

Executive Summary

Published monthly by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), *Blueprint Maryland: The State's Housing Economy in Review* reports the latest research on housing activity in Maryland, through statistical analysis of national, regional, state and county data. The newsletter also serves as a vehicle for DHCD to promote the State's mortgage loan program, to announce events, and to provide Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. with an opportunity to comment on the latest Maryland housing news.

Blueprint Maryland's readership includes Maryland's real estate community, commercial banks and mortgage companies, builders, housing advocates, local housing agencies, economic development agencies, the media, legislators, the Governor's office and state agencies, and the Governor's Commission on Housing Policy. Knowledge is power, and readers use information published in *Blueprint Maryland* to help DHCD's achieve its mission to increase homeownership and affordable housing statewide.

DHCD's Office of Research developed *Blueprint Maryland* in cooperation with the Office of Geographic Analysis and Mapping and the Office of Marketing. The Office of Research investigates and reports on emerging housing issues and national economic trends monthly. The office also provides statistical analysis of various topics, including the construction industry, mortgage rate and home sale trends, and homeownership affordability. The Office of Geographic Analysis and Mapping creates all charts and maps. Finally, the Office of Marketing edits, designs and produces the newsletter.

Each month, the newsletter is posted online at www.blueprintmaryland.com, along with all back issues. A graphic and link to the newsletter is also featured on DHCD's Web site (www.mdhousing.org). Maryland's award-winning business and legal newspaper, *The Daily Record*, also features a graphic and link to *Blueprint Maryland* on their home page (www.mddailyrecord.com). Beginning with the fifth issue, *Blueprint Maryland* is now inserted as a supplement to *The Daily Record* one Friday a month.

Blueprint Maryland has been a sound investment in staff time and printing costs in achieving our goals to inform and educate readers about the housing economy in Maryland in relation to national and regional data. To date, the newsletter has offered insight into a variety of topics, including surging home prices, a shortage of available and affordable housing, and the homeownership rate in Maryland. Detailed statistic analysis of the local construction industry, mortgage rate and home sale trends, and homeownership affordability are reported monthly.

Blueprint Maryland is an innovative newsletter, the first of its kind for a state HFA. Offering a comprehensive look at local, state, region and national economic and housing industry statistics, the well-designed, easy to read and informative newsletter is an important tool for decision-makers, including local and State governments; the construction, real estate and financial industries; and local housing advocates and agencies.

Attachments: Blueprint Maryland and screen shots of www.mdhousing.org, www.blueprintmaryland.com, and www.mdhousing.org