

WASHINGTON - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson will give the keynote address at a luncheon on May 1 during Congressman Spencer Bachus' three-day grant and funding resource conference.

"We are honored that Secretary Jackson will join us to discuss the importance of federal support for needed local projects. There is no better way to begin our conference, as the Secretary's expertise will bring needed insight into the grant process," Bachus said.

Secretary Jackson has served in his current role since March 2004. Prior to being confirmed as Secretary of HUD, Mr. Jackson served as HUD's Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer.

Secretary Jackson has a long history of working on housing issues, including serving as President and CEO of the Housing Authority of the City of Dallas from January 1989 until July 1996.

Prior to his service in Dallas, Secretary Jackson served as Executive Director for the St. Louis Housing Authority and later as Director of the Department of Public and Assisted Housing in Washington, D.C.

Bachus' grant conference kicks-off May 1 with federal, state, and local officials conducting various breakout sessions to discuss funding resources. May 2-3, HUD grant-writing experts will teach a comprehensive two-day curriculum on writing federal grants, providing participants with ideas and approaches to obtaining federal funds and strategies for developing coalitions.

Local and statewide elected officials, along with their administrative staff, are encouraged to attend. Chambers of commerce and business owners; law enforcement, fire and rescue officials; faith-based and community organizations; educators and interested individuals are also invited.

For additional information, please visit www.bachusgrantconference.com or call Congressman Bachus' district office at (205) 969-2296.

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