



REGION III HUDLINE NEWS

December 2014

IN THIS ISSUE: A Message from the Regional Administrator • News You Can Use • HUD Federal Register Rules, Notices & Funding • Around the Region • Delaware • District of Columbia • Maryland • Pennsylvania - Eastern Region • Pennsylvania - Western Region • Virginia • West Virginia • Funding Opportunities • Region III HUDLine News

A MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR



This is our own holiday story.

It all began a little over a month ago when our **Toys for Joy Collection team organized for the annual holiday effort** here in the Philadelphia Regional Office. Led by Chair Ronaldlyn Latham (who works for the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity and has chaired the drive for 11 of its 12 years), the team announced the drive and then **selected this year's benefactor, the Helping Hand Rescue Mission in Philadelphia**. The Toys for Joy Committee set a goal of collecting 500 toys and gifts for boys and girls from newborns to age 17.

When all was said and done (and after HUD's Dave Marable added in a little incentive challenge to add to the "joy" of the effort), the results were in—not only had the team exceeded their goal—the Philly office more than doubled the number of gifts collected!

"A final count of all the items on Friday, Dec. 19, amounted to 1,057 toys, games, balls and clothing that you all donated for this worthy cause. Please give yourselves a round of applause. You are all awesome!" said Ronnie in her congratulatory message. "When Helping Hand Rescue Mission came to pick up the items on Friday, [they were amazed at the amount.](#)" The toys filled the van from top to bottom, left to right.

But, the story doesn't end there. Helping Hand's Adam Bruckner, who serves as the Mission's youth director (and who is pictured above with Ronnie), sent us photos of last weekend's holiday event. He also sent his own "thank you" message:

"We had a wonderful time with the young people. **A huge success! And, many 'thank you's' to you all.**

We work in a community called Penn Town, four hundred units of low-income housing. It is a high crime area where families often struggle for the simplest of things. Often stuck in poverty, the moms are deeply grateful for the Helping Hand Rescue Mission providing a way for their kids to get spoiled at Christmas. **For many, these are the only presents they will get this year.** So, the presents went to the children living in Penn Town and also to the kids of Richard Allen Homes.

Some of our families are in decent financial shape, but I will tell you a quick story about Brandi.

Brandi came to our community when she was 20 and is now 24. At one point, she was taking care of her daughter and her two sons while helping her grown sister and her baby, her mother and her mother's two other children. I went to visit for Christmas, and **the presents we had given them were pushed into the corner under a drawing of a Christmas tree that was taped to the wall.** They have nothing.

Brandi has spent three years getting her GED. She was homeless as a child, and moved to so many different schools that she slipped through the cracks and never fully learned to read. She has joined our literacy program and has done an amazing job.

Her kids are going to be the first ones in their family that are not growing up homeless. And, that are growing up in a 'healthy' environment. It is our blessing to be able to bless them. **We can only do that through the kindness of strangers.** There are many other "Brandies" out there, but that picture of the Christmas tree on the wall will always stick with me," he closed.

My guess is that image will stick with you, too. It reminds us all that **the best gift that we receive each holiday season is truly the "Joy of Holiday Giving."** I know there were initiatives like the toy drive throughout the region, so I thank you for your good work to create opportunities for others—during the holidays—and every day.

Have a safe and wonderful holiday!



Jane C.W. Vincent, Region III Regional Administrator



NEWS YOU CAN USE

HUD Secretary Julián Castro issued a statement in response to President Obama signing the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015. HUD's \$45 billion budget allows the Department to support the individuals and organizations that the agency currently serves, but also limits HUD's ability to help some new families reach the middle class or pursue their dream of homeownership. "HUD is the Department of Opportunity. We support millions of Americans with the housing they need to succeed and we invest in making communities economically strong and inclusive. Our mission isn't a Republican or a Democratic issue-it's an American issue," said HUD Secretary Julián Castro in the announcement. "As needs for our services have gone up in states, cities and counties across the country, HUD's resources have gone down. As we have time and time again, we'll continue to find creative ways to have the greatest impact with the resources we have available so that we can continue expanding opportunity for all." HUD's budget will allow for the continuation of key administration priorities including;

- Choice Neighborhoods Initiative - Redevelops severely distressed public and HUD-assisted housing and brings comprehensive neighborhood revitalization to blighted areas. HUD will receive \$80 million in FY15 [Choice Neighborhoods](#) funds to transform distressed public and assisted housing into sustainable, mixed-income housing with connections to key assets and services supporting positive outcomes for families living in the development and in the surrounding neighborhood.
- Tribal Lands to Access HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) - For the first time, the successful [HUD-VASH](#) program is expanded to include those veterans living in Indian country. This allows HUD to support an additional 10,000 housing vouchers with critical supportive services from VA. HUD-VASH combines housing vouchers with critical supportive services from VA and is a critical component of the Administration's effort to eliminate veteran homelessness by the end of 2015.

To read the complete press release, visit hud.gov.

The United States Senate confirmed President Obama's nomination of Nani Coloretti to serve as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. As the second most senior official at HUD, Coloretti will manage the Department's day-to-day operations, including a \$45 billion annual budget and approximately 8,500 employees. Prior to joining HUD, Coloretti served as an Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of the Treasury where she advised the Secretary on the development and execution of the Department's budget, strategic plans, and the internal management of the agency and its numerous bureaus. In July 2012, President Obama appointed Coloretti as a Member of the Government Accountability and Transparency Board. Following the passage of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act in 2010, she helped establish the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), serving as its Acting Chief Operating Officer. She is a recipient of the UC Berkeley Goldman School Award for Policy Innovation, the National Public Service Award, and the Fed 100 award. She holds a B.A. in Economics and Communications from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master's in Public Policy from University of California at Berkeley.

On Dec. 8, **HUD and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the second round of housing assistance to help 1,984 homeless veterans find permanent supportive housing.** The \$13.5 million in rental assistance is provided through the [HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing \(HUD-VASH\) Program](#) which combines rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by VA. Last October, the two agencies awarded \$62 million in HUD-VASH vouchers to assist more than 9,000 homeless veterans. [See the local impact of the housing assistance.](#) HUD-VASH is an important part of the Obama Administration's efforts to provide critical housing and services to veterans experiencing homelessness that also includes HUD's Continuum of Care program as well as VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF). Since 2008 more than 68,000 vouchers have been awarded and over 80,000 homeless veterans have been served through the HUD-VASH program. Rental assistance and support services provided through HUD-VASH are a critical resource for local communities in ending homelessness among our nation's Veterans.

The **Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) directed Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to begin setting aside and allocating funds to the Housing Trust Fund pursuant to the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA).** In reaction to this action, HUD Secretary Julián Castro issued the following statement: "Affordable housing is about opportunity. That's why today represents important progress for the American people. The Federal Housing Finance Agency's decision to release resources for the Housing Trust Fund will help people across the nation secure a decent place to call home. This effort will assist individuals from all backgrounds—including low-income families and those experiencing homelessness—in building better lives. HUD will soon issue regulations to implement the Housing Trust Fund. We look forward to working with partners from throughout the nation to expand the circle of opportunity for current and future generations of Americans."

HUD awarded \$10 million in "sweat equity" grants to four non-profit self-help housing organizations which will create at least 540 affordable homes for hard-working, low-income families and individuals. Funded through HUD's Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP), [the funding awarded](#), along with the labor contributed by the homebuyers and numerous volunteers, will significantly lower the cost of homeownership. The SHOP program provides federal grants on a competitive basis to national and regional non-profit organizations and consortia that have experience in administering self-help homeownership housing programs. All newly constructed units will receive certification as ENERGY STAR qualified units. All appliances, products or features that are installed or replaced will be ENERGY STAR qualified. Water usage products will bear the WaterSense label. Many units will also have "Green," "Healthy Homes," and "Universal Design" features. National non-profits Habitat for Humanity International and Housing Assistance Council, both of which support work in the Mid-Atlantic region, along with Community Frameworks and Tierra del Sol Housing Corporation in receiving this year's grant awards. Since 1996, when Congress first appropriated SHOP funds, the SHOP program has provided more than \$396 million in federal grants that, together with significant leveraged funds and numerous volunteer hours, are transforming lives and neighborhoods through the production of over 28,500 units of affordable, homeownership housing.

On Dec. 4, HUD and the U.S. Department of the Treasury **announced enhancements to programs under Making Home Affordable (MHA) to better assist struggling homeowners and communities still recovering from the effects of the financial crisis.** The enhancements are designed to motivate homeowners in MHA to continue making their mortgage payments on-time, strengthen the safety net for those facing continuing financial hardships, and help homeowners in MHA programs build equity in their homes, an important factor in stabilizing neighborhoods. Treasury and HUD established HAMP (Home Affordable Modification Program®) in 2009 to provide relief to homeowners facing financial hardship. Through lowered interest rates and modified loan terms, monthly payments are reduced to affordable levels. In addition, many homeowners who remain current following their modification are eligible to earn up to \$5,000 over the first five years of their modification, which is applied in repayment of their outstanding principal balance. For more information visit MakingHomeAffordable.gov.

Sixteen communities, 13 of which are HUD Sustainable Communities grantees or Preferred Sustainable Status recipients, were recognized by the White House for their leadership in addressing climate change including employing energy efficiency and other measures to reduce carbon dioxide pollution and their communities' vulnerability to the effects of climate change (severe storms, rising sea level, droughts and wildfires). These competitively selected "[Climate Action Champions](#)" will receive expert advice and technical assistance from select Federal agencies, peer networking, and other assistance. As the Region III Climate Champion, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (District of Columbia, Md. and Va.) developed the National Capital Region Climate Change Report, demonstrating a fully integrated approach to climate change mitigation and outlining goals in the areas of greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy, transportation and land use, sustainability and resilience, and infrastructure. The Council is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions 20 percent by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050.

According to [HUD's PD&R Regional Summary](#), **economic conditions in the Mid-Atlantic region during the third quarter of 2014 improved from the third quarter of 2013**. Nonfarm payrolls increased in all states in the region and the District of Columbia compared with payrolls a year ago, and the unemployment rate declined. Sales housing market conditions remained unchanged in all states in the region but strengthened in the District of Columbia from a year earlier. Single-family homebuilding activity increased in Delaware and Maryland but declined in all other Region III states and the District of Columbia. Apartment market conditions were mixed, ranging from slightly tight-to-soft in metropolitan areas throughout the region. Apartment construction activity was also mixed but increased in the region overall from a year ago.

One-hundred and fifty city and county officials, regional and state staff, and delegates from community organizations around the country representing **HUD's Sustainable Communities Regional Planning and Community Challenge grantees**, met in Washington, DC, Dec. 3 through 5, to share accomplishments and build a strong peer-network for future work. Top events included a panel with HUD Secretary Castro, EPA Administrator McCarthy, and DOT Secretary Foxx reflecting on historic grantee achievements ([see photo](#) on OER homepage); a keynote with [Stephanie Pollack, Northeastern University](#), on how social disparities skew access to opportunity; a HUD regional administrator panel highlighting how sustainable communities approaches are being imbedded in HUD's everyday work; a closing session with [Angela Glover Blackwell, CEO of PolicyLink](#), on the "Arc of Equity," and their new [Equity Atlas](#), and a heartwarming commencement exercise with "dean" Harriet Tregoning honoring the FY11 grantees who will be completing their projects in the coming months. To glimpse highlights, please see [Twitter](#) and look for future postings to our homepage of videos featured at the convening, new resources and pictures from the event, and other updates.

On Dec. 5, the **Federal Housing Administration (FHA) announced the agency's new schedule of loan limits for 2015**. FHA's Office of Single Family Housing published [Mortgagee Letter 2014-25](#), which provides FHA's single family housing loan limits for Title II Forward Mortgages and Home Equity Conversion Mortgages (HECMs), and provides loan limit instructions for streamline refinance transactions without an appraisal. The loan limits published in this Mortgagee Letter are effective for case numbers assigned on or after Jan. 1, 2015, and remain in effect through Dec. 31, 2015. The maximum FHA loan limit "ceiling" for most areas remains at the 2014 level of \$625,500 for a one-unit property. The minimum FHA loan limit "floor" for all areas remains at the 2014 level of \$271,050 for a one-unit property. There are no jurisdictions with a decrease in loan limits from the 2014 levels. To enable Mortgagees to easily identify areas with loan limit increases, FHA has published a separate list of counties with loan limit increases. Mortgagees may view this list on the [Maximum Mortgage Limits](#) web page.

Upcoming FHA Single Family Default Monitoring System (SFDMS) webinars:

On Jan. 7, 2015 from 2 to 3:30 p.m., **FHA's National Servicing Center will provide guidance to FHA-approved Servicers by covering the basics of reporting information on defaulted FHA loans to HUD through the SFDMS**. Topics will include: deadlines, EDI files vs. manual reporting, reporting resources. This webinar will focus exclusively on SFDMS reporting requirements and is open to all FHA-approved Servicers. A valid company email address and the FHA 5-digit Lender ID are required [to register](#) for the no-fee webinar. For additional webinars, visit the FHA Classroom and Training [website page](#) or email stacey.a.brown@hud.gov.

In the **December edition of SNAPS In Focus, Ann Oliva, HUD Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs, discusses the annual Point-In-Time (PIT) Count**. Each year the PIT Count Report releases data that communities collect and report to HUD, without extrapolation by HUD. It is not perfect—especially on newer requirements like the collection of data on unaccompanied youth—but it is the most ambitious and comprehensive count we have of sheltered and unsheltered homelessness, and it provides a lot of information we didn't have 10 years ago. The good news is that, nationally, we are continuing to see decreases in key areas like homelessness among veterans and chronic homelessness. To read the complete In Focus, visit hudexchange.gov.

HUD has posted the [2013 HUD CoC GIS Toolkit for Communities](#) on the HUD Exchange. **The HUD CoC GIS Toolkit for Communities expands the mapping resources available to HUD Exchange users by providing a no-cost downloadable software tool that allows users to interact with professional quality GIS maps.** The toolkit includes data on CoC Boundaries, HUD Geocodes and Preliminary Pro Rata Need, U.S. Census demographics, detailed street maps, and more. Toolkit capabilities include mapping and saving addresses and other custom locations, producing custom routes with intermediate waypoints, and producing custom maps with annotation. New for 2013, a block group level dataset of American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates for each state allows communities to explore ACS data on demographic, housing, and economic characteristics at the neighborhood and regional level.

This month's PD&R's online magazine, *The Edge*, features a new report, [How Housing Mobility Affects Education Outcomes for Low-Income Children](#), illustrating how improving educational outcomes for low-income children is a topic of pressing concern for researchers, policymakers, and educators. Over time, the widening gap in test scores between children from rich and poor families and the growing divide between these groups in completed schooling hinders the socioeconomic mobility of low-income children.

CoreLogic®, a leading global property information, analytics and data-enabled services provider, released its [October National Foreclosure Report](#), which provides data on completed U.S. foreclosures and the foreclosure inventory. According to CoreLogic, **for the month of October 2014, there were 41,000 completed foreclosures nationally, down from 55,000 in October 2013, a year-over-year decrease of 26.4 percent and down 65 percent from the peak of completed foreclosures in September 2010.** On a month-over-month basis, completed foreclosures were down by 34.1 percent from the 62,000* reported in [September 2014](#). As a basis of comparison, before the decline in the housing market in 2007, completed foreclosures averaged 21,000 per month nationwide between 2000 and 2006.

HUD's Office of Recapitalization held an introductory webinar titled Welcome to Preservation: Strategies to Preserve and Refinance Affordable Housing Properties. Materials for this webinar, including the slides, webinar recording, and webinar transcript, are now available on the [HUD Exchange course page](#). The Welcome to Preservation webinar provides basic information on how to get started on refinancing, recapitalizing, and renovating older HUD-assisted multifamily rental properties, namely those receiving the following HUD support and subsidies: Section 202 Direct Loans, Section 236 Insured Loans, Rent Supplement Contracts, Rental Assistance Payment Contracts (RAP), Flexible Subsidy Loans, and Section 8.

Around the country, communities are seeking creative approaches to integrating entrepreneurship, environmental management, public health, and other place-based considerations into successful economic planning. Local food development can be one strategy. **The White House Rural Council and six federal agencies have selected 26 communities to participate in [Local Foods, Local Places](#), a federal initiative providing direct technical support and expertise to community partners integrating local food systems into regional economic action plans.** Under this effort, a team of federal agricultural, transportation, environmental, public health, and regional economic experts will work directly with communities to develop specific local food projects. These efforts will make a significant impact in the communities participating in the Local Foods, Local Places initiative. For instance, Wheeling, West Virginia (pop. 28,000) is planning on revitalizing a historic and underused ceremonial vineyard into a productive public asset showcasing local products. Allentown and Forest County, Pa. and Williamson, W.Va. were the other Region III communities [named in the initiative](#).

HUD FEDERAL REGISTER RULES, NOTICES & FUNDING

Proposed Rule

[Supportive Housing and Services for the Elderly and Persons With Disabilities: Implementing Statutory Reforms-Reopening of Public Comment](#)

Rule

[Credit Risk Retention](#)

[Federal Awarding Agency Regulatory Implementation of Office of Management and Budget's Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards](#)

[Section 232 Healthcare Facility Insurance Program: Aligning Operator Financial Reports with HUD's Uniform Financial Reporting Standards](#)

Notices

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Application for Resident Opportunity & Self Sufficiency \(ROSS\) Grant Forms](#)

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Inspector Candidate Assessment Questionnaire](#)
[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Re-entry Assistance Program](#)
[Waivers and Alternative Requirements for the Family Self-Sufficiency Program](#)
[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Management Reviews of Multifamily Housing Programs](#)
[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Congregate Housing Services Program](#)
[Federal Property Suitable as Facilities To Assist the Homeless](#)
[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Report of Additional Classification and Rate](#)
[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Local Appeals to Single-Family Mortgage Limits](#)
[Notice of Emergency Approval of an Information Collection: CDBG-DR Expenditure Deadline Waiver Request Template \(Pub. L. 113-2 Grantees Only\)](#)
[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Construction Complaint/Request for Financial Assistance](#)
[Notice of Regulatory Waiver Requests Granted for the Third Quarter of Calendar Year 2014](#)
[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Capital Needs Assessments-CNA e Tool](#)
[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Data Collection Questionnaires for Thompson v. HUD Research Study](#)
[Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals: Home Mortgage Disclosure Act Loan/Application Register](#)
[Announcement of Funding Awards HOPE VI Main Street Grant Program Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2014](#)
[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program \(SHOP\)](#)
[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Pre-Purchase Homeownership Counseling Demonstration and Impact Evaluation](#)
[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality](#)
[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Energy Efficient Mortgages \(EEMs\)](#)
[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Housing Choice Voucher Program](#)
[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Model Manufactured Home Installation Program Rules and Regulations](#)
[Notice of HUD-Held Healthcare Loan Sale \(HLS 2015-1\)](#)
[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Application for Energy Innovation Fund-Multifamily Pilot Program](#)
[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Use Restriction Agreement Monitoring and Compliance](#)
[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Multifamily Insurance Benefits Claims Package](#)
[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Survey Questions for Small Contractor Marketplace](#)
[60-Day Notice of Submission of Proposed Information Collection to OMB; Standardized Form for Collecting Information Regarding Race and Ethnic Data](#)
[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Community Challenge Planning Grant Program](#)

For the complete listing, visit the [Federal Register](#).

Funding Notices

DUE Feb. 9 – [Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant Program](#)

DUE Mar. 16 – [National Disaster Resilience Competition](#)

AROUND THE REGION, DELAWARE



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Home for the Holidays

At the mid-point of her life, a Delawarean has become a first-time homebuyer—just in time for the holidays. The Dec. 15 settlement marked the 68th home that New Castle County has rehabilitated through funding from HUD's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). Vacant for more than a year, the formerly blighted property is within an area of New Castle County that has been disproportionately impacted by foreclosure. Thirty-

seven of the transformed properties are located within that single zip code. Since 2009, New Castle County has been awarded more than \$130 million in NSP funding, and has generated more than \$8.5 million in program income from the sales of the revitalized properties. These investments help communities stabilize and revive local neighborhoods as well as provide more affordable housing. For more information about New Castle County's NSP program, visit the [nccde.org website](http://nccde.org).

Coming in from the Cold

As the frigid winter weather moves into our area, the Homeless Planning Council of Delaware is working with others statewide to publicize Code Purple shelters throughout Delaware and ensure that individuals experiencing homelessness have safe, secure, and warm locations to

access during extremely cold weather episodes. Organized and staffed by volunteers, Code Purple emergency shelters offer short-term housing and hot meals to individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness. To access the list of Code Purple shelters in each of Delaware's three counties, visit HPC's website. HPC is an independent statewide non-profit that works to strengthen the support system for people who are experiencing homelessness. HPC is also **seeking volunteers to help with the First State's annual Point-in-Time Count on Jan. 29 and 30**. This year's count will include interviews with individuals and families who are living on the street as well as in shelters. If you are interested in helping to find and interview those who are homeless within your community, please contact coordinator Rachel Beatty at rbeatty@hpcdelaware.org. The deadline for registering to volunteer is Jan. 7, 2015.



2015 Point-in-Time Count: Community Survey

As the Homeless Planning Council prepares for the 2015 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count in January; the organization is surveying the community to determine what Delawareans want to know about homelessness in the First State. The PIT Count is an opportunity to bring awareness to the reality of homelessness in our community, make sure that all persons experiencing homelessness in our communities count, and gather important information about the people that we serve. Readers may complete a [brief survey](#) by answering a few questions. As January nears, the Homeless Planning Council will be releasing more detailed information about the 2015 PIT Count, and ways that volunteers can help make this year's PIT Count successful.

Statewide Grant Program Aimed at Revitalizing Neighborhoods

A fund created to help strengthen neighborhoods throughout Delaware hit hardest by the 2008 financial crisis is now up and running. The Neighborhood Building Blocks Fund was provided initial funding of \$1 million from a settlement that Delaware Attorney General Beau Biden secured with JPMorgan Chase & Co. related to the housing crisis. The fund is overseen by a board of representatives from the Delaware Economic Development Office, the Delaware Department of Justice, the Delaware State Housing Authority, the Office of State Planning Coordination and the Delaware Community Foundation. Neighborhood revitalization programs, neighborhood associations, community groups, law enforcement, local governments and other stakeholders are invited to apply for grants that support crime reduction, neighborhood revitalization, and economic development programs statewide. **An informational session will be held on Jan. 8, at 2 p.m. in the auditorium at the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, 89 Kings Highway SW, Dover.** Guidelines and the application for grants can be found on the Neighborhood Building Blocks Fund page on the Delaware Economic Development Office's website, dedo.delaware.gov. Completed applications should be submitted via email at DEDO_NBBF@state.de.us or through regular mail: The Neighborhood Building Blocks Fund (NBBF), c/o The Delaware Economic Development Office, 820 North French Street, Tenth Floor, Wilmington, DE 19801. For more information, contact Kimberly Massey at kimberly.massey@state.de.us or (302) 577.8477.



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Sen. Cardin Hosts PG County Homeownership Roundtable

On Dec. 8, HUD Secretary Julián Castro joined U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Maryland Dept. of Housing and Community Development Acting Secretary Clarence Snuggs, Prince Georges County Council Chairman Mel

Franklin, Director Marvin Turner and Regional Administrator Jane Vincent, pictured left to right, for a Homeownership and Foreclosure Prevention Roundtable in Upper Marlboro, Md. "Building world-class communities and great economic destinations for the new economy in Prince George's County require the implementation of a strong housing program, and a full spectrum of partners harnessing all available resources, to navigate the slow recovery from the effects of the national housing crisis, including homelessness and foreclosures," stated Chairman Franklin in a published statement. Pictured at right, Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker listens as Secretary Castro makes a point. For more photographs of the event, visit [HUD's Flickr site](#).



HUD Staff Attend Customer Service Excellence Training

On Nov. 6, the National Capital Area Office received a much needed "shot-in-the arm" to rejuvenate their commitment to be exemplary customer service representatives by attending its annual customer service training. Customer service representatives and their respective managers attended a half-day workshop entitled "Customer Service Excellence—Discover the Difference—Me!" Participants were reminded how important they are in providing customer service to the public by life coach, Berri Wells. Known by her motto, "I've helped thousands renew worn out attitudes," Ms. Wells reinforced the importance of Dr. Willie Jolley's "The Ten Commandments of Customer Service." Dr. Jolley is a motivational speaker based in

the Washington metro area who stresses these ten key attributes: smile; go the extra mile; greet, speak and be sweet; say "thank you" and "please" a lot; be willing to apologize; anticipate the needs of your customer; do what is necessary—not what is comfortable; take responsibility; lighten the lines and practice CANE (constant and never ending improvement). For more information, contact HUD Senior Management Analyst Belinda Fadlelmola at Belinda.J.Fadlelmola@hud.gov or (202) 275-6280. Pictured seated left to right, Director Marvin Turner, Berri Wells and Belinda Fadlelmola with teammates and standing, Ygerne Robinson, MaryAnn Middleton, Sherrie Crim, Tiffany Freeman, Katie Chappell and Janice Everett.

Housing Counseling Impacts Lives

Like many urban centers across the country; the District of Columbia has a robust housing market. By some accounts, some of the most expensive housing in the United States is now in the District. While this has been a boon to the local economy, it poses a huge challenge to those seeking to obtain and maintain safe and affordable housing. Striving to increase the opportunity to live in safe and affordable housing has been the mission of Housing Counseling Services, Inc. (HCS), a local non-profit housing counseling agency in the District of Columbia that has been serving residents in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia for more than 40 years. For the complete story as well as testimonials from HCS clients, please check out "The Bridge," HUD's Office of Housing Counseling Newsletter for Housing Counselors. You can read the new edition of "The Bridge" [online](#). If you would like to sign up your staff or a new counselor at your agency, or recommend a housing counseling industry colleague to receive the Bridge Newsletter and LISTSERV, please visit [our subscription website](#) to sign up today. This service is free of charge.





NOVA Stakeholders Collaborate to End Veteran Homelessness

On Dec. 8, the Virginia Department of Veterans Services and the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness organized a meeting with key stakeholders from Northern Virginia to improve coordination and develop strategies to end veteran homelessness. Attendees included Continuum of Care leaders from Fairfax, Arlington, Alexandria, Prince William and Loudoun; five Dept. of Veterans Affairs Supportive Service for Veteran Families (SSVF) providers, District of Columbia Veterans Affairs Medical Center, HUD and Elisha Harig-Blaine from the National League of Cities. All participated in initial talks to work toward ending veteran homelessness by 2015. Participants since that meeting agreed to continue discussions in the new year and implement strategies for improving coordination. Since that meeting, Fairfax joined the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness. Virginia Department of Veterans Services' Matt Leslie, pictured at left, facilitated the day-long session.

Events & Announcements

- **Jan. 28, 8 p.m. to Jan. 29, 2 a.m.** – Point-in-Time count in Washington, DC. For more information and to volunteer, please contact Regional Coordinator Belinda Fadlemola at belinda.fadlemola@hud.gov or register at dcpit2015.com.

MARYLAND

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Veteran Shares Story at The Baltimore Station Event

Peter Barich's vita is impressive. Hailing from Edison, NJ, he joined the Air Force intending to be a diesel mechanic, but tested "off the charts" for language and became an Airborne Cryptologic Linguistic Specialist instead. He became proficient in Romanian and Spanish and served with the 6994th Electronic Security Squadron (6994 ESS) at Ft. George G. Meade, Md. His post-military career is equally impressive. After attending the Baltimore International Culinary College, he became a chef and also became known as a troubleshooter—helping a number of area restaurants get back on their feet. In total, he opened 14 restaurants, including some of Baltimore's famous landmarks like the Rusty Scupper, D'Allesios and Paolo's. But then Peter's life took a turn and in July 2014, he found himself trying to get back on his own feet. Peter shared his story of his time at The Baltimore Station, a therapeutic residential treatment program that assists homeless veterans, as The Station hosted HUD Secretary Julian Castro, members of Maryland's congressional delegation and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. Secretary Castro was in town to announce additional housing resources for homeless veterans on Dec. 8. "This program puts the onus on me," cited Barich, pictured above. "It's about me and my personal decisions and choices. Doors are open here at The Baltimore Station. All you have to do is walk through them." After graduating from The Station's program, Barich hopes to return to the restaurant field, possibly in food service sales. "My experience here has been wonderful," he added. The Station currently has 108 veterans with their program. "Our successful clients stay in the program for an average of 13 months,"



according to Executive Director Michael Seipp. "They work on recovery and putting their lives back in order, including their physical and mental health, finances, legal issues, education and employment." Pictured above, Director Seipp, Secretary Castro, Senator Cardin, Mayor Rawlings-Blake and U.S. Representative Elijah Cummings look on as Peter Barich shares his story. The [Secretary and speakers toured the facility](#) and also met with key pastors from Baltimore's faith-based community to discuss their ideas and recommendations for improving communities in West Baltimore. For more information, visit [The Baltimore Station's website](#).

Opportunity Collaborative Releases Regional Housing Plan and Hosts German Ministry

The Baltimore region will gain economic strength by having communities that provide jobs for its residents, high-quality schools, affordable housing and a transportation infrastructure to support those needs, according to a [new regional housing plan](#) released by the Opportunity Collaborative. The plan makes recommendations for achieving the crucial regional goal of creating healthy communities where more residents are able to contribute positively to the regional economy. The plan also highlights the challenges facing many Baltimore-area residents who can't find affordable and accessible housing. Over 70,000 Baltimore area families could benefit from affordable and accessible housing highlighted by the plan. For more information about the report, visit the Collaborative's website opportunitycollaborative.org. In addition to the Report release, Baltimore Field Office Director Payne also participated in a reception held by HUD's Offices of Policy Development & Research and Philanthropy for an Opportunity Collaborative-hosted event at the World Trade Center for the German Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development. The Ministry has a Memorandum of Understanding with HUD to collaborate on livability principles and a partnership for Sustainable Communities and the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities.



Mayor Rawlings-Blake Makes Way for Green Tracks: *New initiative changes the view of Baltimore*

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake has launched the Baltimore Green Tracks project ("Green Tracks"). Green Tracks is a collaborative between Baltimore Housing and the City's Planning Department utilizing each agency's signature initiatives, Vacants to Value (V2V) and the Growing Green Initiative respectively. Green Tracks is designed to eliminate blight and improve the image of Baltimore City as seen by millions of passengers along Amtrak's Northeast Corridor. The City has strategically demolished blocks of vacant houses along Amtrak's East Baltimore train tracks, which have long served as an eyesore for travelers. Green Tracks will connect

green space to current revitalization projects, such as the new Henderson-Hopkins School and homes that have been rehabilitated by the Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition. "There is more to Baltimore than a view from a train. We want our residents and visitors to know that change is underway in Baltimore," said Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. "Removing the blight, creating jobs, and developing green space has tremendously impacted this community and we look forward to replicating this model throughout the City." For the complete story, visit the [Baltimore Housing website](#).

Green & Healthy Homes Initiative Receives JPB Foundation Grant: Maryland Impacted by Funding

Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) received a grant from The JPB Foundation to scale the work and impact of GHHI nationally. GHHI's work has been proven to improve health, economic and social outcomes for low-income families through whole-home interventions and resident education. This expansion will enable GHHI to assist 300,000 families (18,000 will be from Maryland) by 2017. Nearly 25,000 of those families will take part in a study to evaluate the outcomes of a whole-home intervention. This three-year grant will also provide funding to develop recommendations to drive a national standard for the creation of healthy, safe and energy efficient homes. Green & Healthy Homes Initiative also received a \$3.3 million contract from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development as part of its Weatherization Plus Lead Hazard Services Program. Through this contract, GHHI will begin offering healthy home interventions to low income residents in counties surrounding Baltimore City. For more information please visit the [Maryland Direct Services](#) and [Maryland Resources](#) pages of the GHHI website.

Baltimore's Point-in-Time Count

The *Journey Home* Initiative relies on data to track and evaluate the Plan's impact on reducing homelessness in Baltimore. In Jan. 2015, Baltimore will conduct a Point-in-Time (PIT) count of sheltered people experiencing homelessness (people living in shelters, safe havens and transitional housing) and unsheltered people who are living on the streets. During the week of Jan. 25, the Mayor's Office of Human Services needs volunteers who will visit neighborhoods, hospitals, service providers, and locations frequented by people experiencing homelessness to conduct a detailed census of Baltimore City's homeless population and provide linkages to housing and other supports. Volunteers are especially needed during the early morning hours (midnight to 6 a.m.) for two consecutive days on Jan. 26 and 27. Volunteers will work in teams of three to four people and will be paired with an experienced homeless service provider who will work with the team to canvass the downtown area of Baltimore to survey people experiencing homelessness. Please see the [sign-up form](#) for more information and a full list of volunteer opportunities. If you are a federal employee interested in volunteering, please contact Regional Coordinator Belinda Fadlelmola at belinda.fadlelmola@hud.gov.



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HUD, FEMA Collaborate to Develop Housing Recovery Plans

In close coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), HUD held a Housing Core Capability Course of Action Workshop on Dec. 4 in its Philadelphia Regional Office. As part of the National Disaster Recovery Framework, HUD serves as the lead coordinating agency for the [Housing Recovery Support Function](#) during disaster recovery operations. The workshop focused on developing objectives and tasks to support short- and long-term housing recovery needs. HUD and FEMA employees pose for a photo after the Course of Action Workshop.

Philadelphia Housing Authority Holds Groundbreaking for Queen Lane Apartments

Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) President and CEO Kelvin Jeremiah led the ceremonial groundbreaking on Dec. 17 for Queen Lane Apartments, a new 55-unit townhome and apartment complex in the Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia. Joining the celebration were Mayor Michael A. Nutter, Congressman Chaka Fattah, State



Representative Rosita Youngblood, City Councilwoman Cindy Bass, HUD Regional Administrator Jane C.W.

Vincent and a host of state and local officials. Northwest Neighbors of Germantown's Lisa Hopkins (left) and Yvonne Haskins (right) posed for a photo with HUD Philadelphia Public Housing Acting Director Monica Hawkins. Federal, state and local government officials, faith-based organizations, non-profit civic groups and concerned citizens worked closely together to determine how the redevelopment would not only be an asset in the neighborhood, but respectful of its past and in keeping with the architectural fabric of the community. The grand opening is scheduled for December 2015.



AmeriCorps VISTA Members Help Improve Health Outcomes in Public Housing

The skills and talents of AmeriCorps VISTA program members are making a difference in the lives of public housing residents. The federally funded program has been assisting low-income communities for 50 years, and now VISTA members are supporting an effort to strengthen health programs at local housing authorities. The idea originated in HUD's Philadelphia Office of Public Housing (OPH), with the initiative being piloted in 2012 at the Reading Housing Authority (RHA) in Reading, Pa. Two VISTA members have supported the RHA's Wellness Program, writing grants, conducting workshops and building partnerships with organizations in the community. "Our VISTA volunteers exceeded every expectation that I had for the initiative—in terms of both the capacity of the VISTAs themselves, and the way in which the overall program increased our resources and invigorated our staff, our programs and our residents," said RHA Deputy Executive Director Stacey Keppen. OPH is working in partnership with the National Nursing Centers Consortium, the sponsoring organization, to reach out to housing authorities that have expressed an interest in the initiative. As the interest in the initiative grows, so does the number of participants—the Housing Authority of Chester County, Pa., began hosting a VISTA member this year. Marissa Tan, an AmeriCorps VISTA member who supported the Reading Housing Authority's Wellness Program, poses for a photo with Yvette Rios, a resident of Eisenhower Apartments in Reading.



Housing Authorities Maximize HUD-VASH Funding to House Veterans

Despite case management challenges and program turnover, the hard work of Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) and Veterans Affairs Medical Centers is paying off. As of Dec. 9, the Bucks County and Scranton Housing Authorities in eastern Pennsylvania have achieved 100 percent leasing rates; successfully keeping veterans housed and off the streets. Full leasing indicates that local strategies and planning are positively impacting local communities by reducing homelessness and saving lives. “PHAs that have achieved a 100 percent leasing rate for their HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers are maximizing program resources and are demonstrating that ending veteran homelessness by 2015 is an attainable goal in their jurisdictions,” said Monica Hawkins, HUD Philadelphia Public Housing Acting Director. Pennsylvania has received 369 HUD-VASH vouchers in 2014, totaling more than \$2 million in housing assistance.

Mid-Atlantic Roundtable Examines Strategies for Ending Veteran Homelessness

At a [roundtable discussion](#) in HUD’s Philadelphia Regional Office on Dec. 2, local officials, non-profit organizations and federal agencies gathered to discuss strategies for eliminating homelessness among veterans in the region. “The roundtable gave local officials an opportunity to hear firsthand how cities across the country are successfully addressing the issues,” said Regional Administrator Jane C.W. Vincent. “They were equipped with resources and practices that can help them make real progress in ending veteran homelessness in their communities.” The *Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness* is a



collaborative effort being led by HUD, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and National League of Cities. Announced by First Lady Michelle Obama on June 6, the Challenge is a call to action to get local officials involved in eradicating veteran homelessness in their cities by the end of 2015. Pictured left to right at the roundtable are Pennsylvania’s City of Wilkes-Barre Mayor Thomas Leighton, Regional Administrator Jane C.W. Vincent, City of Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski, City of York Mayor Kim Bracey, City of Reading Mayor Vaughn Spencer, City of Chester Mayor John Linder and Delaware’s City of Dover Mayor Robin Christiansen.

Impact Services Breaks Ground for Veterans Family Housing Center

Veterans and their families will find a home—and proximity to public transit—at the soon-to-be developed Impact Veterans Family Center. Currently home to Impact Services Corporation’s (ISC) headquarters, the former factory building in the Kensington neighborhood in Philadelphia will soon also provide housing for 25 low-income veterans and their families. Four of the units will be fully accessible to persons with disabilities. Operating subsidies and capital support are being provided by the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA). The \$9 million project has been fully funded through an award of low-income housing tax credits from the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) with additional funding from the Federal Home Loan Banks of New York and Pittsburgh, the Home Depot Foundation and TD Bank. For many years now, HUD has been working with Impact Services to end veteran homelessness through the Veterans Shared Housing Initiative and HomeBase Programs. Above right, State Rep. John Taylor (D-177th District) joined Regional Administrator Jane C.W. Vincent, PHA President and CEO Kelvin Jeremiah, and ISC Chairman Mike Driscoll and President and CEO John MacDonald for a photo prior to the ground breaking. Dept. of Veterans Affairs Deputy Adjutant General Brigadier General (Ret.) Jerry G. Beck, Jr. and Congressman Chaka Fattah, Impact Board Member Tracee Hunt and PHFA’s Holly Glauser joined the others to hoist shovels at the event, pictured right. For more information, visit [Impact’s website](#).



Events & Announcements

- Jan. 21, 2015 – Philadelphia Point-in-Time count. To volunteer, if you are a federal employee, please contact joseph.a.nicodemo@hud.gov or contact Robin Hernandez at phillycounts@projecthome.org.

PENNSYLVANIA – WESTERN REGION

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One Suitcase, One Small Box: Material Possessions Do Not Define Us

On Dec. 19, fifty Erie, Pa. residents, service providers, and federal, state and local officials gathered to memorialize the homeless who passed away in 2014. Two of the three homeless individuals who had died met their demise on the streets, while another passed away in a local shelter.

This memorial event was coordinated by the Erie Home Team, a collaborative of over thirty social service providers who have vowed to end homelessness in Erie. Erie County Continuum of Care Coordinator Mark Alexa, pictured above center, implored those present to redouble their efforts to help those individuals and families experiencing homelessness. "In the end we are defined, perhaps, by less than what we have, and more by what we give," he noted. For those who can offer time, services, or resources and want to join this effort to end homelessness in Erie visit www.eriehometeam.org/contact or www.getconnectederie.org. Photograph by Christopher Millette, Erie Times-News. *Photograph reprinted courtesy of the Erie Times-News.*



We Have to Listen to What They Have to Say

Stuck in Survival: Building Support for Couch Surfers, Travelers and Other Homeless Youth

During the Homeless Children's Education Summit held Nov. 18 at the Wyndham University Center, Mayor Peduto stressed that ending homelessness amongst youth was a priority, but that we needed a game plan, a better strategy to coordinate resources. Both Mayor Peduto and County Executive Rich Fitzgerald pledged to combine city and county resources to provide services to the homeless, in particular to the young adults who live on our streets. This Homeless Summit focused on young adults and provided a panel of several formerly homeless youth offering personal testimony of how they "worked their way out of

homelessness". Foremost, they reiterated that "homeless youth need to be heard". One participant implored the audience to "listen to us". They offered these suggestions to service providers: early intervention in dysfunctional families, substance abuse counseling readily available, and help navigating complicated service provider agencies. One of the major suggestions was for a Downtown drop-in center where they could find food, medical care, and access to computers and telephones. What is the next step? On February 6th the Homeless Education Network Meeting will focus on "Making It Happen" for our kids. To view videos from the Conference visit: www.homelessfund.org/summit2014.

Pittsburgh Named to Growing List of 100 Resilient Cities

100 Resilient Cities - Pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation (100RC) is dedicated to helping cities around the world become more resilient to the physical, social and economic challenges that are a growing part of the 21st century. 100RC supports the adoption and incorporation of a view of resilience that includes not just the shocks—earthquakes, fires, floods, etc.—but also the stresses that weaken the fabric of a city on a day to day or cyclical basis. Examples of these stresses include high unemployment; an overtaxed or inefficient public transportation system; endemic violence; or chronic food and water shortages. By addressing both the shocks and the stresses, a city becomes more able to respond to adverse events, and is overall better able to deliver basic functions in both good times and bad, to all populations. The Foundation just announced the 35 newest cities, including Pittsburgh, Pa., to join 100 Resilient Cities. [See which other cities have been selected to join the growing group of resilient cities, and start following their resilient stories today.](#) Norfolk, Va. was named in the initial 100 Resilient Cities announcement.





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The Power of Unity Brings a Veteran Home

For 13 years, Mari Richardson served in the U.S. Air Force—in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom. After being medically discharged and returning home, Richardson and her 10-year-old daughter found themselves without a place to call home. A multi-agency collaboration between the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, Virginia Department of Housing and

Community Development, Suffolk Redevelopment Housing Authority and Sherbco Inc., came to Mari’s aid, helping her secure stable housing. After several months of living in various shelters, Mari and her daughter began a new life in their newly rehabilitated home in North Suffolk. After receiving housing counseling, Mari began steps to homeownership in a home made available by funding from the Neighborhood Stabilization Program administered by DHCD. For the complete story, please check out “The Bridge,” HUD’s Office of Housing Counseling Newsletter for Housing Counselors [online](#).

Volunteers Needed for Annual Point-in-Time Count on Jan. 29

The City of Virginia Beach and BEACH (Bringing an End to All City Homelessness), a community partnership of city, nonprofit and faith-based organizations, are seeking volunteers to help conduct the annual Point-in-Time Count of people who are experiencing homelessness. The count will take place on Jan. 29, from 4 to 7 a.m. HUD requires that the city conduct the Point-in-Time Count to continue receiving federal funds through the Continuum of Care. Each year, more than \$1 million is granted through the Continuum of Care to Virginia Beach agencies that provide emergency housing and services to the homeless. Volunteers who are at least 18 years old are needed to help count and administer the brief survey to homeless persons living on the streets within the city. Mandatory training will be provided. To volunteer, register online at www.beach-cp.org/volunteer2015 by Jan. 6. For more information, contact Pam Shine at (757) 385-5761 or pshine@vbgov.com. For more information about BEACH, visit www.beach-cp.org. Annual Point-in-Time Counts will be conducted in other Virginia Continuum of Care areas including Norfolk and the Virginia Balance of State CoC (Jan. 28) and Richmond/Henrico, Chesterfield and Hanover Counties (Jan. 29). If you are a Federal employee who would like to volunteer, please contact Anne Davis at anne.davis@hud.gov.

Making Meaningful Connections

Thanks to a partnership that Community Housing Partners Resident Services established with Good Shepherd Baptist Church of Christiansburg, Va., over two years ago, many residents young and old at Linden Green Apartments, also in Christiansburg, know that there are quite a few people out there who care about them, their families, and their success in life. Some of the activities of Good Shepherd volunteers have organized include collecting gift baskets and donations to give to residents during the holidays, gathering back-to-school supplies and clothes for young residents and helping to man the rental community’s annual End-of-Summer Bash.



They have offered transportation to residents who need to run necessary errands or go to the doctor, and they even support the small food pantry that is located at Linden Green by sharing a monthly bread donation they receive from the Panera Bread and contributing non-perishable food items. *Story and photographs courtesy of Melissa Hammond and Jackie Harper with CHP.* For the complete story, visit [CHP’s website](#).

Events & Announcements

- **DUE Jan. 28, 2015, 6:30 p.m.** – Governor Terry McAuliffe has announced that nominations are being accepted for the 2015 Governor’s Volunteerism and Community Service Awards. This year’s winners will be honored during an awards ceremony in Richmond the spring of 2015. [For more information or to nominate a person or group](#), call (804) 726-7918, 1-800-638-3839 or email info@vaservice.org. Nomination forms can be submitted [online](#) or [downloaded](#) and mailed to: Virginia Department of Social Services, Office on Volunteerism and Community Service, 801 East Main Street, 15th Floor, Richmond, VA 23219.

WEST VIRGINIA

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Local Nonprofit Making Home Ownership a Reality for Residents

In a Dec. 18 [WBOY-TV 12 profile](#), reporter Lauren Talotta noted, “A local nonprofit is making the dream of home ownership a reality, and a Morgantown woman said it's changed her life. It was last March when Frances Hall learned her days were numbered in the house she shared with her two cats. ‘The little house I was renting got sold. I started looking at rental units and started panicking because the prices in Morgantown have gone up unbelievably. I wasn't going to be able to afford what I needed,’ said Hall. So, after months of searching, Hall found her dream home on Melrose Street. It's a success story made possible by the Fairmont-Morgantown Housing Authority and the city of Morgantown. The first step? Securing a mortgage, thanks to the FMHA's New Home Loan program that uses funding from the West Virginia Housing Development. ‘It is a 0% loan. There's no down payment, and there are no closing costs, so it makes the loan very affordable,’ said Donna Lane of the Fairmont-Morgantown Housing Authority Home Ownership Center, pictured at left with homeowner Frances Hall (center) and Amy Hammond of the Fairmont-Morgantown Housing Authority Home Ownership Center. But the nonprofit's resources extend well beyond those seeking assistance. It offers a variety of programs for all income levels, including home ownership counseling and classes on how to secure a loan.” For more information, [visit the Fairmont-Morgantown Housing Authority's website](#). *Story and photo reprinted by permission of WBOY-TV 12 in Clarksburg, W.Va.*



The **Greater Wheeling Coalition for the Homeless was recognized as one of ten programs throughout the nation to receive the 2014 Audrey Nelson Award of the National Community Development Association.** The annual award celebrates organizations that provide exemplary service to low-income communities. This award highlighted to broad-based community support the Coalition demonstrated during the recent rehabilitation of the Residential Housing Shelter, which provides 18 beds of permanent supportive housing for people with disabilities. The Coalition also operates two shelters providing transitional housing, one for families and another for single adults. Since opening doors in 2002, less than one percent of the clients who completed this program have experienced a return to homelessness. Despite serving clients whose average income is less than one-tenth the median family income for this area, this lack of recidivism demonstrates the success which can be achieved when safe, stable shelter is combined with supportive services such as education, life skills training and employment development. In addition to their successful shelter programs, the Coalition recently received their first grant to assist homeless veterans through the Veterans' Administration's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program.

With offices in West Virginia in Cross Lanes and Bluefield, **Apprisen is a non-profit credit counseling agency that provides counseling at little to no charge to clients.** The organization provides budget counseling, debt repayment programs, foreclosure prevention sessions, credit health education, and both pre-filing and post-filing bankruptcy counseling sessions both over the phone and in person. Many of the services are also offered through their website, www.apprisen.com. Organizational leaders are also available to do presentations on financial topics including credit, budgeting and reduced income and partner with the Fifth Third Bank to bring the Young Bankers Club to local schools adding budgeting and wise money management to their curriculum. For more information, call (304) 720-3640 in Cross Lanes and (304) 325-5143 in Bluefield.

Events & Announcements

- **Jan. 27, beginning at 4 p.m. through Jan. 28, ending at 3:59 p.m.** – Point-in-Time (PIT) Counts throughout the state of West Virginia. Federal employees should contact Evie Williams at evie.williams@hud.gov. For more information and to volunteer, visit <http://wvceh.org/hmis/pit>.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Ongoing Opportunities:

- 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.
- [Wells Fargo Homeownership](#) grant program to help local nonprofit housing organizations create sustainable homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate-income people.
- 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](#).
- Kresge Foundation is accepting applications for funding for its [Advancing the Effectiveness and Resilience of Multi-Service Organizations](#) grant program.
- Kresge Foundation is accepting applications for funding for its [Healthy Environments](#) grant program.
- [The Coca Cola Foundation](#) offers grants to support programs that focus on: water stewardship; healthy and active lifestyles that lead to physical activity and nutritional education programs; community recycling; and education.
- The [Macy's Foundation](#) provides grants to organizations that are focused on women's issues.

Upcoming deadlines:

- **DUE Feb. 2, 2015** – The [Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program](#) is seeking applications for grant funding for projects that develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations. Fundable projects include wetlands creation and restoration; green infrastructure and stormwater management; citizen's science and volunteer water monitoring; coastal habitat, riparian, urban forest restoration and other water quality protection and restoration projects in local communities. The grant program is offered in conjunction with the Urban Waters Federal Partnership which gives priority to projects located in underserved, environmentally overburdened communities. For more information go to www.nfwf.org/fivestar.
- **DUE Apr. 30, 2015** – The U.S. Department of Labor today will fund \$100 million in grants to expand registered apprenticeship programs in high-skilled, high-growth industries like healthcare, biotechnology, information technology and advanced manufacturing. [Registered Apprenticeships](#) have long been known as one of the best training models for skilled trades ("earn while you learn"), yet the model remains underutilized in the United States. This unprecedented investment will help to transform apprenticeships for the 21st century and serves as a catalyst to increase the use of apprenticeship to meet employer needs in these sectors. Approximately 25 grants from \$2.5 million to \$5 million each will be awarded using funds collected from employers who use H-1B visas to hire foreign workers. The Funding Opportunity Announcement, which includes information on eligibility and how to apply, is available at <http://www.grants.gov>. Prospective applicants are encouraged to view additional online resources at <http://www.dol.gov/apprenticeship/>.

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 HUDLine News](#). We safeguard our lists and do not rent, sell or permit the use of our lists.