



REGION III HUDLINE NEWS



January/February 2013

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A MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

“It’s been almost 45 years since the Fair Housing Act became law, but every day there are individuals and families in this country who experience housing discrimination. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and its Fair Housing Assistance Program partner agencies receive almost 10,000 complaints each year alleging some form of discrimination. And, there are many other instances of discrimination that go unreported,” stated John Trasviña, HUD Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, in his opening remarks at an event announcing a recent fair housing settlement in Virginia.

The case came to HUD’s attention when a Hispanic woman filed a complaint alleging that Virginia Realty, a property management company that manages over 500 rental units throughout Virginia Beach and Norfolk, refused to provide her a rental application because she could not speak English well and refused the translation assistance of the bilingual person she brought with her. Based on her experience, HUD launched a Secretary-initiated Investigation to determine whether the alleged discrimination was systemic. In the course of the investigation, HUD discovered that Virginia Realty had a written policy expressly requiring all prospective tenants to be able to communicate with management staff in English without assistance from others, and to complete rental applications only while they were in the management office.

As a result of HUD’s investigation, Virginia Realty entered into two agreements: one with the individual who brought the initial complaint and the other with HUD. Under the first agreement, Virginia Realty will pay the prospective tenant \$7,500. Under the second agreement, the company will donate \$25,000 each to the Piedmont Housing Alliance, Hampton Roads Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and Nueva Vida (New Life) Outreach International Church to support fair housing initiatives. In addition, Virginia Realty will adopt a non-discrimination policy, which it will distribute to current residents and prospective tenants; adopt a plan to more effectively serve Limited English Proficient residents and prospective tenants by providing translation and interpretation services; and require its employees to undergo fair housing training.



On January 23 at the Richmond Field Office, nearly 50 fair housing advocates and HUD staffers joined Asst. Sec. Trasviña, FHEO Regional Director Melody Taylor-Blancher, Field Office Director Carrie Schmidt and me to announce the non-profit settlement awards. Hampton Roads’ Olga Torres and Jaime Baron are pictured with us receiving their ceremonial check.

Hampton Roads will use their \$25,000 donation to fund Hispanic housing-related outreach by hosting educational workshops, working with local Hispanic radio broadcasters and newspaper reporters and their bilingual website (hrhcc.org)

to feature stories focusing on renters' rights. They also plan to distribute informational handouts at upcoming community events.



Piedmont Housing Alliance (PHA) will use the \$25,000 donation to support housing-related outreach and services to the Latino/Hispanic population through group education sessions, one-on-one housing and financial counseling, fair housing education and advocacy, and the Latino Outreach Initiative *Creciendo Juntos*. Specifically, PHA will serve Spanish-speaking housing counseling clients with a bilingual certified housing counselor and a free Spanish homebuyer's class; provide targeted outreach on fair housing rights to the Latino community, with Spanish flyers and booklets, presentations, public awareness advertisements, and complaint forms, as well as assistance with fair housing compliance for housing providers. Piedmont's Karen Reifenberger (left) and Marguerite David (right) join Melody Taylor-Blancher in the photo above. To see more photos from the event, [click here](#).

In his remarks, Nueva Vida (New Life) Outreach International Church's Pastor Carlos Rivera noted, "We are grateful for the funds being donated. They will be used to continue our programs, outreaches, and to help inform and connect the Latino community with the housing resources they need. Language should never be a barrier that hinders anyone from obtaining a safe place to live and raise their families."

The housing related education activities of each of these nonprofits will do much to create greater housing opportunities throughout the state of Virginia for Latino families in inclusive communities where everyone is treated fairly.



Pastor Carlos Rivera, Assistant Secretary Trasviña and four members of the New Life Outreach mission at the Jan. 23 fair housing settlement event in Richmond.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane C.W. Vincent".

Jane C.W. Vincent, Region III Regional Administrator
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

NEWS YOU CAN USE

HUD's Office of International and Philanthropic Innovation is inviting HUD partners to showcase innovative practices in our communities. **The Innovation of the Day** initiative was developed as a hub for collecting and disseminating innovative housing, community development, built environment and urban practices. Its purpose is to crowd-source new models that can be leveraged not only within HUD, but by other agencies, municipalities, philanthropies, non-profits and citizens. Additional benefits include the ability to identify emerging trends, promising solutions, and successful means of implementation. Share your innovations with us or search our database for emerging practices in your own community or from around the world! For more information on Innovation of the Day, please visit [HUD's blog](#). We invite you to submit a brief description about your innovative project online at [Innovation of the Day](#).

What do you think? Comments are due March 11 on proposed 20-year **Senior Preservation Rental Assistance Contracts** that would prevent displacement when Section 202 properties are refinanced or recapitalized. Contact Margaret Salazar, HUD, 202-708-2495.

The [Notice on Appeals for the FY2012 CoC Program Competition](#) is now posted on the [HUD Homeless Resources Exchange](#). This Notice provides guidance to Continuums of Care (CoCs) and Project Applicants that applied through the FY 2012 CoC Program Competition regarding the information that must be submitted to HUD in order to appeal one of the following decisions: Project applicant believes that it was denied the right to participate in the CoC planning process in a reasonable manner; Applicant was denied CoC Program funds by HUD, or requested more funds than HUD awarded or Eligible applicant whose jurisdiction refused to sign the Consolidated Plan certification for the project. HUD strongly encourages applicants

that believe they fall under one of the above categories to read the Notice in its entirety, provide evidence that supports the appeal request, and clearly state the applicant's claim in a timely manner based on the deadlines highlighted in the Notice.

The National Council on Aging has announced the availability of the **2013 version of Use Your Home to Stay at Home™**, the official reverse mortgage consumer booklet approved by HUD. Use Your Home to Stay at Home™ is a user-friendly guide to help older homeowners understand the pros and cons of a reverse mortgage. Click [here](#) to download a copy.

A new guide explains how to combine HOME Investment Partnership funds (HOME) and Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC). Published by HUD, **HOME and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Guidebook** addresses compliance with the requirements of both programs. Click [here](#) for the guidebook.

In its [Statement of Regulatory Priorities for FY13](#), HUD says it plans to issue a proposed rule in April changing how it administers its obligation to affirmatively further fair housing. It will replace the existing analysis of impediments requirement with a fair housing assessment and planning process, hoping to create a more direct link between fair housing and Consolidated Plans or Public Housing Authority Plans. For questions, contact HUD's Patrick Pontius by calling 202-402-3273.

The Department of Health and Human Services has [adjusted its poverty guidelines](#) to account for a 2.1% increase in the cost of living from 2011 to 2012. For programs that use this benchmark, the 2013 poverty line for a family of four in the continental U.S. is \$23,550.

HUD FEDERAL REGISTER RULES, NOTICES & FUNDING

Rules and Regulations

[Federal Housing Administration \(FHA\): Hospital Mortgage Insurance Program-Refinancing Hospital Loans](#)

[Streamlining Inspection and Warranty Requirements for Federal Housing Administration \(FHA\) Single-Family Mortgage Insurance: Removal of the FHA Inspector Roster and of the Ten-Year Protection Plan Requirements for High Loan-to-Value Ratio Mortgages](#)

Notices

[Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Comment Request; Advance of Escrow Funds](#)

[Mortgage and Loan Insurance Programs Under the National Housing Act-Debenture Interest Rates](#)

[Federal Property Suitable as Facilities To Assist the Homeless](#)

[Notice of Revised Information Collection for Public Comment; Public Housing Authority Executive Compensation Information](#)

[Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Comment Request; Housing Counseling Training Program](#)

[Notice of Proposed Information Collection for Public Comment: Annual Progress Report \(APR\) for the Competitive Homeless Assistance Programs](#)

[Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Comment Request; Assisted Living Conversion Program \(ALCP\) for Eligible Multifamily Housing Projects and Emergency Capital Repair Program \(ECRP\)](#)

[Housing Choice Voucher Program; Office of Public and Indian Housing Announcement of Funding Awards for Fiscal Year 2012](#)

[Implementation of the Privacy Act of 1974, as Amended; Republication to Delete and Update Privacy Act System of Records Notifications](#)

[Announcement of Funding Awards, HOPE VI Main Street Grant Program, Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2011 and 2012](#)

HUD Notices of Funding Availability

DUE Feb. 19 – [Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency \(ROSS\) Service Coordinator](#)

DUE March 18 – [Comprehensive Housing Counseling Program](#)

DUE March 19 – [Healthy Homes Technical Studies](#)

DUE April 24 – [Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program \(SHOP\) Intermediaries](#)



DELAWARE

Maria L. Bynum, Field Office Director
302-573-6300, hud.gov/delaware

HUD Joins Nemours to Host “Ensuring Healthy Homes and Reducing Asthma Triggers for Children”

Every day a young child has an asthma attack and is taken to the Emergency Room. The mother has to take off work, and the child misses school. This cycle happens several times each year. This scenario is all too common in Delaware—ranked sixth in the nation for its asthma rates. [Nemours Health and Prevention Services](#) and HUD are joining hands to help reduce the incidence of asthma in children in the First

State. The two hosted a roundtable, Ensuring Healthy Homes and Reducing Asthma Triggers for Children, on Jan. 31. Regional Administrator Jane C.W. Vincent served as one of the panelists and helped to connect the dots between housing and health for an audience of 50 people. Vincent explained, “Although we are still studying the exact linkages between health and housing we have known for a long time that housing conditions impact resident health.” Bill Leitzinger, Delaware’s Administrator for the Office of Healthy Environments, pictured (left) with HUD’s Ed Thomas and Maria Bynum, spoke about the First State’s nationally-recognized Healthy Homes initiative. For more information on how to make a home healthy, click on [good health starts at home](#) or visit www.delawarehealthyhomes.org. HUD is encouraging public housing authorities and multifamily property owners to adopt no smoking policies at their developments and other initiatives to reduce asthma triggers. To help in this effort, HUD offers a [toolkit](#).

Affordable Housing Topic of Discussion at Sussex County League of Women Voters Event

A recent [fair housing settlement](#) with Sussex County was the subject at a Sussex County League of Women Voters meeting in Lewes on Jan. 21. Diamond State Community Land Trust President Amy Walls, a member of the League, briefed the group on a U.S. Department of Justice Consent Decree that she believes will help minorities have a better chance of finding affordable housing in the county. The decree requires the County to reconsider an amended application for the development of an affordable housing community in Laurel. Read more in the [Cape Gazette](#).

HUD Issues Comprehensive Housing Market Analysis for Dover and Sussex Counties

The economy of the Dover-Sussex County Housing Market Area began to expand in 2011 after two years of decline, according to a new Comprehensive Housing Market Analysis release by HUD's Economic and Market Analysis Division. The analysis, designed to assist and guide HUD in its operations, can be useful to builders, mortgagees, and others concerned with local housing conditions and trends. To read the report which includes counts and estimates of employment, population, households and housing inventory, [click here](#).

Upcoming Events & Notices

For additional events throughout the month of February, please visit the Delaware State Housing Authority’s [website](#).

- **Feb. 17**, 1 - 4 p.m. – Open House, Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County, 2115 Menser Way, Wilmington, DE 19802. For more information, please call 302-652-0365 or visit www.habitatncc.org.
- **Feb. 19**, 6 - 7:45 p.m. – Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Workshop, CCCS-Inc., Elsmere Library, 30 Spruce Avenue, Elsmere, DE 19805, to register, please call 1-800-267-5002 or 302-792-1200 or visit www.delawaremoneyschool.com.
- **DUE Feb. 22** – A request for Proposal (RFP) for Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing and Rapid Re-Housing Case Management has been released by the Office of Community Services. A Pre-Bid meeting will be held on Jan. 3, 2013 from 10 a.m. - Noon at: DHSS Herman M. Holloway Sr. Campus, Main Administration Building, 1st FL Conference Room, 1901 North DuPont Highway, New Castle, DE 19720. For a copy of the RFP, click [here](#).
- **Feb. 23**, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. – Homebuyer Workshop, Hockessin Community Center, 1304 Old Lancaster Pike, 2nd Floor, Hockessin, DE 19707. To register, please contact Shenise Ferrell at 302-239-2363 or at sferrell.hockessincc@verizon.net.
- **Feb. 23**, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – First Time Homebuyers Workshop, First State Community Action Agency, Blue Hen Corporate Center, 655 South Bay Road, Suite 4J, Dover, DE 19901. For more information, please contact Valerie Malone at 302-674-1355.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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

VAG 3rd Annual “Walk In Their Foot Steps” Boot Collection a Success

The 3rd Annual “Walk In Their Foot Steps” Boot Collection received donations of more than 430 pairs of new winter boots and shoes for homeless veterans. Led by the HUD Veteran Affinity Group (VAG), the boots were distributed at the 18th Annual 2013 Winterhaven Stand Down on Jan. 12 at the Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) in Washington, DC. Attended by a record-breaking

651 homeless veterans, the event supported those who had previously served in the armed forces with full medical examinations, flu shots, dental services, haircuts, clothing donations, housing and employment referrals and discharge upgrades. A highlight of the event was the special recognition of HUD VAG Chairman Walter Elmore who received the Veteran Administration’s Outstanding Customer Service Excellence Award for his work on behalf of the VAG’s successful boot drive. Pictured at the boot collection turnover event are John Gilmore, Atlas Research; Ryung Suh, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Atlas Research; Edna Brown, Gregory B. Davis Foundation, Brian A. Hawkins, Administrator, VAMC; Walter Elmore; Marvin Turner, District of Columbia Field Office Director; Trulesta J. Pauling; Reid Temple, Military Support Ministry; Lynn Thomas, Administrator, Americans Helping Americans; Chief Maynard, DCPS, Junior ROTC; John Stufflebeem, Administrator, National Football League– Retired Players Chapter. To view additional photos, [click here](#).

District of Columbia’s DHCD Announces Pre-Solicitation and Capacity Building Workshop Series

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will host a Pre-Solicitation and Capacity Building Workshop Series to increase awareness of available local and federal funding sources and to explore potential partnership opportunities for non-profit and for profit organizations. The workshops, scheduled for Feb. 27 and March 27, will begin at 11 a.m. and will be held at the Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Campus, 1901 Mississippi Avenue SE. In April 2013, DHCD will publish a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for funding under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF) program, 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), and Department of Mental Health (DMH) funds administered by the department. The Fiscal Year 2014 NOFA will also involve agencies such as the DC Housing Finance Agency (DCHFA), DC Housing Authority (DCHA), DC Department of Human Services (DHS), along with DHCD and DMH to provide funding for Permanent Supportive Housing and related services. The workshops are designed to better equip for-profit and non-profit organizations with the knowledge necessary to properly assess their business objectives, knowledge of DHCD programs, and capacity to execute their proposals. There is no cost to attend the workshops, but pre-registration is required and available online only. For more information, please call 202-442-7200. Register for workshops [HERE](#).

One-Stop-Shop for Housing Information

The DHCD Housing Resource Center, located at 1800 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue SE, is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. DCHousingSearch.org is a FREE listing service that provides easy access to information about affordable housing opportunities within the District of Columbia. To register for the inclusionary zoning lottery, [click here](#).

Freddie Mac Standard Deed-in-Lieu Overview for Housing Counselors Web-based Training Offered

During this two-hour, “live” webinar, you will learn about the key features and benefits of the new Freddie Mac Standard Deed-in-Lieu, which is a workout option available for homeowners who can no longer afford to retain their properties and have exhausted other Freddie Mac alternatives to foreclosure. The session will include a review of eligibility criteria, documentation requirements, implementation dates, closing requirements, and other important information.

- Feb. 19, 10 a.m. – Noon, [Register here](#)
- Feb. 21, 2 – 4 p.m., [Register here](#)
- Feb. 26, 10 a.m. – Noon, [Register here](#)
- Feb. 28, 2 – 4 p.m., [Register here](#)

MARYLAND

Carol B. Payne, Field Office Director
410-962-2520, hud.gov/maryland

Downtown Barbershop Receives Maryland DHCD Funds and City Award

Royal Razor, an urban barbershop in the heart of downtown Baltimore that opened with the help of a microenterprise loan from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, is getting its share of recognition for its contributions to a revitalizing city. At its annual meeting, Downtown Partnership of Baltimore awarded the shop its Downtown Baltimore Award. "We are by far the most diverse barbershop in the city as it pertains to the staff and clientele with regards to both ethnicity and socio-economic standing," founder Nicholas Cassadine says. Cassadine, a 2002 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, says he was inspired to open a downtown business because he lives downtown. As a resident of downtown, I find it hard to spend my money downtown. I usually have to go outside of the city. I hope my business can inspire other new, local and cool business to pop-up around us. The Microenterprise Loan Program supports small business by providing loans with flexible financing for start-ups and expansions within designated sustainable communities throughout the state. Photo courtesy of Royal Razor.



Critical Affordable Rental Housing Shortage Address by Governor's Budget

Governor Martin O'Malley is allocating \$25 million in his FY2014 capital budget for Rental Housing Works, the initiative he launched last year to create jobs and address Maryland's critical shortage of affordable rental housing for working families, senior citizens and individuals with special needs. Visit DHCD's website to [read](#) the release from the Governor's office.



Wells Fargo to provide \$4.5M in assistance for Baltimore homebuyers

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and partners Wells Fargo & Company, NeighborWorks America, and Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore announced a \$4.5 million public-private partnership to provide grants to new homebuyers. Wells Fargo's CityLIFT program will provide \$15,000 in down payment assistance grants to new Baltimore homebuyers. Baltimore is one of 20 cities that will benefit from a total of \$170 million Wells Fargo has committed to support sustainable housing in cities affected by the economic downturn. In the first phase of the CityLIFT program, prospective homebuyers must meet income guidelines, complete a homebuyer education course, and have a signed contract to purchase a home in

Baltimore to qualify for the \$15,000 down payment assistance grants. The remaining \$3.5 million in grants will be made available to eligible homebuyers in April 2013 during the second phase of the program. No purchase of sale contract will be required to apply. However, homeowners must be mortgage-ready, be able to complete an 8-hour homebuyer education class, and close on a home within 90 days. "This is a wonderful partnership opportunity that will help Baltimore rebound from the downturn in the housing market and provide Baltimore residents with new opportunities to help make buying a home economically feasible," said Baltimore Housing Commissioner Paul Graziano. The Baltimore CityLIFT program was developed in connection with a 2012 settlement with the City of Baltimore and a collaboration of Wells Fargo Bank N.A. and NeighborWorks America. Pictured L - R: Andy Bertamini, MD Market President, Wells Fargo; Commissioner Paul Graziano, City of Baltimore Housing & Community Development; Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake; Dan Ellis, Executive Director, NHS Baltimore; Deborah Boatright, NeighborWorks Northeast Regional Director. Photography© NeighborWorks America.

Upcoming Events

- **March 14, 7:00 p.m.**, Spring Weatherization & Historic Tax Credit Workshop, Neighborhood Design Center in Baltimore, MD. Discover how to drastically lower energy use and save money on utility bills while eliminating uncomfortable drafts and decreasing your home's impact on the environment by combining historic tax credits with weatherization in your historic house. Retrofit Baltimore, a project of Civic works, offers free one-hour workshops to explain how to combine a home energy retrofit and city and state historic tax credits. For more information about workshops and to register, [click here](#).

PENNSYLVANIA – EASTERN REGION

Richard Ott, Deputy Regional Administrator
215-656-0600, hud.gov/pennsylvania

PHA Wins “Pioneer in Housing Award”

The Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) has won a "Pioneer in Housing Award" in recognition of its commitment to tackling critical environmental and energy issues with an entrepreneurial approach to financing development. The NMA Housing Awards, which honor agencies that build bridges to the future and create real change in their communities and the affordable housing industry, particularly recognized PHA for sustainable development. At a time when energy efficiency and green building methods are of prime importance, the Philadelphia Housing Authority was cited as leading the way in developing sustainable sites that will save money for residents and taxpayers in the long term. The agency was also cited for distinguishing itself through the use of tax credit financing and acting as its own developer, while receiving an investment grade rating (AA-) from Standard and Poor's, as well as top ratings on bond issues from S&P. Nan McKay & Associates, Inc. (NMA), the industry leader in providing performance improvement solutions including training, consulting, and products to subsidized housing agencies, reviewed award applications from across the country. For the complete story, [click here](#).



Philadelphia Regional Office Collects “Toys for Joy” for Local Foster Children

More than 500 items including toys, stuffed animals, books, jewelry, electronics and games were collected and donated to local foster children by Region III team members. Championed by Barbara Shively, an underwriter in Single Family and volunteers, Carmen DiGiovanni, Stacy Taylor-Whitehead, Lisa Pusicz, Kamilah Williams, Audrey Clar, Felicia Rivera, Annamaria Catania, Ronaldyn Latham, Kathy Valentine, Patricia Knebls, Patricia Shaw and Antonette Spencer, the “Toys for Joy” campaign benefited local foster children through CONCERN, a private non-profit community based child welfare organization dedicated to meeting the needs of abused, neglected, and delinquent children and youth. “The holidays can be a difficult time for children in foster care since they do not get to celebrate with their biological families,” noted Diane Devlin, Southeast Regional Director. “The gifts you collected and donated have helped them have a very special holiday season.”



“Run Ben Run” Celebrates the Combined Federal Campaign

Organizers of the Philadelphia Regional Office’s Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) celebrated reaching 130% of the office’s goal by staging an organized run to the Philadelphia Museum of Fine Art on Jan. 9. An unusually warm and sunny day enabled the enthusiasts to celebrate raising more than \$40,000 to help support nonprofit organizations in the Philadelphia area. The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

Upcoming Events

- **Feb. 26, 10 a.m. to Noon** – Fair Housing Council of Suburban Philadelphia presents a free Fair Housing Webinar: Serving Consumers with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), HUD Guidelines & Resources. Participants will receive information on the various LEP populations in Southeast Pennsylvania; barriers LEP consumers face in obtaining housing; eligibility for various Federal housing programs; and language resources to assist non-profits and local governments serving LEP families and consumers. The training will also include a review of information on fair housing laws as they relate to LEP populations and the discriminatory housing practices commonly reported by immigrants and refugees in their search for housing. To register online, [click here](#).

PENNSYLVANIA – WESTERN REGION

Jane Miller, Field Office Director

412-644-6428, hud.gov/pennsylvania

National Homeless Persons Memorial Day Observed by Pittsburgh Community

The street homeless are no strangers to us. They are not somebody else, from somewhere else. They are, for a moment, a week, months or even years—a part of us. The homeless individuals who were memorialized on Dec. 21, 2012, died on the streets of Pittsburgh. Some of us knew their names. Many of us knew their faces. On Homeless Persons Memorial Day, family members, friends and concerned service providers gather to honor each and every homeless individual who had slipped from our collective grasp while on the streets, and vow to do all that we can to continue to reach out to our most vulnerable neighbors. Operation Safety Net with Pittsburgh Mercy Health System has organized this annual memorial since 1998. The tone is sad and humbling, yet uplifting at the same time as those present remain resolute in their conviction to continue to stem chronic street homelessness and offer linkage and outreach at every turn of the road. Members of HUD's Pittsburgh Field Office joined others to pause, honor and remember that each person's name engraved on a brass plaque affixed to a bridge underpass. Each name represents someone's child, parent, friend, or former colleague. They are us. Photo courtesy of Linda Ross and Micaela Young of the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System. To learn more, [click here](#).



Housing Authority City of Erie (HACE) Residents “Step Up”

Neallie Leach-Ruff (pictured here) remembers all too well her long days of picking cotton in Macon, Mississippi. Though she started working in the fields when she was seven-years-old, she would not let her humble roots deter her. She worked her way through college in Mississippi by scrubbing floors and working in a garment factory. When Neallie moved to Erie, Pennsylvania she was in need of affordable housing and employment—she found both at the Housing Authority City of Erie. Today, she is the Section 8 coordinator and tenant selection supervisor and credits the housing authority with giving her the opportunity to buy her own house, raise her daughter, and help people. People who chose to “Step-Up” just like her. To learn more about HACE's Step-Up Program, [click here](#). Photo courtesy of Jack Grazier.

Passive House Design Accelerates Affordability

On Dec. 12, community leaders and stakeholders gathered at McKeesport Downtown Housing to celebrate the construction of the first passive house design for multifamily housing in the United States. The development will house those at risk for homelessness. The term passive house (Passivhaus in German) refers to a rigorous, voluntary standard of constructing airtight buildings that need little to no outside heat or cooling sources to keep comfortable. The energy efficient design eliminates the need for a central boiler and chiller which saves not only on the capital cost of this equipment, but the maintenance and repair costs over the years. The 84-unit former YMCA will undergo a massive makeover that will not only offer energy efficiency for the building owner, but will also offer residents a healthier indoor air quality. For the complete story, [click here](#).



Upcoming Events

University of Pittsburgh University Center for Social and Urban Research Brown Bag Urban Research Seminar Series UCSUR's 1st Floor Conference Room, 3343 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. All events Noon to 1:15 p.m. For more info visit [Brown Bag Seminars](#). RSVP: pncis@pitt.edu.

- **Feb. 15** – Residential and School Mobility: Implications for Place-Based Initiatives
- **Feb. 22** – Social, Spatial, and Economic Transformations in Deindustrializing Cities.



VIRGINIA

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

Hampton RHA and CCDC Fox Hill Host Affordable Housing Middle School Students for STEM Event

In celebration of the National Day of Service, the West Point Center for Leadership and Diversity in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), a part of the United States Military Academy at West Point Mathematics Department, spent the day at the Comprehensive

Community Development Corporation (CCDC) Fox Hill Community Center teaching 46 middle school students, ages 10-14, residing in low-income communities operated by Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority and CCDC Fox Hill. Cadets from the Academy, the oldest engineering school in the nation renowned for its honor code and character development, presented the participants with a unique blend of technical, leadership and ethical training. The STEM program is designed to inspire under-represented youth to embrace the world of science, technology, engineering and math and to gain an awareness of exciting career opportunities. The workshops developed the art of persistence and challenged the students through friendly competition with “robots,” using newly learned problem solving, communication, and engineering and leadership skills. Led by Lt. Col. Dr. Don Outing and USMA Professor Dr. Kendall Williams, Virginia HUD Field Office staffers Jerryl Bennett, Kathryn Pegues and Mike Miner supported the day’s activities.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Hopewell and Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authorities for receiving three [Rental Assistance Demonstration \(RAD\)](#) awards in Virginia! Under RAD, public housing agencies are able to fund capital improvements as well as to convert units to affordable multi-family apartments. The recipients of the RAD awards are Hopewell Redevelopment & Housing Authority’s Kippax Place (100 units) and Piper Square (30 units) and Richmond Redevelopment & Housing Authority’s Frederic A. Fay Towers senior housing (373 units).

In their annual rankings, released Jan. 23, the U.S. Green Building Council announced that Virginia has improved to become the top state for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design or LEED-certified buildings. Virginia ranked behind Colorado and Illinois last year, but improved to the top spot for 2012, with 170 projects certified, and 29,709,574 square feet of LEED space certified. LEED is a voluntary, consensus-based, market-driven program that provides third-party verification of green buildings. To read Governor McDonnell’s announcement, click [here](#).

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) posted the [Structure and Use Plan for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund](#). DHCD anticipates opening the application cycle for both loans and grants on April 15.

The City of Norfolk is seeking a dynamic and experienced leader to work on the City Manager's Executive Team as the Director of the Office to End Homelessness. Candidates apply online through the City of Norfolk website www.norfolk.gov.

Upcoming Events & Notices

- **DUE Feb. 15** – Deadline for Neighborhoods USA 2013 awards. Click [here](#) for more information and an application.
- **Feb. 25-26** – Micro Business Lending: Landscape for the New Economy hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. The preliminary agenda is available [here](#). Click [here](#) to register online. Contacts: Jen Giovannitti, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, jen.giovannitti@rich.frb.org and Jeff Sadler, Virginia DHCD, jeff.sadler@dhcd.virginia.gov.
- **DUE Mar. 1** – Deadline for applications to receive designation as a [Virginia Main Street Community](#).
- **Mar. 12** - Tornado Preparedness Day, Virginia’s annual Statewide Tornado Drill will take place at 9:45 a.m. To register and to learn more about planning a tornado drill, go to the [Virginia Department of Emergency Management \(VDEM\) website](#) and click through the rotating graphics at the top of the page, or go to www.ReadyVirginia.gov.
- **DUE May 3** – Proposals to present 90-minute workshops at the [Virginia Statewide Neighborhoods Conference](#) to be held in Virginia Beach in September. Please address and send proposals to: Brittany A Bailey, VSNC Workshop Chair, City of Norfolk, Huntersville Neighborhood.

WEST VIRGINIA

Peter C. Minter, Field Office Director
302-347-7000, hud.gov/westvirginia

HUD's West Virginian Field Office Hosts Substance Abuse Prevention Event

On Jan. 8, HUD's Mike Torreyson and Evie Young-Williams hosted a capacity crowd to see Tim White's presentation on Next Generation Drugs: New Trends, New Treatments, New Problems. As the Regional Prevention Coordinator for Prestera Center, Mr. White is responsible for overseeing substance abuse prevention coalitions in ten West Virginian counties including Boone, Cabell, Clay, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo, Putnam and Wayne. The event, to be held at the West Virginia Housing Development Fund office in Charleston, will focus on the new drugs including K-2, SPICE, Kush Kakes, Meow-Meow, Molly's Plan Food, Cheese and Bath Salts. Attendees included those from the HUD Multifamily housing community, local housing authorities, homeless providers, state agencies, work force, institutions of higher education and the faith-based organizations.



File Federal and State Tax Returns for free at a VITA Site

Families with household income below \$51,000 are eligible for free tax preparation and may be eligible for an earned income tax credit of up to \$5,891—even if no taxes are owed. When you come to a VITA site, you MUST bring: a Picture ID, social security card for you, your spouse and ALL dependents, all W2's, 1099 forms and any other tax information you have received. There are no exceptions to these requirements.

CABELL COUNTY

- Cabell County Public Library, 455 9th St. Plaza, Huntington. Open Mondays from 3 to 7 p.m. and the following Saturdays: 2/23, 3/23, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. No appointment necessary. Rachel Houston, Site Coordinator
- J. W. Scott Community Center (APPOINTMENT ONLY SITE), 1637 8th Avenue, Huntington. Open Thursdays starting January 24, 5 to 8 p.m. For appointments call 304-617-7202. Heather Marrs, Site Coordinator
- Marshall University, Corbly Hall, Room 436. Open Tuesdays & Thursdays starting February 7, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. No appointment necessary. Amanda Thompson-Abbott, Site Coordinator
- Goodwill Industries, 1005 Virginia Ave, Huntington. Open the following Saturdays: 2/16, 3/02, 3/16, 3/30 & 4/13, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. No appointment necessary. Heather Marrs, Site Coordinator
- Southwestern Community Action Council Cabell Co. (APPOINTMENT ONLY SITE), 298 East Main Street, Milton. Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For appointments call 304-390-0087. Christy Kinder, Site Coordinator

MASON COUNTY

- Southwestern Community Action Council Mason Co. (APPOINTMENT ONLY SITE), 700 22nd Street, Point Pleasant. Open Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For appointments call 304-674-8055. Christy Kinder, Site Coordinator

Upcoming Events & Grants

- **Feb. 28**, 9 a.m. to Noon – Recovery Coach Training – Who? What? How? First Baptist Church, 813 Market Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101. For more information contact Sheila McBride, 304-485-1781 or smcbride@westbrookhealth.com.
- **DUE March 1:** The Disability Determination Process (DDP) **Small Grant Program** awards \$10,000 one-year stipends for graduate-level supervised independent research on improving the efficiency and reducing the complexity of disability determination processes. Policy Research, Inc. (PRI) is pleased to announce the third round of this federally-funded stipend program. For more information and to apply, please visit <http://ddp.policyresearchinc.org>. Contact us at ddp@policyresearchinc.org with any questions.

OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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- **Ongoing** – The U.S. Department of Labor is accepting applications for "[Stand Down](#)" grants that will provide an estimated 10,000 homeless veterans with opportunities to reintegrate into society. The grants are being awarded under the department's [Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program](#).
- **Ongoing** – Applications are being accepted for the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration's (EDA) [Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program](#) grants to create regional economic development plans designed to stimulate and guide the economic development efforts of a community or region.
- **Ongoing** – [Wells Fargo Homeownership](#) grant program to help local nonprofit housing organizations create sustainable homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate-income people.
- **Ongoing** – The Surdna Foundation offers funding to nonprofit organizations that seek to help communities build wealth in a sustainable manner. Letters of Inquiry accepted year around. For more information on the application process, click [here](#).
- **Feb. 16** – [The Gannett Foundation's Community Action Grants](#) support nonprofit organizations with funding priority given to programs that focus on education and neighborhood improvement, economic development, youth development, community problem-solving.
- **Feb. 28** – Pre-applications are due for the [Multi-Family Housing Preservation and Revitalization Demonstration Program](#) for Sections 515 and 514/516. To contact an RD state office, call Sherry Engel, 715-345-7677 or Tiffany Tietz, 616-942-4111, ext. 126.
- **Feb. 28** – Applications are due for Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and Native CDFIs for financial or technical assistance. For more information, click [here](#) or contact agency staff at 202-653-0421.
- **March 1** – Applications are due for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) [Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking](#) grants.
- **March 1** - Applications are due for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) [System of Care Expansion](#) planning grants.
- **March 5** – Applications are due for National Endowment for the Arts [Citizens' Institute on Rural Design](#) grants.
- **March 7** - Applications are due for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) [Statewide Family Network Program](#) grants.
- **March 8** - Applications are due for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) [Statewide Consumer Network Program](#) grants.
- **March 13** – Applications are due for Economic Development Administration [Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance](#) grants.
- **March 15** - Applications are due for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) [Targeted Capacity Expansion Peer-to-Peer](#) grants.
- **March 19** – Applications are due for Department of Labor [YouthBuild Grants](#).

Region III HUDLine News

We welcome your feedback and invite you to share your news with Lisa A. Wolfe at lisa.a.wolfe@hud.gov. If you know anyone who would like to receive *Region III HUDLine News*, please feel free to share. To subscribe to receive *Region III HUDLine News*, visit REGION-III-NEWS-L@hudlist.hud.gov.

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