

REGION III HUDLINE NEWS



May 2012

■ E-Briefs from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development ■ Region III (DE, DC, MD, PA, VA & WV) ■ (215) 656-0500 ■ Jane C.W. Vincent, Regional Administrator ■ www.hud.gov/pennsylvania

A Message from the Regional Administrator

Dear Friends,

As I travel around the Region, I'm constantly inspired by the commitment, care and passion of HUD's partners with regard to their everyday work. I admire local cities and state governments who partner with nonprofits, faith and community based organizations to provide energy efficient affordable housing. I am proud that Federal government agencies are collaborating to get more results from the money invested in regional planning to build sustainable communities.

Recently, I had the opportunity to be part of the Annual Fair Housing Month Luncheon sponsored by the Fairfax County Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs in collaboration with the Equal Rights Center and the Northern Virginia Association of REALTORS. I was delighted to meet Min Joo Kim and Norine King at the luncheon. Ms.Kim and Ms. King are Fairfax County, VA high school students. Ms. Kim won the Poster contest and Ms. King's poem won first place in a Fair Housing essay contest sponsored by the Fairfax County Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs, in partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools. On the next page, you'll find the poem Ms. King wrote to express this year's theme: "Fair Housing: Keys to Opportunity." Inspired by Ms. King, I invite everyone to "Live Free" from discrimination and "Create Equal Opportunity in Every Community."

Sincerely,



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Focus on Fair Housing...

HUD and its partner agencies want to investigate all housing discrimination complaints, but are blocked from doing so if people aren't able to report them. Email or contact us at (800) 669-9777 and for the hearing impaired, please call TTY (800)927-9275. For those who speak another language besides English, or whose English proficiency may not be strong, HUD has translated more than 100 vital HUD documents into 18 different languages so that people with limited English proficiency may have equal access to HUD programs, services, and activities. HUD also has language phone lines that provide oral interpretations for 175 languages 24-hours a day, 7 days a week to help persons who are limited English proficient to file fair housing complaints. You'll find more about Fair Housing efforts later in this issue - read on...





Follow HUD happenings between newsletters through social media – search @HUDMidAtlantic on Twitter or join the HUD group on Facebook!

HUD's Mission: To create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities with quality, affordable housing for all.

Keys to Opportunity by Norine King

My home is an African lullaby whispered between lips the color of midnight consistent as iridescent stars suspended by eternity comforting as the tangled bush that sprouts from my scalp rich as eyes the color of earth before harvest

My home is a story interwoven like tweed stained deep by the memory of my grandmother's past yet warm as the life ebbing through my veins made constant by the rhythmic drumming of my heart

My home is a pink blossom under a taunt orange sun sweet nectar melting bitter pain rain on a flower bent by an oppressive summer heat clingy damp hugs from dew the next morning

My home is a barrier like the thick callouses on my palm as unique and coveted as the color of my skin complex as the math that allows a bird to fly yet as simple as the bird spreading its wings

My home is an open embrace to a prodigal son a future pregnant with hopeful love a second chance to a wounded soldier my home is a key to opportunities

SETTLEMENT SAVVY...

You may be interested in the Attorney General's settlement with five major mortgage servicers. Here is an information page to help you find out if you or someone you know may be eligible to participate in the settlement.

The historic settlement, which will bring relief to distressed homeowners throughout the country, follows an extensive investigation into foreclosure abuses, fraud, and unacceptable mortgage servicing practices such as "robo-signing." Each state is deciding on the best way to implement its share of the settlement, and the websites for the Offices of the Attorneys General in Maryland (nearly \$1 billion), Virginia (more than \$479 million), District of Columbia (\$40 million), West Virginia (\$33 million), Delaware (\$45 million) and Pennsylvania (\$266 million) have information to educate homeowners about the settlement and eligibility guidelines for each state.

HUD cautions everyone to <u>beware of scams</u> related to the settlement. Help is free, so there shouldn't be any charge to obtain assistance with the settlement. Here are some important web pages for more information:

- www.NationalForeclosureSettlement.com
- HUD: Overview of Mortgage Servicing Settlement

SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERS AT WORK

HUD's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities (OSHC), in partnership with the Office of Policy Development and Research, has launched the <u>Sustainable Communities Resource Center</u> (SCRC) — a new section

of HUDUSER.org for information that supports local and regional sustainability strategies, with an emphasis on sustainable housing and planning.

An "Orientation to Sustainable Environmental Assessment" class is now forming. The class will be held at the Johns Hopkins Bloomburg School of Public Health in Baltimore, MD, July 30 through August 3. For more information and to register, click here.

HUD FUNDING RESOURCES

- Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Planning Grant applications are due May 1.
- Assisted Living Conversion Program applications are due May 5.
- Service Coordinators in Multifamily Housing applications are due May 14.
- Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing applications are due May 14.
- Family Self Sufficiency (ROSS) applications are due May 30.
- ➤ Performance Based Contract Administration (PBCA) Program for Project Based Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Contracts applications are due June 11.

DUE DATES FOR OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

- May 1 Department of Labor (DOL) Serving Juvenile Offenders in High-Poverty, High-Crime Communities grants.
- May 4 DOL Serving Adult and Youth Ex-Offenders through Strategies Targeted to Characteristics Common to Female Ex-Offenders grants.
- May 4 State Farm Insurance Companies Youth Advisory Board grants.
- **May 7 -** DOE Predictive Modeling for Automotive Lightweighting Applications and Advanced Alloy Development for Automotive and Heavy-Duty Engines contract.
- May 8 DOL YouthBuild grants.
- May 9 USDA <u>Rural Community Development Initiative grants</u> to provide capacity building assistance.
 This year, some RCDI funds are available separately as part of the Rural <u>Rural Jobs and Innovation</u>
 <u>Accelerator Challenge</u>. See the Federal Register, <u>3/21/12</u>, visit <u>Grants.gov</u>, or contact a <u>USDA Rural Development state office</u>.
- May 10 DOL Senior Community Service Employment Program National grants.
- May 14 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Grant for the Wellness Initiative's "Million Hearts Social Marketing Programs" for Peer-Run Recovery Community Organization Awards. Email SAMHSA to indicate intent to apply.
- May 15 DOEZero Emission Cargo Transport Demonstration contract.
- May 24 DOL Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grants.
- May 24 DOE Information Technology Operations and Maintenance Support Services grants.
- May 25 Administration for Children and Families' Assets for Independence grants to community-based
 organizations to administer Individual Development Account projects. For more information, see the ACF
 grants website or Grants.gov.
- May 30 Department of Veterans Affairs Grant and Per Diem Program for Homeless Veterans. Read more about it <u>here</u>.
- May 31 DOE Wireless Charging for Electric Vehicles contract.
- June 1 2012 Neighborhood Builder awards from the <u>Bank of America Charitable Foundation</u>.
- June 1 DOEMethane Hydrate Program contract.

FHA LEADS THE WAY

Webinars on the calendar:

➤ May 10: FHA Changes and Updates. This training will cover the latest updates as announced in FHA's most recent Mortgagee Letters. 3:00 – 4:00pm EST. Registration required, no fee. To register, click here.

- ➤ May 24: FHA Condominium Eligibility Requirements. This training will cover the latest updates on FHA condominium eligibility only. The condominium approval process will NOT be covered in this webinar. 1:00 2:00 pm EST. Registration required, no fee. To register, click here.
- ➤ June 7: Selling HUD REO's. This training will cover the roles of the Asset and Field Service Managers; who can purchase and sell HUD REO's; types of HUD Home listings; electronic bidding; "incentive" programs; common delays, and more. 1:00 2:00 pm EST. Registration required, no fee. To register, click here.

If you missed a recent FHA webinar, please visit our webinar archive to view.

New Mortgagee Letters:

2012-07 Introduces HUD's new Ioan servicing contractor, DEVAL, LLC, and provides the contractor's mailing address and contact information.

To read all FHA Mortgagee Letters, click here.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

May 11 – Workshop proposals are due for the 2012 Common Cents Conference. Information about the conference and the application for workshop proposals are available here.

May 29 – Comments are due on suggested streamlining for mixed-finance Section 202 and 811 developments. See Federal Register, 3/28/12 or http://www.regulations.gov. Contact Aretha Williams, HUD, 202-708-3000.

May 29 – Comments are due on a proposed rule streamlining key elements of "portability" in the Housing Choice Voucher program. See *Federal Register*, 3/28/12 or http://www.regulations.gov.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

The "Annual Advocate's Guide" has been published by the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC). The 2012 Advocates' Guide to Housing and Community Development Policy offers articles on federal programs and issues, and is free at http://www.nlihc.org or can be ordered for a fee from Shannon Faulk, National Low Income Housing Coalition, shannon@nlihc.org, 202-662-1530 x224.



HUD held its inaugural Father's Day event on June 18, 2011. Adapted from the New York City Housing Authority Fatherhood Initiative, the program was developed in response to data showing the negative impact on children and youth who live in homes without fathers. This year, HUD expects to go one step further and place Father's Day in a larger context. While HUD still wants Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to work toward increasing the bonds between fathers and their children throughout the year, it is hoped that, in addition to hosting a Father's Day event in June, participating PHAs will hold ongoing activities that could serve to connect fathers and their children. The activities could include anything from working with schools to reach out to fathers on Parent's Night; to

asking Dads to help with Mother's Day events. To capture this expanded vision the Department is calling this initiative "Reconnecting Families and Dads." Register an event by clicking here.

May 11 - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Webinar "Shared Decision Making and Recovery: Using Decisional Support Tools to Advance Recovery Supports." For more information, contact Rebecca Stouff at rstouff@center4si.com.

Beware of Housing "Relief" Scams: Under the Federal Trade Commission's Mortgage Assistance Relief Services (MARS) Rule, it is illegal for a company to ask for payment until it gives a written offer of loan modification or other relief from the lender and the homeowner accepts the offer.

DON'T BE SORRY - BE READY

The most common disaster that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) deals with involves flooding. Insurance companies seldom offer coverage for flood damage, but FEMA does. The National Flood Insurance Program provides federally backed insurance to property owners, business owners and renters in communities nationwide that participate in the program. Major disasters are declared in fewer than half of the floods that occur. National Flood Insurance Program claims are paid regardless of whether a disaster is declared or not. For additional information about flood insurance contact your local agent or visit www.floodsmart.gov.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND REGION III...

HUD EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA/ REGIONAL OFFICE

HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan will deliver the keynote address at "Reinventing Older Communities: Building Resilient Cities." The conference is scheduled for May 9-11, in Philadelphia. Its particular focus is on smaller cities that were once manufacturing centers. See the agenda and register for the conference.



HUD's commitment to creating equal opportunity in every community was the focus of Regional Administrator Jane C. W. Vincent's remarks to the April 26th Fair Housing Summit in Allentown. The symposium's goal was to educate landlords, lawyers and others about the Fair Housing Act. Allentown is part of the Lehigh Valley, which is in the process of planning a regional analysis of impediments to fair housing; a critical consideration for the implementation of the \$3.4 million Sustainable Communities Planning Grant awarded in November, 2011.

HUD WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA



On April 20, Vandergrift City officials held a long anticipated groundbreaking to separate the borough's storm water sewer system from its sanitary sewer system. Community Development Block Grant funds were used for the identification and mapping of the Borough's entire sanitary sewer system to document the scope of deterioration. Results from the scoping led to another \$4,175,000 dollars in grant funds being

received from PennVest to move ahead with the project. Pictured, from left to right, are: Engineer Lucien Bove; Vice President of Council Vernon E. Sciullo; Engineer Michael Bove; PENNVEST Project Manager Larry Gasparato, PENNVEST Executive Director Dr. Paul Marchetti, Councilwoman Kathy Chvala; Mayor Louis Purificato; President of Council Brian Carricato Westmoreland County Commissioner Ted Kopas, State Representative Joseph A. Petrarca J., Councilwoman Christine Wilson, Councilman Lenny Collini, Scott Frankowski representing Senator James Ferlo and Councilman Frank Moliterno

Pittsburgh Green House- A project of ACTION-Housing, Inc., is offering free Community Conservation classes in May. Call 412-362-4PGH or visit the Pittsburgh Green House website.

On April 10, Jane C.W. Vincent, HUD Region III Administrator, and Ed Thomas, Healthy Homes Representative, presented a \$2.48 million grant to Lawrence County Community Action Program (LCCAP) on behalf of 15 community partners who will utilize HUD's Office of Healthy Homes & Lead Hazard Control (OHHLHC) funds to create healthy housing while protecting children from lead and other home health hazards, and to help sustain the nation's housing stock. This grant will be matched and leveraged with other federal, state, local and private housing funds in the communities where it is to be used. With this funding, Lawrence County's Pennsylvania Regional Lead Hazard



Control Grant will service an additional 198 housing units throughout the Commonwealth of PA to create lead safe, healthy housing for low-income families with children under 6 years of age. This grant will also assist in providing lead and healthy homes training to another 125 individuals, conduct an additional 65 community outreach events, and screen 250 more children for lead poisoning.

- May 2 Job Fair hosted by East End Works at Teamster Temple in Lawrenceville. Call 412-362-8580 for information.
- May 3 The second annual Regional Housing Coordinators Housing Summit, "Maximizing Opportunities," in Harrisburg. Register online at www.SDHP.org or click here.
- May 3 PriorityCare program of Allegheny Valley Hospital (AVH) Medicare educational seminar at AVH's Outpatient Care Center in Vandergrift. To register, call 724-226-7339.
- May 12 Community Health Fair "The Core of a Community's Strength is in its Health," 11:00 am 3:00 pm at One Smithfield Street, Downtown Pittsburgh sponsored by the Urban League –City of Pittsburgh.
- May 21 PriorityCare program of Allegheny Valley Hospital (AVH) Medicare educational seminar at Charles W. Young Conference Center in Harrison. To register, call 724-226-7339.

Free Downtown Pittsburgh walking tours, every Friday, May through September, 12:00 - 1:00 pm. Each month explores a different part of downtown Pittsburgh. The Penn-Liberty Cultural District will be featured May 4, 11, 18, 25. Hear how the successful reopening in 1971 of the Penn Theater as the new home of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra set the stage for revitalizing a 14-block area along Penn and Liberty Avenues. Reservations are requested by Wednesday of each week: marylu@phlf.org; 412-471-5808, ext. 527.

HUD VIRGINIA



On April 10, Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) of Virginia hosted a children's event to celebrate Fair Housing month. Twelve children enjoyed a brown bag picnic lunch while they listened to Katherine Eggleston, Coordinator of Systemic Investigations with HOME, read Claudia Fries' book, *A Pig is Moving In!* This book discusses the reactions of a hen, a rabbit, and a fox to a pig who moves into their neighborhood. Their expectations about the kind of neighbor Pig will be are changed once they get to know him. This children's book teaches a very important lesson – not to judge others by what we think we know, but to find out for ourselves what people are like. The children had

thoughtful things to say, and some even understood that the book was an introduction to racism and prejudice.

Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development announced that their Centralized Application and Management System (CAMS) is now available for registration. CAMS is DHCD's innovative platform for enhancing interactions with clients, including applying for funding and managing programs and projects; and will

be the vehicle through which DHCD notifies its partners of program application dates and other updates. Click on <u>CAMS System</u> for more information and to register.



Governor Bob McDonnell joined the Food Network and Share Our Strength's "No Kid Hungry" Campaign for a documentary that takes a first-hand look at the crisis of childhood hunger in America through the eyes of the parents, children, anti-hunger activists, educators and elected officials on the frontlines of the battle. The documentary, "Hunger Hits Home," aired on the Food Network in April, and Governor McDonnell kicked-off the first annual "Governor's Bowl" food and fund drive on April 23. In conjunction with the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, the "Governor's Bowl" campaign will run from Memorial Day (May 28) to

Independence Day (July 4), helping to keep Virginia's food banks stocked during the slow-donation summer months. The competition will be organized regionally, with the "Governor's Bowl" award going to the Chamber or state agency that brings in the most pounds of food for its local food bank. For official rules and information on how to participate, click here.

Jm Tolbert, City of Charlottesville, Alice Tousignant, Virginia Supportive Housing, and Jm Chandler, Virginia Housing Development Authority, listen as Ron White of Albemarle County Housing speaks at the grand opening of *The Crossings at Fourth and Preston* in Charlottesville on April 10. The Crossings contains sixty studio apartments with support services, and is a mixed-income community with 30 units reserved for people who are homeless and 30 units available to individuals earning 50% or less of the area median income. The Crossings at Fourth and Preston is EarthCraft Virginia-certified for resource and energy efficiency, and incorporates a solar electric system expected to reduce energy costs by up to 20%. All appliances are Energy Star rated.



May is Neighborhood Month in the city of Roanoke. Activities are planned throughout the month in every neighborhood. Read more about it on the city's <u>website</u>.

Housing Virginia has made the presentations about Assisted Rental Housing Needs from its SOURCESOOK Webinar on April 17 available on its website. To see the presentations, click here.

Congratulations to Culpeper Renaissance, Inc., a 2012 Great American Main Street Awards® (GAMSA) winner. Recognized as a leader in implementing the Main Street Four-Point Approach®, embracing sound historic preservation practices and building strategic partnerships, Culpeper Renaissance, Inc. (CRI) was honored at the Main Street Awards Ceremony at the 2012 National Main Streets Conference in Baltimore, Md. Read the press release here.

- May 4 Southeast Regional Community Assistance Project's "2012 Water is Life" Conference & Luncheon. For more information click here.
- May 10 deadline to apply for Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Virginia Enterprise Initiative Grants.
- May 11 deadline for conference registration for the "2012 Innovative Leadership Conference: Guiding the Force of Change" to be held on May 22 in Roanoke. For more information about the conference and/or to register, contact Martha Walker or Linda Jones by calling (434) 766-6761 or by e-mail to lijones@vt.edu.
- May 16 18 Virginia Association of Housing and Community Development Officials (VAHCDO) annual conference and scholarship luncheon in Virginia Beach. For more information, click here.
- May 18 deadline to apply for Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
 Homeless Solutions Grants.

• June 1 – proposals due for Organizational Change Grants and Community Change Grants, part of the National Alliance to End Homelessness project, "Reducing Family Homelessness in Virginia: A Rapid Re-Housing Approach;" a collaboration between the Alliance, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness, and the Freddie Mac Foundation.

HUD DELAWARE



On April 13, HUD Wilmington and 30 partners met at the 16th Annual Fair Housing Law Forum, sponsored by Housing Opportunities of Northern Delaware. The theme of this year's event was "Mortgage Foreclosure Intervention – Understanding Mediation and Fair Housing Rights." Sharese Paylor, Fair Housing Investigator at HUD Wilmington, explained discriminatory lending practices. Also discussed were Delaware's mandatory foreclosure mediation program and the status of the national mortgage foreclosure settlement that will provide an estimated \$45 Million for Delaware residents. The powerpoint for the

Fair Housing presentation is available from John Magee at (302) 573-6300 or john.magee@hud.gov.

The number of people with disabilities in Delaware totals 108,500, with approximately 4,600 more people living in nursing facilities. This is the information captured in the publication, *Community & Choice: Housing Needs for People with Disabilities in Delaware;* a report presented by the Governor's Commission on Community-Based Alternatives, the Delaware Housing Coalition, and the State Council for Persons with Disabilities on April 16, 2012. The report's recommendations include: increasing the availability of accessible rental and homeownership opportunities; increasing the availability of and access to affordable housing for people with disabilities; building a community-based system of care with a range of housing options: and improving the affordable housing and disabilities services systems for people with disabilities. A full report and discussion of the recommendations is available online.

Congratulations to the Milford Housing Development Corporation (MHDC) on their ENERGY STAR Award for Excellence. Delaware Senator Tom Carper, Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin, HUD Regional Administrator Jane C. W. Vincent, and USDA Rural Development State Director Jack Tarburton were on hand to share in the award presentation for the use of Energy Star products in the Crescent Shores Community in Lincoln. The new homeowners and their neighbors will live in ENERGY STAR qualified homes, like the Crescent Shores homes pictured here, that will deliver approximately 20%



savings on annual utility bills, in addition to thousands of dollars in maintenance costs savings over 7 to 8 years. One of the new homeowners opened his Energy STAR qualified home to visitors. He said," This (MHDC) program saved my life. Four years ago, I was homeless living in a shelter. Then, I came to Delaware and connected with MHDC. My heart will always be wide open to MHDC." MHDC is a nonprofit developer of affordable housing in Delaware with a mission to provide decent, safe, and affordable housing solutions to people of modest means.

- May 3 Introduction of Homeownership seminar hosted by YWCA Delaware in Newark. To register, call (302) 224-4060, ext.200 or email dfeainfo@wcade.org
- May 5 Homebuyer Education Workshop hosted by Neighborhood House in Wilmington. For more information, contact Iris Donato at (302) 652-3981 or at idonato@neighborhoodhse.org
- May 5 First-Time Home Buyer Workshop hosted by the Hockessin Community Center in Hockessin. For more information, contact Shenise Ferrell at (302) 239-2363 or at seferrell.hockessincc@verizon.net
- May 17 Financial Workshop hosted by Neighborhood House in Wilmington. For more information, contact Iris Donato at (302) 652-3981 or at idonato@neighborhoodhse.org

• May 21 – Federal Grants Workshop sponsored by Senator Thomas R. Carper, Senator Christopher A. Coons and Representative John Carney at Delaware State University in Dover. For more information contact John Magarik at (302) 573-6291.

HUD MARYLAND

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) was awarded \$634,936 from NeighborWorks America to support the statewide network of nonprofit housing counselors created under Governor Martin O'Malley's Home Owners Preserving Equity initiative (HOPE). The funding comes from the latest round of foreclosure counseling support provided by Congress through the National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling Program (NFMC). Since the launch of HOPE Initiative in June of 2007, DHCD has received more than \$3.9 million in NFMC funding which has helped to provide housing counseling services to more than 70,000 Maryland families.

On April 18, business and community leaders joined Baltimore's Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake to start the transformation of more than 32 vacant city lots from an eyesore into a sprawling community garden. The effort is part of the nationwide GRO1000 gardens and green spaces program, an initiative of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company and the US Conference of Mayors to help communities and residents experience the benefits of community gardening and green spaces and support local hunger needs. The new Upton Edible Garden will focus on producing locally-grown and healthy food options for area residents. The Baltimore community garden transformation is part of the City's "Power in Dirt" program, a plan launched in August, 2011, and is the City's first comprehensive plan to specifically address vacant lots by engaging residents and organizations in their sustainable revitalization. To date, more than 400 once-vacant lots have been adopted by residents and community organizations. These new open spaces serve residents in numerous ways—as spaces to gather, to appreciate art, to grow food, to play sports, to just sit and enjoy relief from the "built environment" of concrete. Read the press release here.

• May 8 - Opening ceremony for Park View at Severna Park, an affordable 73-unit apartment community for age and income qualified seniors, located on Ritchie Highway. Developed by Shelter Development and the non-profit Partners in Care, with funding from the Multifamily Energy Efficiency and Housing Affordability Program at the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Severna Park is an example of sustainable design and construction. Included in the design are water saving devices, insulated windows, high performance roofing, energy star appliances and lighting and superior energy efficient exterior construction materials. For more information, contact: Bob Iber of HUD Maryland Multifamily Housing at 410-209-6549 or by e-mail at robert.iber@hud.gov.

HUD WEST VIRGINIA

Congratulations to West Virginia Habitat for Humanity, celebrating 25 years of affordable home building across the State.

A Youth Summer Employment Program is being offered by the WorkForce WIA Summer Employment Opportunity, Region 3, Kanawha County. For additional information contact: Lesley Cunningham at (304) 342-2078. To apply contact: Michele at (304) 558-0342.

Registration is now open for the West Virginia Red Cross Volunteer Program. Potential volunteers can now download registration materials online at www.redcrosswv.org. For more information or to register for an orientation or training contact the Regional Office of Volunteer Services at (304) 340-3650.

West Virginia Commission for National and Community Service Training Website offers opportunities to improve skills or learn new ones! Training for volunteers, volunteer administrators, non-profit staff and boards of directors is listed. To post workshops or training opportunities that are open to the public, on the website, please send

information to SkillBuilder, P.O. Box 11778, Charleston, WV 25339, fax to (304) 558-0101, or email to Lisa.A.Tignor@wv.gov.

- May 3 Business Micro-Loan Program Free Information Webinar. For information and to register, contact Kanawa Institute for Social Research and Action (KISRA) at (304) 768-8924, or email kisrainfo@kisra.org.
- May 11- Homebuyer Education Course being offered by the Fairmont-Morgantown Housing Authority. To register contact Donna Lane at 304.363.0860 x127 or dlane@fmhousing.com.
- May 16-20 West Virginia Public Safety Expo in Charleston. Contact Tammy Norman, RESA 3 Public Service Training, at 304-766-7655 or email tnorman@access.k12.wv.us.
- May 17 Business Continuity Conference hosted by the Southern WV Preparedness Partnership, Beckley-Raleigh County Chamber of Commerce and WV Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety. To register call (304) 252-7328 or (304) 256-0034 chamber@brccc.com.
- **July 30** Letters of Inquiry are due for the National Inclusion Project's "Let's ALL Play" grants. For more information, click here.

HUD CAPITAL DISTRICT



HUD congratulates community partner <u>AHC, Inc.</u>, a local nonprofit focusing on affordable housing in Northern Virginia, which has been named one of the <u>50 Best Nonprofits to Work for in 2012</u>. The award program, conducted by Nonprofit Times, highlights nonprofits that do an exemplary job in the areas of leadership and planning, corporate culture and communications, role satisfaction, work environment, relationships with supervisors, training and development, pay and benefits, and overall employee engagement.

The Fairfax County Office of Human Rights & Equity Programs, in partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools has launched the region's first <u>Student Human Rights Commission</u>. The Fairfax County Student Human Rights Commission, consists of one student from each Fairfax County public high school, and promotes dialogue on diversity among youth to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of differences, to create exposure to local, state and federal human and civil rights laws, and to encourage leadership and active participation in government.

More than 25 employees of the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) teamed up to volunteer their time, energy and talent for the County's annual Christmas in April (CIA) event. On Saturday, April 28, 2012, DHCD employees visited an elderly county homeowner in Capitol Heights to help with some much-needed repairs and fixing-up. For more information about the Prince Georges County CIA program, contact Alexis Revis-Yeoman at 301-883-2760.

Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) has funding available to assist with accessibility modifications to rental units. These funds are available to income-qualified persons on a first-come, first-served basis, for a maximum of \$2,000 per grant. For more information, visit www.vhda.com.

- May 2 deadline for public review and comment on City of Alexandria's Draft FY 2013 Citizen Summary.
 A copy of the Draft FY 2013 Citizen Summary and information on providing testimony may be found on the City's website.
- May 16 applications are due for the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) 's Transportation/Land-Use
 Connections (TLC) Technical Assistance Program. Any local jurisdiction in the National Capital Region
 that is a member of the TPB is eligible to apply. Application information is available on the <u>TLC website</u>,
 or contact <u>TLC@mwcog.org</u>.
- May 30 applications are due for a number of programs administered by the D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). Click here for more information on specific projects eligible for funding.

- **June 9** Prince George's County 2012 Housing Fair featuring the County's first Home Lottery! For more information, contact Alexis Revis Yeoman (301) 883-2760.
- **June 13** Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND) Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Click here to <u>register for table sponsorships and tickets.</u>

Region III Field Office Contact Information Jane C.W. Vincent, Regional Administrator

HUD Maryland

Carol B. Payne, Field Office Director (410) 962-2520, www.hud.gov/Maryland

HUD Capital District

Marvin W. Turner, Field Office Director (202) 275-9200, www.hud.gov/districtofcolumbia

HUD Western Pennsylvania

Jane Miller, Field Office Director (412) 644-6428, www.hud.gov/pennsylvania

HUD West Virginia

Peter C. Minter, Field Office Director (304) 347-7000, www.hud.gov/WestVirginia

HUD Eastern Pennsylvania

Richard Ott, Deputy Regional Administrator (215) 656-0500, www.hud.gov/pennsylvania

HUD Virginia

Carrie S. Schmidt, Field Office Director (804)822-4804, www.hud.gov/virginia

HUD Delaware

John Magee, Senior Management Analyst (302) 573-6300, www.hud.gov/delaware

We welcome your feedback and invite you to share your news with editor Anne Davis at anne.davis@hud.gov. If you know anyone who might like this news, please feel free to share it with them and let them know they can subscribe by emailing Anne Davis, or by sending a message to REGION-III-NEWS-L@hudlist.hud.gov.

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