

Workforce Housing

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Charged with developing affordable, quality workforce housing solutions for residents of Biloxi and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization certified by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institution Fund. Certification qualifies Renaissance for an allocation of tax credits through the New Market Tax Credit Program, which will be effective through January 2013. The Regional Employer Assisted Collaboration of Housing (REACH) Program, initiated by Renaissance and funded through the state's Long-Term Workforce Housing Program, assists businesses in providing housing for their employees. Employers have the option of providing \$5,000 to \$10,000 per participating employee, which will be tripled through the program and used for housing down payment and closing costs.

Retirement in Biloxi

www.gulfcoastretirement.org
www.visitmississippi.org

Listed as a Modern Maturity magazine's "Top Ten Places for Active Retirement," Biloxi retirees take advantage of the wide range of local activities available, including golfing at designer courses, dancing and eating at casino resorts, year-round boating and fishing, enjoying concerts, symphony and theater performances, educational forums and walks on the beach. This culturally- and recreationally diverse social life is complemented by state-of-the-art medical facilities, exceptional housing options and active local churches and religious institutions. Keesler Air Force Base, with the second largest military medical facility in the U.S. and a new \$60 million Base Exchange and commissary opened in March 2010, adds to Biloxi's appeal for military retirees considering a move to the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

As a Certified Retirement City, the City of Biloxi passed a comprehensive three-month screening process conducted by the state's official retiree attraction program, Hometown Mississippi Retirement. The City was evaluated on its affordable cost of living, low taxes, low crime rate, quality medical care, educational and cultural opportunities, recreation and hospitality.

New Retirement Residential Facilities in Biloxi

The Catholic Diocese of Biloxi is constructing a \$25.3 million residential complex on a 10-acre site in North Biloxi. Scheduled to be complete by the summer of 2012, the new **Santa Maria del Mar Retirement Apartment Complex** will consist of two 6-story wings to house a total of 135 efficiency units, 74 one-bedroom units and a manager's apartment. A common area between the wings will contain administrative offices, lounges, an assembly room, vending areas, kitchen, laundry and mail rooms.

Further expanding availability of senior housing, in March 2011 the Biloxi Housing Authority opened the renovated **Seashore Oaks**, formerly the United Methodist Retirement Home on Beach Boulevard. Purchased through its subsidiary, Biloxi Community Development Corporation, BHA is managing this 227-unit complex through the Long-Term Workforce Housing Program, which provided \$21.5 million of the \$27 million designated for the project. 162 units are available for households with incomes of 80% or less of area median income (AMI) and 65 units will be rented to households with incomes less than 120% of the AMI. 82 of the units provide assisted-living services.

Santa Maria del Mar Conceptual Drawing



For more information about retirement living in Biloxi, visit www.gulfcoastretirement.org or www.seniorsresourceguide.com/gulfcoast
