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## HUD Releases Cost-Saving Construction Guide

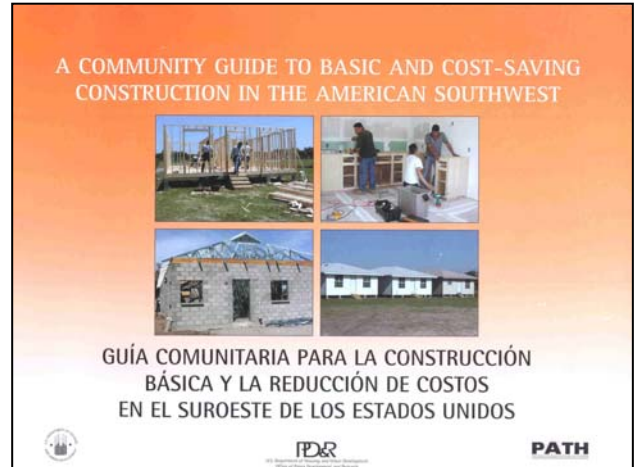
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NORWALK, CT -- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has just published a comprehensive guide to cost-saving construction in the rural southwest. A *Community Guide to Basic and Cost-Saving Construction in the American Southwest*, written by Steven Winter Associates, Inc. (SWA), will help the reader through the process of developing affordable housing, by highlighting cost-saving technologies and construction strategies. Also presented are case studies of three affordable housing projects by local non-profit developers who are successfully producing low-cost housing in some of the poorest communities in the American Southwest. With text in both English and Spanish, the guide will appeal to regional non-profit developers and homeowners, providing them with the cost-saving technologies and design strategies they need to build affordable housing.



This guide was prompted by the dearth of well-constructed affordable housing in the American Southwest, particularly in the colonias region bordering the U.S. and Mexico. The guide presents more than 30 low- or no-cost construction techniques that can improve the quality and energy efficiency of a home. Topics include: mold prevention, passive solar techniques, advanced framing techniques, cool roofing, proper HVAC sizing, and rainwater harvesting systems. This information is supplemented with guidance on where to apply such strategies, on cost benefits, and on the skill level required for implementation. Also discussed are regulatory obstacles associated with affordable housing development, and energy efficient mortgages. The guide is liberally illustrated with photos of new affordable housing projects, and includes pictures and diagrams of technologies, products, and materials that are appropriate for application in this part of the U.S.

Copies of the guide can be ordered directly from SWA, or through the HUD User website at: [www.huduser.org/publications/destech/cost\\_saving.html](http://www.huduser.org/publications/destech/cost_saving.html).

*Steven Winter Associates is an architecture, engineering, and building systems research firm with offices in Norwalk, Connecticut, Washington, DC, and New York City. The firm specializes in building accessibility, energy performance analysis, sustainable materials specification, indoor air quality, technology transfer, and event management. Information on this and related projects is available on the SWA website at [www.swinter.com](http://www.swinter.com).*

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