



# Federal Regional Council Region IX

## 2008 Priorities One-Pagers

## **USDA Food and Nutrition Service Priorities for FY 2008**

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is responsible for the proper administration of fifteen Federal food assistance programs that are operated by State, local and Indian Tribal Governments. The priorities for the principal food assistance programs for FY 2008 are:

### **Food Stamp Program (FSP)**

1. Improve the accuracy of states' certification of households for the FSP.
2. Increase the participation in the FSP of eligible households—with special emphasis on Hispanic households in California.
3. Improve the health of low-income participants in the FSP by providing them with nutrition education.

### **Retailer Operations (FSP-Field Operations)**

1. Continue to realign field office functions and staff to optimize retailer integrity and efficiency

### **Disaster Operations (Field Operations)**

1. Respond efficiently and effectively to disasters
2. Promote disaster awareness internally and externally through training, meetings, presentations and tool development

### **Household Distribution Programs - Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) (Field Operations)**

1. Enhance communication with stakeholders
2. Champion nutrition education efforts that promote wellness
3. Ensure program accountability and integrity

### **Women, Infants and Children (WIC)**

1. Support State Agency adaptation of participant-driven, Value-Enhanced Nutritional Assessment (VENA) initiative in participant nutritional risk assessment.
2. Support State Agency adaptation of new WIC Food Package including fresh fruits and vegetables voucher.
3. Improve the performance of the worst performing WIC State Agencies.

### **Special Nutrition Programs (SNP)**

1. Implementation of the 2005 Dietary Guidelines in Program.
2. Enhancing Nutrition Education and Promotion.
3. Promotes healthy eating and active living behaviors through program-specific nutrition education and integrated cross-program nutrition education.
4. Improving Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Management.
5. Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HUD**  
**Priorities for FY 2008**

The mission of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is to increase homeownership, support community development and expand access to affordable housing free from discrimination.

**HUD's 2008 Strategic Goals and Objectives:**

- **Increase Homeownership Opportunities** by continuing to provide support to homeownership activities sponsored by Region IX. Focus will also be on preventing existing homeowners from losing their homes via foreclosure.
- **Promote Decent Affordable Housing**
- **Strengthen Communities** by collaborations, partnerships, networking, capacity building, technical assistance working with faith-based and community organizations, other federal agencies, such as FRC, staff/convene Interagency on Homelessness; participate in Project Homeless Connect events; participate in preparation of events and meetings; support emerging disasters and recruitment efforts for DHAP.
- **Ensure Equal Opportunity in Housing** by educating grantees on Fair Housing and Fair Lending laws and regulations; conducting Section 504 compliance reviews of HUD participants; conducting limited civil rights monitoring of HUD-funded entities.
- **Embrace High Standards of Ethics, Management and Accountability:** Review and update COOP Plan; partner with American Red Cross of S.F. Bay Area – coordinate and conduct a shelter-in-place training and practice for the SF Regional Office; conduct exercise to practice telework capabilities for CERG members and effectiveness of devolution procedures; complete Management and Occupancy Reviews through HUD staff and contractors; ongoing efforts to provide outstanding customer service; conduct briefings for Congressional offices and local elected officials.
- **Promote Participation of Faith-Based and Community Organizations -** Continue to provide technical assistance to help increase their capacity in the delivery of services to their respective communities; continue to work with FRC's Faith-Based Committee; continue to provide free Grant Writing Workshops throughout Region IX.

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
PRIORITIES for FY 2008**

- VA has doubled its budget in providing homeless specific services. The budget called for \$287 million in homeless program specific spending; however with the Consolidated Appropriations Act (Dec. 2007) that number will exceed \$300 million. More than \$130 million will be targeted toward the Grant and Per Diem Program.
- VA funded 11 new Domiciliary Residential and Rehabilitation Treatment Programs (DRRTPs) between FY 05 and FY 07. Additionally, 15 DRRTPs received funding to enhance staffing to provide specialized services for substance abuse treatment to serve homeless veterans.
- VA has authorized more than 11,500 beds at more than 350 community and faith based programs through the Grant and Per Diem Program. It is estimated that an additional 3,000 beds will be created this Fiscal Year under a \$37 million Notice of Funding Availability under VA Homeless Grant and Per Diem Program.
- VA is committed to hiring the necessary case management staffing to support the expansion of the HUD/VASH program. Congress has appropriated \$75 million to create an additional 9,800 Section 8 housing vouchers to provide permanent housing units for homeless veterans which will include veteran's families. This program will enhance the capacity of VA to provide appropriate services to our newest veterans who are more likely to be accompanied by their spouse and children while seek our services.
- VA is committed to providing outreach and coordination services to veterans eligible for release from incarceration. It is estimated that 60,000 veterans are released from Federal and State Prisons each year. VA had hired Incarcerated Veterans Outreach Specialists in each VISN to provide transitional planning assistance for eligible veterans being released from prison to prevent recidivism and re incarceration.
- Project CHALENG (Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups for Veterans) is a nationwide initiative in which VA works with other federal, state, and local agencies and non profit organizations to assess the needs of homeless veterans.
- Stand Downs are grass roots events held by VA in conjunction with many community agencies in an effort to reach and provide service to homeless veterans. There were 125 Stand Downs held during calendar year 2006 which served more than 23,000 veterans, 2,600 spouses and 1,000 children of veterans.
- VA is implementing evidence based services for OEF/OIF, Substance Use Disorders and Seriously Mentally Ill Veterans. VA is targeting preventive measures and early identification and treatment for newly returning OEF/OIF homeless veterans and their families or veterans at risk of homelessness to assist with health care, benefits, and housing services.

# U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

## Region 9: The Pacific Southwest

Serving Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the Pacific Islands, and Tribal Nation



### Region 9 2008 Priorities

#### Guiding Principles

- Accelerate the pace of environmental protection
- Focus on achieving environmental results
- Assure compliance through assistance and enforcement
- Ensure environmental justice for all people in all aspects of our work
- Invest in our diverse workforce to achieve outstanding performance
- Promote pollution prevention, environmental stewardship, and sustainability
- Enhance state and tribal partnerships
- Promote innovation and collaboration
- Use science and technology to address priorities

#### Clean the Air

- Improve air quality in South Coast and San Joaquin, the areas of the country with the largest health burdens from air pollution, as well as the following high priority areas: Sacramento, CA; Phoenix, AZ; Clark County, NV; US/Mexico Border region
- Reduce emissions from on-road and non-road diesel sources along West Coast through West Coast Collaborative
- Improve permit program effectiveness through targeted evaluations
- Increase public access to ambient air quality data
- Achieve air toxics reduction through community-based projects which address environmental justice priorities
- Promote energy efficiency through clean energy, green building/Energy Star partnerships, alternative fuels projects
- Provide leadership & initiate clean energy projects through Regional Energy & Climate Change Strategy
- Provide regional leadership to reduce environmental impacts from ports through collaboration and new technologies

#### Protect and Restore the Water

- Promote watershed partnerships and approaches to restore waters via regulatory/voluntary tools
- Reduce beach pollution from sewer overflows and stormwater
- Minimize losses of wetland acres through permitting and enforcement actions
- Improve state/local stormwater implementation
- Strengthen water quality and wetlands monitoring to assess waters
- Increase compliance with drinking water requirements to protect public health
- Improve drinking water and wastewater infrastructure through enforcement, innovative financing, and technical assistance

#### Preserve and Restore the Land

- Promote resource conservation by emphasizing waste reduction, reuse, and recycling and preferable purchasing programs
- Assess, control and remediate contaminated sites
- Coordinate national implementation of the US/China strategy on hazardous waste
- Revitalize communities by facilitating clean up of properties for redevelopment and reuse

#### Assure Healthy Communities

- Assist other federal agencies in reducing significant threats to the environment through our National Environmental Policy Act authority
- Assist Tribes and Pacific Islands in addressing unmet public health and priority environmental needs, such as safe drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, and closure of solid waste open dumps
- Implement US/Mexico Border 2012 Plan to reduce pollution in air, water and on land; improve public health conditions (wastewater and drinking water); reduce exposure to chemicals
- Focus on San Joaquin Valley to attain measurable environmental results related to agriculture
- Build a partnership with DOD for the military expansion on Guam
- Work with partners to ensure meaningful community involvement and reduce cumulative environmental exposure in impacted communities

#### Ensure Compliance and Enforcement

- Maximize compliance to protect human health and environment through enforcement, compliance assistance, compliance incentives, and Supplemental Environmental Projects
- Promote performance track, pollution prevention and stewardship to improve and go beyond compliance

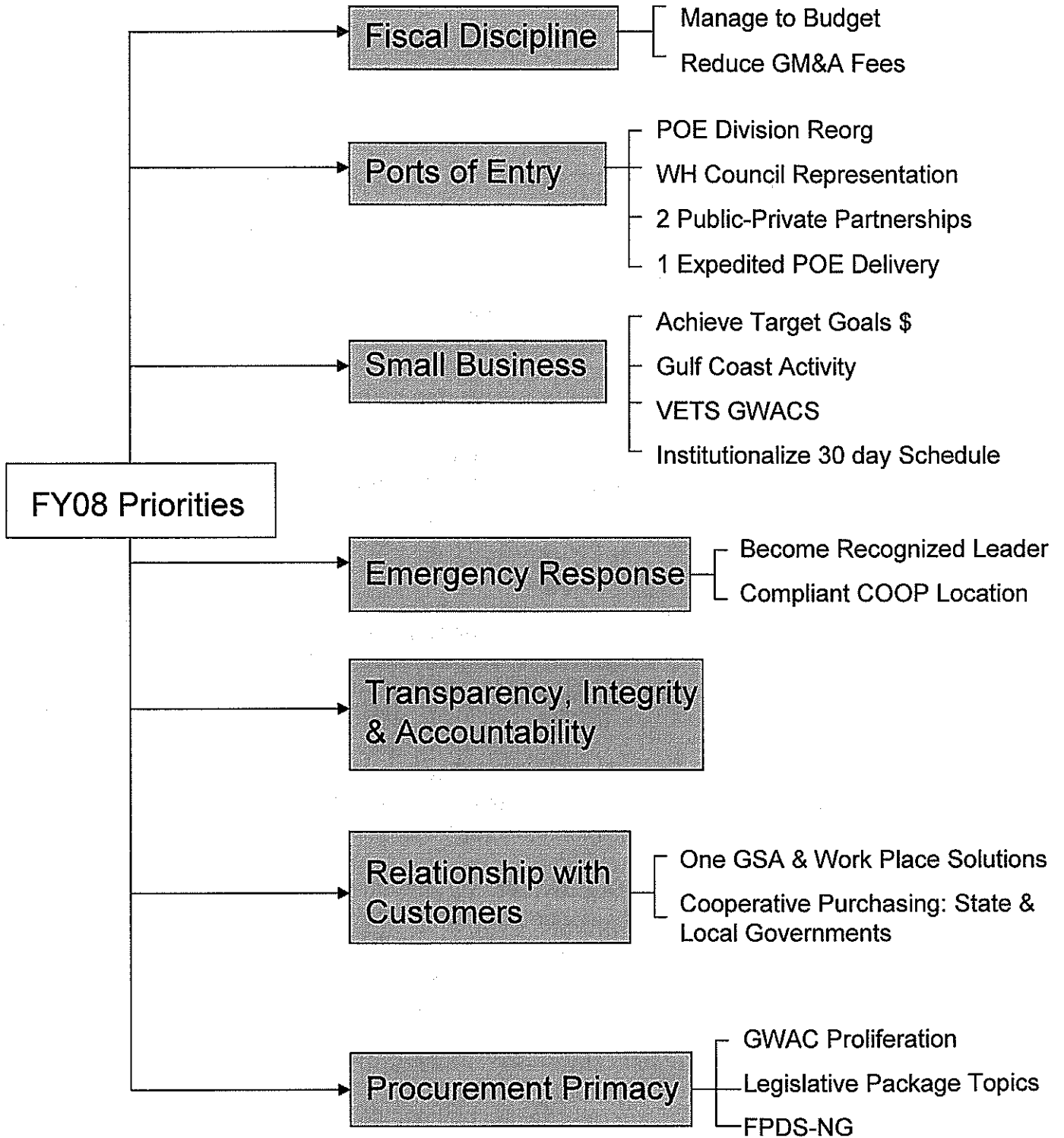
#### Promote Homeland Security

- Reduce and control risks posed by accidental and intentional releases of harmful substances
- Improve emergency response preparedness in support of the National Response Framework

#### Enhance Management and Accountability

- Provide leadership for national implementation of the Administrator's "A Stronger EPA" workforce development priority
- Strengthen strategic management of information to improve alignment among resource allocation, planning, and budgeting processes.
- Continue implementation of Environmental Management Systems for Region 9 facilities and communicate results both internally and externally

# GSA's FY08 Priorities



## **FDIC PRIORITIES 2008**

- **Alliance for Economic Inclusion** - Ongoing efforts in Los Angeles and Fresno to expand results in the areas of: new bank accounts, small dollar loan products, remittance products, and financial education. Visibility and support of AEI activities will be raised through national partnerships with NeighborWorks America, the US Conference of Mayors and United Way.
  
- **Bank on California** - Provide support for the FDIC partnership with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on Bank on California, a collaborative voluntary initiative of the Office of the Governor, financial institutions, city mayors, federal bank regulatory agencies, and community organizations. Diverse coalitions are forming in Fresno, Oakland and San Jose (in addition to existing "Bank on..." projects in San Francisco and Los Angeles) to provide financial education resources and market new accounts to currently unbanked and/or underbanked Californians. Similar efforts will begin in Sacramento and San Diego later in 2008.
  
- **SJV Financial Education Advisory Group in Fresno** - Continue to build on existing network of local community-based, financial institution and government partners to expand support of current projects:
  1. Central Valley Financial Literacy Initiative (CVFLI)
  2. EITC/VITA sites
  3. McLane High School Student-run bank branch and youth IDA
  4. Financial education efforts at Fresno Adult School and Fresno Community College
  
- **Money Smart/Financial Education in Schools** - expand our work to add substantially to the schools currently using Money Smart by:
  1. launching Money Smart for Young Adults
  2. providing outreach, information and training to teachers and local partners.
  
- **Foreclosure Intervention** – Ongoing support of local and statewide coalitions in the San Francisco Region (in areas with high foreclosure rates) to:
  1. negotiate parameters for servicing and investor policy changes
  2. encourage mainstream banks to become part of the solution by refinancing to fixed rate loans where possible
  3. provide foreclosure counseling training through NeighborWorks America for non-profit housing counseling partners
  4. provide general information to consumers.