



REGION III HUDLINE NEWS



March 2013

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A MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Like many other downtown workers, I have been known to take advantage of Philadelphia's underground transit concourse in Center City to escape the inclement weather or to make my way to City Hall without a coat. The 3.5-mile passageway connects SEPTA's Regional Rail lines with local rail and trolley lines and offers underground entrances to buildings along Market and Locust Streets as well as the "MetroMarket" near Suburban Station complete with small shops, eateries and a post office. During the day, you'll find much of the concourse bustling with activity.

Quite a different experience from the one U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Assistant Secretary Dr. Tommy Sowers, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Executive Director Barbara Poppe and I had. The three of us joined 125 volunteers on the night of January 30 to walk the concourse and streets to count the number of homeless people seeking shelter from the rain.

For a single night during the last 10 days in January, providers in virtually every community across the country collect "Point-in-Time" (PIT) data on the number and demographics of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The one-night snapshot provides local planners with data they need to understand the number and characteristics of homeless persons. In Region III, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) staffers participated in many of the local counts. You will find more about their experiences throughout this month's *HUDLine News*.

Representing our federal agencies, each of us had the opportunity to speak to the volunteers as we assembled for a training session hosted by Project H.O.M.E., the local nonprofit homeless provider in Philadelphia that coordinated this year's volunteers for the count. Pictured with me in the blue shirt from left to right are Vince Kane, Director of the National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans; Barbara Poppe; Dave Holloman of Philadelphia's Department of Behavioral Health; and Dr. Tommy Sowers.

"It is an honor to be part of the annual PIT count in the City of Brotherly Love where so much good work is being done day in and day out to help homeless Veterans," said the VA's Dr. Tommy Sowers in his talk. "Because of the effort of dozens of volunteers in Philadelphia and thousands more across the country, we will be better able to allocate our resources so we can end Veterans homelessness by the end of 2015."



Data gathered from the PIT counts will be used to effectively allocate funding to HUD's programs and grantees as well as measure the nation's progress of *Opening Doors – the federal plan to end homelessness*. In June 2011, 19 federal agencies and offices that form USICH submitted to the President and Congress, the nation's first comprehensive strategy to prevent

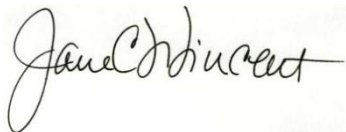
and end homelessness. The plan puts the country on a path to end veterans and chronic homelessness by 2015 and to ending homelessness among children, family, and youth by 2020.

“Philadelphia was my second PIT count this year (I was in Boston in December), USICH’s Barbara Poppe noted in her compelling blog, [Reflections from the Philadelphia Count: Rededication to the Mission](#). “ To me, this is much more than a data gathering exercise—it’s a stark reminder that we’ve not yet been successful in our cause.”

This year, volunteers collected more detailed information about their local homeless populations, including more precise age data, the number of homeless children in families, and even the gender of homeless veterans. In an effort to better count and serve those separated from their families, HUD changed its data collection requirements for 2013 for homeless children and youth. Additionally, HUD is engaged with the USICH, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Education in a special nine-city initiative called Youth Count! to evaluate best practices for counting homeless youth.

I encourage you to visit www.hud.gov/homelesscount, and read HUD’s 2012 Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness, including community-level data.

I have to admit, it was a very sobering experience. I will never be able to walk the concourse again without thinking of the individuals we met that evening—of those who had been driven inside by the relentless rain. And, now when I read our reports, I will be even more aware that every number is a person and every person who is homeless is a tragedy being played out in our shelters and on the streets of Philadelphia. Being able to accurately measure just how many are experiencing homelessness will make a real difference in the national effort to prevent and end homeless as we know it. You may want to think about joining us next year.



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



USICH Executive Director Barbara Poppe speaks with volunteers at the Project H.O.M.E. training session.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

On February 14, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan testified before the Senate Appropriations Committee regarding the effects of the across-the-board federal cuts that would result from the **March 1 sequestration**. In his testimony, Sec. Donovan stated the cuts would be deeply destructive, would damage the economy, and would harm numerous families, individuals, and communities that rely on HUD programs. The sequestration would have devastating effects on homelessness and on other vulnerable groups that HUD works with on housing needs across the country. In particular, he estimated that about 125,000 individuals and families, including elderly and disabled individuals, could lose assistance provided through the Housing Choice Voucher program and be at risk of becoming homeless. Sequestration cuts would also result in more than 100,000 formerly homeless people, including veterans, being removed from their current housing or emergency shelter programs, putting them at substantial risk of becoming homeless. Since March 4, federal agency executives—including HUD’s Secretary Donovan—have sent letters to governors across the country detailing how each state will likely be affected by sequestration budget cuts. HUD has or will send out about two dozen letters explaining the impacts of sequestration to municipalities, multifamily property owners and others. To read Sec. Donovan’s testimony and the letters that have been sent to HUD stakeholders, visit the [Sequestration Information tab on hud.gov](#).

HUD unveiled the **first housing discrimination mobile application (app) for iPhone and iPad**. Developed by HUD’s Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity and Hewlett Packard, the app uses the latest technology to provide the public with a quick and easy way to learn about their housing rights and to file housing discrimination complaints, and inform the housing industry about its responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act. The app also provides information about the fair housing complaint process, and allows the public to access HUD’s toll-free discrimination hotline and link to HUD’s fair housing website: www.hud.gov/fairhousing. To get this housing discrimination app please visit the [Apple App store](#).

The Department of Housing and Urban Development, in partnership with the Council on Foundations, announced the annual **Secretary's Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships – Housing and Community Development in Action** – as part of the Council's annual Fall Conference. The Secretary's Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships recognizes excellence in partnerships that have both transformed the relationship between the sectors and led to measurable benefits in terms of increased economic employment, health, safety, education, sustainability, inclusivity and cultural opportunities, and/or housing access for low- and moderate-income families. This award emphasizes cross-sector partnerships between the philanthropic and public sectors. The goal is to recognize the partnership process and its impact as a community strategy to increase the quality of life for low and moderate-income residents. Examples of desired nominations may include projects affiliated with housing and neighborhood improvements, education, health and recreation, transportation, community participation, arts and culture, safety, sustainability, and economic development. Recognizing that foundations of all sizes partner with public agencies, the jury will take asset and staff size into consideration to ensure that the award recipients reflect a diversity of foundations. The fillable PDF form will be available beginning March 18, at <http://www.cof.org> and www.huduser.org/secaward/cof. The deadline for completing submission is 11:59 p.m. PT, April 29.

HUD has issued the final **Fair Housing Rule on Discriminatory Effects**. The [regulation](#) formalizes the standard and process for determining whether a practice had a discriminatory effect, regardless of whether there was intent to discriminate. Contact Jeanine Worden, HUD, 202-402-5188.

The **2013 HOME income limits** have been published and are effective March 15. You may access these limits from the [HOME Program Income Limits Page](#). HOME is the largest Federal block grant to State and local governments designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low-income households.

Do you need help preparing your tax return? Learn about the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs. If you make \$51,000 or less, IRS-certified volunteers can inform you about tax credits for which you may qualify, and prepare a basic tax return with electronic filing. If you are 60 years of age or older, you may qualify for free tax help from IRS-certified volunteers who specialize in issues that pertain to seniors. For a location near you, click [here](#).

The **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has issued four final rules on mortgages**, implementing provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act. The regulations affect mortgage servicing under [RESPA](#) and the [Truth in Lending Act](#) (contact Whitney Patross, CFPB, 202-435-7700) and on [loan originator compensation](#) and related requirements (contact Daniel C. Brown, CFPB, 202-435-7700). Other regulators joined CFPB to set [a regulation](#) that requires appraisals for higher-risk mortgages (contact Lorna Neill, Federal Reserve Board, 202-452-3667).

The **Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Powersaver Home Energy Retrofit Pilot** has been extended. [FHA insurance will continue](#) to be available through May 4, 2015 for loans to homeowners to finance energy-saving alterations, repairs, and improvements in existing structures or manufactured homes. Contact Patricia McBarron, HUD, 202-708-2121.

HUD has launched the [Environmental Review Training page](#) to help customers find webinars from HUD's Office of Environment and Energy (OEE) that cover a wide variety of topics; from the basics of a Part 58 environmental review to more advanced topics regarding historic preservation, tribal consultation and assessment tools.

The Environmental Protection Agency, the Departments of Energy and Health and Human Services, the White House Council on Environmental Quality and HUD have unveiled [Advancing Healthy Housing - A Strategy for Action](#), to reduce the number of American homes with residential health and safety hazards.

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 April 2** – Comments on concerns related to [redesigning the American Housing Survey Sample](#), including content that should be added or dropped, and ideas for data dissemination. Contact Shawn Bucholtz, HUD, 202-402-5538.

DUE April 8 – Comments on HUD’s proposed streamlining for FHA single-family insurance. [The changes](#) would eliminate the FHA Inspector Roster and the requirement for a 10-year protection plan for high loan-to-value mortgages for newly constructed single-family homes. Contact Karin Hill, HUD, 202-708-2121.

HUD FEDERAL REGISTER RULES, NOTICES & FUNDING

Rules and Regulations

[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](#)

[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: 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](#)

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

[Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Comment Request; Application and Re-Certification Packages for Approval of Nonprofit Organization in FHA Activities](#)

[Notice of Proposed Information Collection for Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 Public Comment Request](#)

[Notice of Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request: Section 811 Project Rental Assistance for Persons With Disabilities](#)

[Announcement of Funding Awards for the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS \(HOPWA\) Program for Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2012](#)

[Announcement of Funding Awards for the Section 4 Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing Program Fiscal Year 2012](#)

[Notice of Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request: The Housing Counseling Federal Advisory Committee Membership Application](#)

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

[Allocations, Common Application, Waivers, and Alternative Requirements for Grantees Receiving Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\) Disaster Recovery Funds in Response to Hurricane Sandy](#)

HUD Notices of Funding Availability

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

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

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

NEW DEADLINE DUE April 30 – [Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency \(ROSS\) Service Coordinator](#)

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AROUND THE REGION, DELAWARE

Maria L. Bynum, Field Office Director
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Familiar Faces Participate in Delaware Point-In-Time Count

“Even though I have been working in the provision of affordable housing and homeless programs for many years, I never felt more connected with those in need than the night I participated in the Point-In-Time Count,” reflected Nadab Bynum, Director of Community Planning and Development (CPD) for Region III. “Moreover, the experience only served to increase my desire to work even harder towards ending homelessness in our region—and in America.” Bynum’s Philadelphia-based CPD team is responsible for the implementation of HUD’s programs that help and support those who are experiencing homelessness. His work as a volunteer that evening, including his interview with Jeff Ruth at the Rick Van Story Resource Center in Wilmington, was profiled in The Delaware News Journal’s front page story entitled [The Hidden Homeless](#) by Beth Miller and Esteban Parra. Like a number of the other center residents surveyed that evening, Ruth saw his stay in the shelter as a temporary situation. “I’m not trying to get comfortable,” he was quoted in the article. He also spoke of how he hopes to finish his psychology degree and eventually help others who are struggling with addictions.

Safe and Affordable Housing for Men

For men who are experiencing some crisis in their lives and need a safe haven, the Central YMCA in Wilmington offers shelter for men 18 years and older. On the upper floors of the six story building, 180 rooms provide a warm and affordable place for homeless veterans, have lost their jobs or may be struggling with addiction. HUD supports the Y in the endeavor by providing funding for rental assistance through the City of Wilmington and working in partnership with Veterans Affairs to supply [HUD VASH](#) vouchers for veterans. In addition to housing, the Y provides one-on-one support counseling; sponsors cookouts, dinners and social activities; and bus tickets for residents to pick up prescriptions and make medical appointments. The Y also has a food and clothes closet. The Y’s housing program also offers referral and assistance programs, as well as partnerships with other social service agencies to assist in addressing life issues. For an application, eligibility guidelines or more information, contact Dara Westerman at 302-571-6950, ext. 101.



More than 1,000 consumers in Delaware are benefiting from the National Mortgage Settlement with the nation’s five largest mortgage servicers. Since the landmark agreement was struck almost a year ago to address mortgage loan servicing and foreclosure abuses, relief to First State homeowners has totaled \$57.4 million or roughly \$56,564 per homeowner. The [Delaware data](#), as well as numbers for all of the states in Region III, is available in the [full report](#). HUD will work vigilantly to ensure the settlement continues to be implemented.

Upcoming Events & Notices

- **March 16**, 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 information, contact Valerie Malone at 302-674-1355.
- **March 18, 19, 21 and 25** – The Homeless Planning Council in Delaware is calling on the community to engage with stakeholders and local and national experts regarding the homeless in Delaware. All sessions will be at the Dover Sheraton Hotel, 1570 N. DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901. Visit www.hpcdelaware.org website for more information.
- **March 21**, 8:30 a.m. to Noon – Interagency CRA (Community Reinvestment Act) Community Development Forum hosted by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at Delaware State University, Bank of America Building, 1200 North DuPont Highway, Room 309, Dover, DE. Join Region III Regional Administrator Jane C.W. Vincent as she participates in a panel discussion on affordable housing. For info, please contact Donna M. Lippi (FDIC) 917-320-2725. To register, click [here](#).
- **March 22**, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Fair Housing Training, Delaware National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, Polytech Adult Education Center, Woodside, DE. For more information, please contact Paula Sims at paulasims1@yahoo.com or call 302-738-0915.
- **March 25**, 6 to 8 p.m. – Foreclosure Prevention Workshop, NCALL Research, Inc., 110 South Bedford Street, Georgetown, DE. For more information, call 302-678-9400.



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

Prince George's County Point-in-Time Features New Technology

The Prince George's County Continuum of Care Point-in-Time Survey (PIT) Committee, in collaboration with the County's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Administrator, used their heads—along with iPads, iPhones, tablets and SurveyMonkey—to conduct this year's unsheltered PIT count. Traditional paper forms were replaced secure electronic devices as the 11 volunteers made their way through campsite refuges throughout the county. Advance training sessions not only prepared volunteers and team leaders on how to use the electronics, but enabled them review and provide feedback about the survey questions as well. Unlike traditional paper forms, while conducting the surveys, special settings kept volunteers from accidentally overlooking questions, eliminating

errors and incomplete surveys. Real time updates could also be uploaded while volunteers were in the field. "Our electronic surveys ensured accuracy of the data collection and analysis since responses were typed and not hand-written," noted Vicky Frazer from Maryland's Department of Social Services who led the team. "We were able to concentrate on our mission to learn about and ultimately help those who are homeless rather than shuffling forms." Vicky is pictured second from left along with HUD volunteer Pamela Randolph, second from right.

FCC Joins HUD to Announce Bridging the Digital Literacy Gap

Currently one-third of Americans don't subscribe to broadband services at home and more than 60 million Americans lack digital literacy skills, which are the basic skills needed to use a computer and the Internet. Which is why on Feb. 14, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Julius Genachowski joined HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan (pictured left to right) and representatives from Connect2Compete, Best Buy, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the District of Columbia Housing Authority at the Southwest Family Enhancement Center to announce an effort on digital literacy as part of a national initiative to close the broadband adoption gap. This spring, Connect2Compete, a national nonprofit coalition dedicated to making high-speed Internet more accessible, and Best Buy's Geek Squad in partnership with HUD and other partner facilities, will launch a national digital literacy training program. To view the video of the announcement, click [here](#).



Do you need help preparing your tax return?

Learn about the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs. If you make \$51,000 or less, IRS-certified volunteers can inform you about tax credits for which you may qualify, and prepare a basic tax return with electronic filing. If you are 60 years of age or older, you may qualify for free tax help from IRS-certified volunteers who specialize in issues that pertain to seniors. For a location near you, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events & Notices

- **March 16**, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. – 2013 Northern Virginia Housing Expo, Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School, Falls Church, VA. Hosted by Fairfax-based nonprofit AHOME in cooperation with the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) and eight local housing authorities, the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church, the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William, and the towns of Herndon and Manassas; the Expo will showcase both homeownership and rental opportunities and resources throughout Northern Virginia. For more information, click [here](#).
- **March 20**, 2 to 3p.m. – Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's Yazmin Osaki and Susan Burhouse will present a free webinar on the primary findings of the [2011 FDIC National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households](#) (aka the Household Survey) released in September 2012. The FDIC sponsors this survey every two years to collect data on the number of U.S. households that are unbanked and underbanked (including the reasons why) and their demographic characteristics. To register, [click here](#).

MARYLAND

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

Thompson Settlement Subject of Baltimore Field Office's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

The Baltimore Field Office's Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day commemoration, "A Celebration of Choice" provided Director Carol Payne with the opportunity to highlight the settlement of the monumental Thompson case. "With such a landmark case being settled in Baltimore and the legacy of Dr. King's insistence on social justice, this was a fitting topic to call attention to fair housing as a continuing and unresolved issue in America," Ms. Payne remarked. The settlement increased housing choice for people in public housing by providing additional Section 8 vouchers under the housing mobility program. General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing Bryan Greene spotlighted the Fair Housing Act of 1968 and the fact that housing choice in many communities is still a dream unfulfilled. Barbara Samuels, Managing Attorney for Fair Housing for the American Civil Liberties Union and the lawyer who shepherded the lawsuit that made the landmark Thompson settlement possible, (pictured above) provided further context to the struggle. Three women, Michelle Green, Sabrina Oliver and Nicole Smith, became the highlight of the event as they told their very powerful and moving journeys of receiving Section 8 vouchers, uprooting their families and moving to better opportunity areas with challenging schools, more housing choices and better jobs. For the complete story, [click here](#).



Seventy-five Is Not Enough!

The Mayor's Office of Human Services hosted a community briefing for the "75 Journeys Home" campaign, part of Baltimore City's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. The initiative aims to identify the 75 most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness in Baltimore, and place them in immediate housing. As those in attendance gathered to hear the initial results of the campaign, 20 members of the advocacy group Housing Our Neighbors stood in the back of the auditorium holding signs that read "75 is not enough" and "Everyone is vulnerable." Members of the group, as well as many other local volunteers, had just participated in the city's point-in-time census—canvassing the city from 4 to 6 a.m. over a three-day period. Some of the individuals experiencing homelessness had spent over 20 years on the streets—some of were veterans, some of them physically or mentally disabled. The volunteers found people sleeping in abandoned houses, on front porches, and against brick walls surrounded by litter and debris. Despite what the final 2013 Point In Time count numbers may reveal, there were 4,088 homeless with 105 people commemorated during Baltimore's most recent Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. At the briefing, attendees learned that people sleeping on the streets are three to four times more likely to die than their housed neighbors.

GHHI Featured in "Healthier America" Report

The work of the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) was featured prominently in two national health publications and showcase GHHI's advocacy for healthy housing and its work to prevent childhood lead poisoning. An article by GHHI's Executive Director Ruth Ann Norton, "[Breaking the Link Between Unhealthy Housing and Unhealthy Children](#)," is included in a new report from the Trust for America's Health's (TFAH), *A Healthier America 2013: Strategies to Move from Sick Care to Health Care in Four Years*. For the latest on GHHI, please visit www.ghhi.org.

Maryland [Foreclosure Counseling Agencies Get Highest Funding in State History](#)

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Raymond Skinner joined Lt. Governor Anthony Brown and Attorney General Douglas Gansler to announce the award of \$11.8 million over three years to the 39 foreclosure prevention counseling agencies belonging to the MD HOPE Counseling Network. The award will enable counselors to help approximately 20,000 Maryland consumers annually, up from 15,000 in fiscal year 2012. The funds are from the 2012 mortgage loan servicing settlement with the nation's five largest lenders and from the Maryland Housing Counseling Fund.

Upcoming Events

- **April 13**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Seventh Annual Come Home to Howard County Housing Fair, Long Reach High School. County Executive Ken Ulman and Howard County Housing host this annual event to help attendees learn everything you need to know about living in Howard County. Meet with real estate professionals; receive a free credit report, tour select new housing developments and more. For more information, call 410-313-6318 or visit www.comehometohowardcounty.org.

PENNSYLVANIA – EASTERN REGION

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

Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) Topic of Regional Administrators Gathering

In support of President Obama's Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) initiative, Region III's Regional Administrators Sara Manzano-Diaz (GSA), Jane Vincent (HUD), Natalia Olson (SBA), Shawn Garvin (EPA) and Robert Angelo (DOL) met with assigned SC2 members at the Philadelphia Regional Office to discuss how to best focus the team's efforts to leave sustainable practices in place in the City of Chester, Pennsylvania. Executive Director of the White House Council on Strong Cities, Strong Communities Mark Linton and Matt Dalby, his Assistant Director, relayed to the group that the success of the SC2 initiative will be used as a model for other distressed cities. Moving forward, the SC2 team will leverage federal agency resources to develop a tool kit which can be shared with others. Each team member briefed the Regional Administrators on the highlights and challenges they have encountered since the SC2 initiative was implemented and added thoughts as to where their leadership would be most valued.



Partnership for Public Service Provides Continuing "Service" for HUD Intern

Former Region III Field Policy and Management Intern Liz Bravacos is still "working" for HUD. Now in her sophomore year at Pennsylvania State University, Liz is serving as a HUD Federal Student Ambassador through the Partnership for Public Service, a Washington, DC-based nonprofit. One of her requirements was to represent the agency at the People-to-People Career Fair on Feb. 26 at Penn State's University Park campus. Nearly 700 students attended and interacted with recruiters from over 150 employers. In addition to pitching the benefits of internships and full-time job opportunities at HUD, Liz showed students how to search and apply for federal positions online at USAJobs.gov. "I had a wonderful day reliving my summer internships with the agency and telling students about why being a government intern is so great," Liz noted. "It made me wish I was back in the Philly office!"

Affordable Housing at your fingertips!

If you're a renter, your search for affordable housing in Pennsylvania couldn't be easier. You're one click away from a simple-to-use housing locator website that lets you define what you want in your next living space, and then it does all the research—presenting you with the relevant housing vacancies that best fit your parameters in the community where you want to live. This high-powered housing locator service is available any time of day at PAHousingSearch.com. A bilingual call center is also available weekdays from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. at 1.877.428.8844. Operators are standing by to help you hunt for affordable housing. Start your affordable housing search at PAHousingSearch.com.

Upcoming Events

- **April 3**, 10 am to Noon – Fair Housing Training for Nonprofit Housing Agencies, Fair Housing Council of Suburban Philadelphia, 455 Maryland Drive, Suite 190, Fort Washington, PA 19034. This free training session is designed for nonprofits, housing counselors and social service agencies that receive HUD funding to operate their housing programs. Participants will gain an increased understanding of the Fair Housing Act as it relates to implementation of HUD-funded projects and learn best practices for compliance with Federal and local housing discrimination laws. Register online at <http://fairhousingtrainingapril3.eventbrite.com> or call 267-419-8918, extension 2.
- **May 2 & 3** – 2013 Commonwealth Housing Forum, Hilton, Harrisburg, PA. Mark Zandi, chief economist with Moody's Analytics; Joseph Smith, monitor of the National Mortgage Settlement; and Alan Heavens, longtime residential real estate reporter with the Philadelphia Inquirer will be the featured speakers. The Forum offers 32 educational sessions, an evening networking event and a prestigious awards ceremony to recognize leaders in the industry. Early bird registration available through April 4; registration ends April 26. To learn more, visit <http://housingforum.phfa.org>.

PENNSYLVANIA – WESTERN REGION

Jane Miller, Field Office Director
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Everyone Counts! HUD PIT Teams Assist Continuum of Care Service Providers

It happens every year, throughout the nation, HUD Continuum of Care Service Providers count the homeless via the Point in Time (PIT) Survey. Despite the cyclical nature of this task, there is nothing typical nor is there anything ordinary about the homeless individuals being counted or the staff and volunteers interfacing with them. On Jan. 30, volunteers from the HUD Pittsburgh Field Office joined staff of Operation Safety Net of the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System in Allegheny County and the Community Development Program of Beaver County to count the “unsheltered homeless” in their respective geographic areas. In Allegheny County (pictured above left to right), Deb Martin, Marva Tolbert, Stephanie Chiappini, Cindy Haines and Mark O’Matz supported the effort. In Beaver County, Malea Cochran (below) joined Norah Miller, Beaver County Homeless Coordinator, to conduct the PIT survey.



Every volunteer noted that survey respondents did not hesitate to answer targeted questions about their personal experiences with chronic homelessness, mental illness, domestic violence and incarceration. They readily identified the challenges and obstacles they had to surmount. There was a pervasive sense of trust and openness between those asking the questions and those providing responses to the survey. Continuums of Care have long fostered and built this momentum of trust over years of diligent advocacy and caregiving. Volunteers were now able to benefit from that environment while collecting data that will assist localities in identifying levels of need and possible gaps in service delivery systems. The PIT Survey does more than count the homeless on one particular day or evening. It sets in motion the foundation for on-going targeted outreach

amongst the chronic street homeless and ultimately defines and estimates the type of resources necessary to continue our quest to end chronic homelessness by 2015.

Feedback and Listening Session Offered to Housing Service Coordinators

During a Regional Housing Services Forum held on Feb. 23, HUD’s Cindy Haines and Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency’s (PHFA) Steve Chopek facilitated feedback and listening sessions with 47 housing service coordinators. Multiple focus groups centered on the participants’ experience working with resident and tenant councils as well as their utilization of technical assistance from HUD, PHFA and other community organizations. Participants compared experiences and offered new ways to look at engaging residents and community technical assistance providers.



Upcoming Events

- **March 19**, 7:30 p.m. – “How Will We Travel in the Future? The Role of Transportation in Building Sustainable Regions” featuring William W. Millar, former president, American Public Transportation Association and CEO, Port Authority of Allegheny County. O’Hara Student Center Ballroom, 4024 O’Hara Street, Pittsburgh. RSVP at www.thornburgh.pitt.edu.
- **March 19-21** – Seventh Annual Inclusive Communities Conference. The PEAL Center in Pittsburgh will host the Inclusive Communities Conference over three days in three Pennsylvania locations. In Erie, March 19 the topic is Transition and Employment; March 20 in Pittsburgh, Autism & Behavior and March 21 in State College, Assistive Technology. For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- **April 4** – The Fair Housing Partnership of Greater Pittsburgh presents “Zip Code and The American Dream” at the Kelly Strayhorn Theatre in East Liberty. This Seventh Annual Poetry Slam is supported by the Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations. For more information, contact Anthony@pittsburghfairhousing.org or call 412-391-2535.
- **April 17** – Erie County Human Relations Commission’s Annual Fair Housing Seminar, Blasco Library. For more information or to register, please call 814.451.7021.



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“Everybody Counts” in Greater Richmond Point-In-Time Count

On Jan. 24, thirteen members of the HUD Richmond Field Office assisted with the greater Richmond Point-in-Time (PIT) count at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. HUD staffers joined Homeward, the area’s planning and coordinating agency for homeless services in the greater Richmond region, to help those individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness. Perhaps more than most people, HUD staffers know that the PIT count serves as the basis for identifying who is experiencing homelessness, how many people are homeless, and works to identify

services that may be missing from the efforts to help people move from homelessness to permanent housing. The annual count also provides important information that the community can use to develop its service plan for people who are homeless. According to Homeward’s website, preliminary results revealed there were 999 people experiencing homelessness in The region that evening. For more information, [click here](#). “I was happy to be a part of the PIT initiative to address the needs of the homeless in a meaningful and thoughtful way,” noted Multifamily’s Carol Schrader, pictured at upper right. “What it comes down to is simply this--everybody counts.”

Congratulations!

Governor Bob McDonnell has announced an additional [\\$3.9 million in Community Development Block Grant funding](#) for six projects in Virginia. The community improvement projects to be funded are: Orchard Acres Housing Rehabilitation Project in Albemarle County (\$700,000), Neighbors Drive and Richmond Road Neighborhood Improvement Project in James City County (\$1,070,000), Skyview Sewer Project in Pulaski County (\$575,405), Town of Victoria Housing Rehabilitation Project (\$480,902), Multi-Year Funding for West Third Street Community Improvement Project in the Town of Chase City (\$600,000), and Multi-Year Funding for Thomastown Community Improvement in Bath County (\$500,000).

Summerhouse is a unique high profile development in Virginia Beach’s Laskin Gateway Corridor. Financed using HUD’s Section 220 Mortgage Insurance program, Summerhouse is a five-story apartment structure containing 178 residential units (studios, one, two and three-bedrooms), 40,000 square feet of street level retail space and a 605-space attached parking garage. Construction is currently about 90% complete. Between 2004 and 2012 the City of Virginia Beach expended in excess of \$91 million in capital improvements in support of this and similar developments in the area to increase high quality year-round residential and commercial development in the beachfront area.



Virginia News:

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will hold five input sessions throughout the Commonwealth to solicit input from DHCD’s partners and the general public for the 2013-2017 Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Plan allocates more than \$20 million in HUD funding to projects and programs across Virginia. For more, 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.

Upcoming Events & Notices

- **March 18** - Early bird registration ends for the [Virginia Association of Housing Counselors](#) 2013 Annual Spring Conference. Final registration ends Monday, April 15, 2013.
- **DUE March 29** – Nominations for the [Richmond Peace Education Center](#) 2013 Peacemaker of the Year award. For more information contact 804-232-1002, or email rpec@rpec.org.
- **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 Service Center, 830 Goff Street, Norfolk, VA 23504. Email Brittany.bailey@norfolk.gov with any questions you may have.

WEST VIRGINIA

Peter C. Minter, Field Office Director
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West Virginia Field Office Staffers Support Point In Time Counts Throughout the State

On Jan. 24, West Virginia local planners or Continuums of Care (CoC) groups conducted a one-night count of their sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations. Pictured are just a few Balance of State communities that participated in the 2013 Point In Time (PIT) Count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness (WVCEH) is proud of all associates and partnering agencies who worked diligently to collect PIT data this year. Results will be aggregated and released to the public by the WVCEH in the spring. For more information as well as community-specific data, visit wvceh.org or contact your local Continuum of Care.



Kay DeWitt, Martha White, and Tracy Shannon (pictured above, left to right) served soup to community members and those experiencing homeless in Preston County. The PIT Count event was hosted by the local Caring Council which also serves as the Preston County Family Resource Network (FRN). Their

volunteers comprised of FRN and Starting Points staff, local Catholic Community Charities and AmeriCorps members, served a community lunch at the Kingwood United Methodist Church. In addition to providing lunch, the group also provided coats from their winter coat drive and other personal care items.



Helen Jones (center at left) and volunteers, Ralph and June. Helen Jones, a long-time volunteer and advocate for homeless services in the Clarksburg area, worked diligently to plan a PIT event in conjunction with the Clarksburg Mission. The Mission served food while Jones and her volunteers surveyed individuals and provided care items like socks and shaving cream.

Sharon Wood, Caritas House Executive Director; Rachael Coen, WVCEH Outreach Coordinator and John Sonnenday, Morgantown Presbyterian Co-Pastor and Morgantown Taskforce on Homelessness Chair are pictured from left to right. Caritas House has organized the local Point In Time Count for the past several years. In 2013, volunteers worked out of the Morgantown Bus Depot serving food, coordinating survey coverage and providing care items like hats, gloves, coats and sleeping bags.



Morgantown Ranked #2 in U.S. for Sustained Economic Growth

The 2012 Milken Institute Best-Performing Cities Index ranks U.S. metropolitan areas by how well they are creating and sustaining jobs and economic growth. The components include jobs, wages and salaries and technology growth. In most years, these give a good indication of the underlying structural performance of regional economics.

Upcoming Events

West Virginia Violence and Injury Prevention Program will be conducting four training sessions.

- **March 19** – Youth Violence, High Risk Behaviors, Suicide; Summit Conference Center (same address as above)
- **March 26** – Drug Use and Abuse, Charleston Town Center Marriott

Each event will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch will be provided. To register, please contact: Michelle O'Bryan, Violence and Injury Prevention Program Director of the Bureau for Public Health by calling 304-356-4464.

- **March 20** – Bullying: Identify, Intervene, Treat; 2013 NCCC Resource Fair & Training. Exploring bullying from the perspective of the person doing the bullying, the participant shall be able to identify characteristics of the bully, issues related to bullying, prevention and treatment perspectives. For more information and mail-in registrations, contact Swapna King, c/o Wellspring Family Services, 165 Scott Avenue, Suite 208, Morgantown, WV 26508 or by calling 304-612-1300 or 304-292-1716 or email sking@crittentonservices.com. CEUs: Application has been made for Social Work, Counseling, Addictions, & Nursing through Valley Healthcare Systems.

OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **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 are accepted year around. For more information, click [here](#).
- **Ongoing** – Lowe's [Toolbox for Education](#) program is now accepting applications. Only the first 1,500 applications will be considered for this year's funding round.
- **March 19** – Applications are due for Department of Labor [YouthBuild Grants](#).
- **March 20** – Applications are due for the Community Transportation Association and the Association for Community Living [Inclusive Coordinated Transportation Partnership](#) project.
- **March 22** – Applications are due for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) [Drug-Free Communities Support Program](#) grants.
- **March 22** – Applications are due for Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families [Ethnic Community Self Help Program](#) grant.
- **March 26** – Applications are due for the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women [Education, Training and Enhanced Services to End Violence Against and Abuse of Women with Disabilities](#) grant program.
- **March 26** – Applications are due for the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women [Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking Assistance](#) grant program.
- **March 26** – Applications are due for the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women [Grants to Enhance Culturally Specific Services for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking](#) program.
- **April 2** – Applications are due for Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration [National Farmworker Jobs Program](#).
- **April 4** – Applications are due for the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women [Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking](#) program.
- **May 23** – Applications are due for [Dollar General Stores' Youth Literacy](#) 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 the *Region III HUDLine News*, visit REGION-III-NEWS-L@hudlist.hud.gov.

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