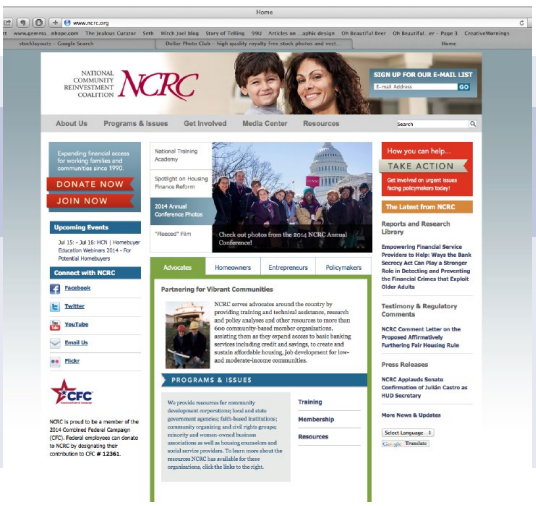

STAY UPDATED ON NCRC'S WORK

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Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx Visits NCRC to Honor Client Symmetra Design

By Florence Martelli and Ryan Conley

On May 13, Symmetra Design, a National Community Reinvestment Coalition Business Development Division incubator client, was honored by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx as part of National Small Business Week.

NCRC President and CEO John Taylor and NCRC Vice President of Business Development Samira Cook Gaines were thrilled to have one of NCRC's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)'s Business Center incubator clients highlighted by the Department of Transportation (DOT) for its Mentor-Protégé Pilot Program.

For the occasion, Secretary Foxx met with the protégé, Nicole White, Principal of Symmetra Design and the mentor, Greer Johnson Gillis, Area Manager of Parsons Brinckerhoff to discuss their working relationship and their thoughts on the program.

Symmetra Design is a woman-owned small business and a DOT-certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise that provides transportation planning and traffic engineering consulting throughout Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Since becoming a participant in the DOT Mentor-Protégé Pilot Program in March 2013, Symmetra Design has worked closely with Parsons Brinkerhoff to develop its core competencies and identify contracting opportunities. Through their participation in the program and their growing relationship, the firm was able to secure a subcontract from Parsons Brinkerhoff as part of the "Speed Limit and Safety Nexus Studies" project in the District of Columbia.

(Left to Right) Nicole White (Protégé), Principal, Symmetra Design, Anthony R. Foxx, United States Secretary of Transportation, Greer Johnson Gillis (Mentor), Area Manager, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Brandon Neal, Director, OSDBU Office for Department of Transportation

Administered by the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, the DOT Mentor-Protégé Pilot Program enhances the capability of disadvantaged and small-business owners to compete for federal contracting opportunities. The program encourages private-sector relationships and expands DOT's efforts to identify and respond to the developmental needs of small and disadvantaged businesses.

(Left to Right) Nicole White, Principal, Symmetra Design, Anthony R. Foxx, United States Secretary of Transportation, John Taylor, President and CEO, NCRC, Samira Cook-Gaines, Vice President, Business Development, NCRC

NCRC operates a variety of business development initiatives that support business ownership and entrepreneurship among people of color and women. The DC MBDA Business Center and NYC MBDA Business Center are sponsored by the U.S. Department of Commerce and managed by NCRC. They provide consulting services and technical assistance to high growth, minority-owned businesses in the Washington and New York metropolitan areas. The DC Women's Business Center is sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration and managed by NCRC. It provides training and consultation to assist in the growth of women-owned businesses as well as technical assistance with federal and local government procurement opportunities.

For more information on the DOT Mentor-Protégé Pilot Program, please visit: www.dot.gov/osdbu/procurement-assistance/mentor-protege-pilot-program. ■

NCRC NATIONAL TRAINING ACADEMY

Empowering Communities and Individuals Through Comprehensive Training

NATIONAL COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT COALITION NCRC www.ncrc.org

The National Community Reinvestment Coalition's National Training Academy provides comprehensive training programs for organizations committed to increasing access to credit in communities. We offer state-of-the-art substantive training and technical assistance both on-site and online.

Upcoming National Training Academy Courses:

SAVE THE DATE

ATLANTA, GA
September 15-19, 2014

MILWAUKEE, WI
November 17-21, 2014

SAN FRANCISCO, CA
January 12-16, 2015

WASHINGTON, DC
March 25-28, 2015

NEW ORLEANS, LA
April 6-10, 2015

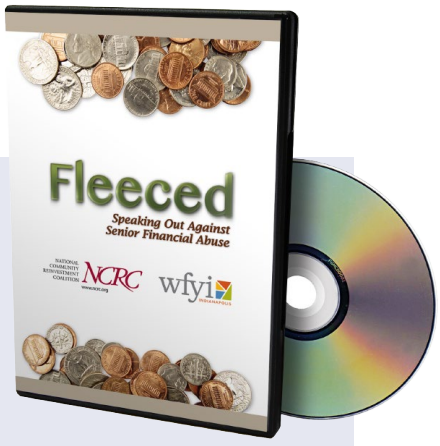
NCRC Releases White Paper on Older Adult Financial Exploitation

‹ *Continued from page 9*

that most often occur in instances of older adult financial abuse.

The white paper is part of NCRC's Age-Friendly Banking initiative, a program advocating for protection of older adults from financial abuse and customized financial products and services for older adults. Last year, NCRC released the white paper "A New Dawn: Age-Friendly Banking," which outlined the six principles of Age-Friendly Banking for financial institutions, regulators, and aging networks. NCRC has also produced a documentary, "Fleeced: Speaking Out About Senior Financial Abuse," featuring stories of senior financial fraud and how older adults are fighting back.

"As a society, we owe it to Older Americans to ensure that they are not financially abused and robbed of their hard-earned savings," said NCRC's President and CEO John Taylor. "By working together, financial service providers, regulators, and older adults and their families can make banking more safe and secure." ■



FLEECED Wins Emmy Award

NCRC and National Neighbors Silver are excited to announce that the NCRC documentary "Fleeced: Speaking Out Against Senior Financial Abuse" received a regional Emmy Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Great Lakes Chapter on June 7th. "Fleeced" was awarded the Emmy in the category Public/Current/Community Affairs, beating out six other finalists.

"Fleeced" is a joint production of NCRC and WFYI Indianapolis. It tells the stories of victims of senior financial fraud and how they are fighting back to help change the current landscape of economic security for older Americans. For information on hosting your own screening of "Fleeced," please visit http://www.ncrc.org/fleeced/.

Reinvestment WORKS

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NCRC welcomes your questions and member article comments. Contact us at:
NCRC, 727 15th Street, NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 628-8866 Fax: (202) 628-9800 | Email: communications@ncrc.org

Eric Hersey, Director of Communications • Leon Scott, Web and Social Media Manager • Richie Lynch, Graphic Designer and Publications Manager • Ryan Conley, Communications Coordinator

Not a member yet? Join today!

NCRC's members are community organizations across the country dedicated to promoting fair and equal access to credit, capital and banking services for all communities and populations.

Membership benefits include:

- Data analyses that help members understand bank investment patterns in their communities,
- Access to the members-only listserv,
- Subscriptions to Shelterforce Magazine and GrantStation, a weekly fundraising newsletter,
- Discounted rates for NCRC's Annual Conference, and
- Assistance engaging with federal officials.

Membership Eligibility:
Non-profit organizations and local and state governments/government agencies are eligible for membership.

How to Become a Member:
Becoming a member is easy!
Visit us online at www.ncrc.org,
call our Membership Department at 202.628.8866, or
email membership@ncrc.org.

Careers at NCRC

NCRC is always looking for talented and self-motivated individuals. To see the latest career opportunities, please visit ncrc.applicantpro.com.

If you are interested in working in a dynamic and diverse environment, please send a cover letter, resume, short writing sample and salary expectations to the Human Resources Department at hrdept@ncrc.org or to NCRC, 727 15th Street, NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20005.

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