



HUD Great Plains Region VII News



Bi-Monthly Newsletter

April 2013

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MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR



First, I would like to thank you for your continued support and hard work to administer HUD's programs in your communities. With that said, we need to find new ways to continue to collaborate and work together.

As you know, Sequestration went into effect on March 1st and the depth of the cuts will be felt across HUD's programs, including those you serve. As you continue your work, we ask that you keep us apprised of your challenges and how sequestration has affected your programs.

To meet the broad [sequestration](#) goal, HUD must also reduce its salaries and expenses by \$66.6 million. This will mean up to seven (7) designated furlough days for virtually all HUD employees between May through August 2013.

Last month, HUD Secretary Donovan released HUD's FY 2014 Budget. In his written [testimony](#), Secretary Donovan concluded by saying, "Given the economic moment we are in, HUD's 2014 Budget proposal isn't about spending more in America's communities - it's about investing smarter and more effectively."

HUD will continue to improve the programs you rely on, and we will do our best to keep you informed about what to expect as a result of these cuts.

Sincerely,

Terri Porter

HUD in Kansas



Community Housing of Wyandotte County Presentation

On March 20, 2013, Community Housing of Wyandotte County (CHWC) presented a foreclosure crisis session at the Kansas City Regional HUD Office. Clifton Jones, Senior Advisor to the Acting Regional Administrator and Enrique Shaw, Management Analyst, were instrumental in coordinating the event.

Key note speaker, Donny Smith, Executive Director of CHWC opened the session by providing key elements of the functions of the non-profit, HUD-certified housing counseling agency. The award-winning organization (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Best Practice Award for Entitlement Project and Special Achievement in Affordable Housing Development) stabilizes, revitalizes, and reinvests in Kansas City, Kansas neighborhoods through affordable housing, homeownership promotion, and community building. Since 2007, CHWC has rehabbed and constructed over 200 homes, counseled over 1,000 households, generated 470 new homebuyers, and invested over 70 million dollars directly into the neighborhoods, creating 35 jobs annually.

Guests included representatives from congressional offices, Unified Government of Wyandotte County (UGWC) city officials and community and development staff, lenders, banks, and HUD staff.



Buyer Select Closing Agent Program for Kansas



Effective March 15, 2013, HUD implemented a *Buyer Select Closing Agent Pilot Program* in the State of Kansas. All buyers whose contracts are executed on or after March 15, 2013 will now select their own closing entity.

On March 5, 2013, the Kansas City Regional Office hosted a rollout event for HUD's new "Buyer Select Program" for nearly 70 attendees.

For more information visit:

<http://hudpemco.com/information/buyers-incentives>

Topeka Veterans Resource Fair

On Saturday, March 16th, 2013, Enrique Shaw, Management Analyst from the Kansas City Regional Office represented HUD at the Topeka Veterans Resource Fair hosted by Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins, 2nd District of Kansas. The purpose of the event was to connect Kansas veterans with service organizations that offer special programs and benefits for vets and their families. Approximately 25 organizations participated in the event providing information on healthcare, educational opportunities, job placement resources, veterans' organizations, and other re-adjustment assistance. Over 140 veterans and their families attended the fair.

Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition-14th Annual Summit on Homelessness & Housing

April 16, 2013 - Region VII Acting Regional Administrator, Terri Porter delivered opening remarks at the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition's 14th Annual Summit on Homelessness & Housing held at the Memorial Auditorium and Conference Center in Pittsburg, KS. She began by thanking attendees for their efforts to collect more detailed information about their local homeless populations during the 2013 Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, and discussed the 2012 Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time Count and FY2012 Continuum of Care Program Tier 1 Renewal Projects. Porter discussed the impacts of sequestration, and provided HUD updates regarding HUD's FY 2014 budget and the latest technology that HUD is using to fight housing discrimination. In February 2013, HUD launched a fair housing app for iPhone and iPad that will make it faster and easier for the public to report suspected housing discrimination and learn about their fair housing rights.



Terri Porter, Acting Regional Administrator



Training Events

HUD Environmental Training – On April 23-25, 2013, the HUD Region 7 Office held *Foundation in HUD Environmental Review* training at the Kansas City, KS Regional Office. HUD Field Environmental Officers provide basic training on Environmental Procedures at a variety of locations during each year.

Prevailing Wage Training – HUD and the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) partnered with the State of Missouri Department of Labor and the Missouri Housing Development Commission to present information and training to almost 100 participants on federal labor statutes (i.e. Davis-Bacon Act, Federal Labor Standards Act, Family and Medical Leave Act) as well as Missouri Prevailing Wage Laws. The training was held at the NOAA National Weather Office Training Facility in Kansas City, MO.

Upcoming Events in Kansas

May 7-9, 2013 – Kansas NAHRO Spring Conference - [Click here to register.](#)

June 27-28, 2013 – HUD Environmental Training – Kansas City Regional Field Office - *This course is intended to provide an overview of NEPA and related federal environmental laws and authorities that apply to individual HUD projects and to cover the basic environmental requirements under 24 CFR Part 50. This seminar is particularly targeted to staff and clients of the Office of Public Housing, Multifamily Hub, and Office of Native American Programs. More registration information [here](#).*



HUD in Iowa



Polk County Bus Tour

April 19, 2013 – Des Moines Field Office Director, Steve Eggleston and Field Policy & Management (FPM) Staff Aliza Reisberg and Julie Sleeper, participated in the Polk County Housing Trust Fund Spring Bus Tour. The tour took place along Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority's (DART) Route 60 in central Des Moines.

Participants on the tour learned about the relationship between quality public transit and affordable housing. The tour route featured several affordable housing developments including the following HUD properties: Elsie Mason Manor, Liguitti Tower, Corinthian Gardens, Plymouth Place, and Oakridge Neighborhood.

Route 60 is projected to be the first Bus Rapid Transit line in Des Moines. Keeping affordable housing adjacent to public transportation is an important part of the long-range planning process.



Steve Eggleston, Des Moines Field Office Director, visits with Eric Burmeister, Executive Director of Polk County Housing Trust Fund.

Region VII Acting Regional Administrator visits Des Moines



Central Iowa Shelter and Services visit. Left to Right: AJ Olson, CISS; Terri Porter, Acting Regional Administrator; Steve Eggleston, Des Moines Field Office Director; Megan Thibodeau, CIS



YMCA Supportive Housing Campus Visit. Left to Right – Emily Osweiler, YMCA; Terri Porter, Acting Regional Administrator

On March 15, 2013 Acting Regional Administrator, Terri Porter, visited the Des Moines Field Office. During her visit, Terri had the opportunity to visit two relevant organizations in addition to meeting with Des Moines Field Office staff.

The first visit was to Central Iowa Shelter and Services, a 43,000 square-foot building located in downtown Des Moines. The shelter has 150 emergency beds, 38 Section 8 efficiency apartments, and 19 apartments for veterans. The facility also includes a computer lab, food pantry, clothing closet, large dayroom, commercial kitchen, healthcare clinic, and an open backyard area.

The second visit was to the YMCA Supportive Housing Campus which offers 140 individual efficiency residential units. In addition to the furnished residential units, the campus has classrooms, counseling suites, a library, a small workout room, laundry facilities, and a dining area. A variety of support services are available to all tenants.



HUD in Eastern Missouri



St. Louis Field Office Staff Participate in Ground Breaking Flance Early Childhood Education Center

On March 1, 2013, HUD's Field Office Director, James Heard, Public Housing Program Center Coordinator, Pat Straussner, and other HUD staff joined local leaders for the St. Louis Housing Authority's celebration of the I. Jerome and Rosemary Flance Early Childhood Education Center's ground breaking at Murphy Park.

Dr. I. Jerome Flance made legendary contributions to the St. Louis community as a practitioner in private and public health issues, and was a passionate advocate for children. As a tribute to the memory of Dr. Flance, the center will have the capacity to assist 154 children, ages 6 weeks through 5 years. To prepare local children for success in school, the center will partner with the adjacent Jefferson Elementary School and will provide children with high quality early childhood educational services as a complement to classroom instruction.

This center was made possible in part by the \$5,000,000 Capital Fund Education and Training Community Facilities (CFCF) Program grant received by the St. Louis Housing Authority. Combined funding and resources from multiple sources include Head Start, Early Head Start, and Missouri Pre-K programs. The center will feature innovative programming for children, and supportive services for families. The building housing the Center has been registered with the U.S. Green Building Council to receive LEED for Schools certification.



St. Louis Field Office Director, James Heard

Upcoming Events in Eastern Missouri

May 22-24, 2013 – MO NAHRO Public Housing/Section 8 Workshop - at Tan-Tar-A Resort at the Lake of the Ozarks. Click [here](#) for registration information.



HUD in Western Missouri



HUD and Federal Reserve Bank Partner

March 6, 2013 – The Federal Reserve Bank and HUD partnered to present a National Mortgage Settlement Update regarding the \$25 billion National Mortgage Settlement. Paul Wenske from the Federal Reserve Bank and Clifton Jones and Enrique Shaw from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, collaborated on the event held from 8-11 A.M. at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. Joseph A. Smith Jr., National Mortgage Settlement Monitor for 49 states was the key note speaker. He provided an update on the National Mortgage Settlement and answered a variety of questions from some of the 70 attendees representing non-profits, relators, lenders, legal aid organizations, city, state, and congressional officials, and community stakeholders. Clifton Jones was instrumental in coordinating briefings presented by Meghan Stoppel, Office of the Kansas Attorney General, and Ryan Asbridge, Office of the Missouri Attorney General. The duo provided an overall

description and process of disbursement and respective state oversight of the \$25 billion dollar settlement. In addition, Kelly Edmiston, Senior Economist in the Community Affairs Department at the Federal Reserve Bank presented the most recent foreclosure and vacancy rates for the greater Kansas City, Missouri metro area. The National Mortgage Settlement Update proved to be a critical outreach and educational event for participants.



PHOTOS: Above left – Joseph A. Smith Jr.
Bottom left – Meghan Stoppel;
Ryan Asbridge

Friendship Village Apartments

Friendship Village Apartments, a HUD-subsidized property, will receive \$7 million from US Bank for a major renovation project. Read more [here](#).

HUD and Federal Reserve Bank Partner, Yet Again!

April 26, 2013 - HUD and the Federal Reserve Bank partnered once again to host a Post-Foreclosure-Resource Development Roundtable to explore innovative ways to revitalize neighborhoods using new tools, resources, and collaborative relationships that build on a changing economic environment. The roundtable really was about “connecting the dots” as participants learned about innovative loan programs (“sustainable loan pools”) and “land banking” that can be viable solutions to address the challenges of vacant properties and blight in urban communities.

Holly Olson, Executive Director, of the Neighborhood Finance Corporation (NFC) in Des Moines, IA presented information about how the NFC originated and its role in developing public/private partnerships to revitalize neighborhoods and efforts to support affordable housing.

Panel discussions focused on new ways to leverage synergies between public and private efforts to 1) Acquire, incentivize and fund the renovation of vacant properties; 2) Identify and attract traditional and alternative investment and funding resources; 3) Return properties to the market and provide homes to qualified buyers; 4) Develop strategies to market improved neighborhoods to stabilize values. In addition, participants received updates on the newly developed Kansas City land bank and what HUD programs are available to assist communities.



Panel Discussion



Holly Olson

Upcoming Events in Western Missouri

May 31-June 1 – Heart of America Stand Down - *Over 100 local private, government and faith based organizations come together at each Stand Down to offer a hand UP NOT a hand OUT to Kansas City's veterans. Find more information [here](#).*



HUD in Nebraska



2013 Restore Omaha Conference

On March 2, 2013, Omaha HUD Field Office Director (FOD) Earl Redrick was guest speaker at the 2013 Restore Omaha Conference and Exhibition in Omaha, NE. The 2013 Conference and Exhibition featured a Friday night reception followed the next day by a conference featuring a national keynote speaker, various exhibits and trade demonstrations, break-out sessions, and a closing Restoration Jam where property owners highlight their restoration projects. Now in its eighth year, Restore Omaha has become the place for current and potential owners of older properties to learn from local and regional experts about how to restore, revive, and preserve their home or business.



Omaha HUD Multifamily Program Center and Office of Counsel Team Up

On March 28th, OGC and the Office of Healthcare Programs closed the Section 223(a)(7) refinance loan in the amount of \$6,501,600.00 for College View Assisted Living located in Hastings, Nebraska. The 75 bed assisted-living and memory care facility is located just east of the Hastings College football stadium. In addition to individualized medical care as needed, the facility provides a Wellness center, full-time Enrichment Director, beauty/barber shop, movie theatre, coffee shop, and a host of other amenities. For additional information please follow the link to www.collegeviewhastings.com



College View Assisted Living Units



Kings Gate Apartments

On Friday, March 29, 2013, the Omaha Multifamily Program Center and the Legal Division closed a \$7,282,600 loan for the Kings Gate Apartments located in Omaha, NE. The 180-unit project is a refinance and is now insured under HUD's Section 223(a)(7) program. The project was built in 2000 and developed through the use of tax credits. With the refinance, the project will have increased property cash flow through a substantial debt service reduction. The increased cash flow, coupled with the term extension, will insure the Project's ongoing viability.

2013 Nebraska NAHRO Spring Conference

The 2013 Nebraska NAHRO Spring Conference was held on April 11th at the Lied Lodge in Nebraska City. This year's training was geared for new directors with three years or less in their position. FOD Earl Redrick and Omaha Public and Indian Housing (PIH) staff attended the conference. Breakout sessions during the conference included Wage and Hour determination presented by Fannie Woods from HUD's Office of Labor Relations in Kansas City; Omaha HUD Equal Opportunity Specialists Connie Radcliff and Shila Hernandez provided a one-hour presentation on reasonable accommodations and modifications under Section 504. Omaha PIH staff members Julie Steadman, Mike Jones, and Jeannie Coats also presented material to the public housing professionals.

Omaha HUD Field Office - Western Nebraska Road Tour and Community Conversations

The Omaha HUD Field Office (OFO) conducted a week-long, five-city, community conversation and visit across Western Nebraska April 22-26, 2013. FOD Earl Redrick and HUD Staff Kellie Paris Asaka, and Andrew Burgin Anton met with local officials, business and community leaders, HUD customers and partners, and residents to share updated and accurate information regarding HUD programs and services available in Nebraska and which are relevant to the respective communities of rural Nebraska. OFO partnered with community representatives to host the forums and encouraged community-wide participation. The tour also served to strengthen relationships between respective communities and the Omaha Field Office. The visits were not designed only to be listening session but rather an opportunity to stimulate dialogue between Western Nebraska Communities and OFO staff. The conversations are also planned for Nebraska's more populated centers of Lincoln and Omaha. OFO's community conversations took place in Valentine, Chadron, Scotts Bluff, North Platte; and Grand Island. Dates/Locations for future community conversations include: Lincoln-5/7; South Omaha-5/22; Northwest Omaha-5/23; and North Omaha-5/28. View local news coverage at <http://www.nebraska.tv/story/22092482/grand-islands-growing-population>



Omaha Field Office Director, Earl Redrick in Valentine, NE

Upcoming Events in Nebraska

May 7-8, 2013 - Nebraska RentWise Train the Trainer – Lincoln, NE - FOD Earl Redrick and HUD Omaha staff will be present at the training. The Nebraska RentWise is a program designed to help renters obtain and keep rental housing and to be successful renters through education. The RentWise curriculum takes an active-learning approach and stresses tenant responsibility. Participants earn a certificate after completing a minimum of nine hours of education. The RentWise Workbook/Organizer helps tenants store rental records and provides how-to information on unit maintenance and creating collaborative relationships with landlords and neighbors. For additional information, please contact Amber Marker, Nebraska Housing Developers Association, amber@housindevelopers.org

FY2013 NOFA for Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants has been posted to the Grants.gov website. NOFA and application package available [here](#).

HUD Issues Guidance on NSP Disposition and Demolition - [Here](#)

2013 HOME Income Limits Effective - [Income Limits Page](#)

New HOME FACTS - Vol. 5, No.1 - March 2013 - [HOME Facts](#)

Welcome to SNAPS-Shots - quick, “bite-size” information to help understand the ESG and CoC Interim Rules – Click [Here](#).

Rural Housing Stability Assistance Program (RHSP) Regulations and Chronically Homeless Definition Published March 27, 2013 - [RHSP & Chronically Homeless Definition](#)

2013 HCV Admin Fee Rates Available on HUD Website, and Higher Admin Fee Rates Requests and Blended Rates Requests Deadlines – Find [here](#).

Upcoming: NSP Regional Roundtables - Spring/Summer 2013 - [Schedule/Dates](#)

“Building the Bridge to the Future: Lessons Learned from HPRP” Video Now Available on HUD’s YouTube Channel - [Watch](#)

HOME Program Releases Notice on Procedures for Designation of Consortia as a PJ for the HOME Program – Read [Notice](#).

HOME Monthly Reports Now Posted – Click [here](#).

Hepatitis Awareness Month:

What Homelessness Assistance Providers Need to Know – [More](#)

Upcoming Webinar Training –

May 15, 2013 - HUD-sponsored webinar on Fundamentals of Insurance Endorsements - *This webinar is designed for loan closers, post closers, loan officers, processors, brokers, agents, any interested parties, and any individuals new to FHA. Register online [here](#).*

May 22, 2013 - HUD-sponsored webinar on FHA Appraisal Requirements - *This webinar is designed for appraisers, underwriters, loan officers, processors, brokers, agents, any interested parties, and any individuals new to FHA. Register online [here](#).*

May 29, 2013 - HUD-sponsored webinar on FHA Appraisals using the FNMA 1004 *and how to review appraisals on more difficult property types; e.g., manufactured homes, 2 to 4 Units, Condominiums, and New Construction. This webinar is designed for loan closers, post closers, loan officers, processors, brokers, agents, any interested parties, and any individuals new to FHA. Register online [here](#).*

From Our Federal Partners

GO GREEN! EPA News You Can Use - April 2013 EARTH DAY EXTRA - [Go Green](#)

Green apps could spark environmental engagement - [More](#)

USDA Announces New Partnership with States to Strengthen Integrity of Nation's Most Vital Nutrition Assistance Program - [Read More](#)

USDA Invites Applications for Renewable Energy System and Energy Efficiency Improvement Projects - [NOFA](#)

USDA Seeks Applications to Promote Job Creation and Boost the Rural Economy - [More Info](#)

USDA Proposes Simplified Application Process for Renewable Energy Funding - [Read](#)

USDA Rural Development Celebrates Earth Day by Promoting Water Quality Projects in 32 States - [2013 Earth Day Projects](#)

HHS would increase rewards for reporting fraud to nearly \$10 million - [Read more.](#)

QUICK RESOURCES

QUICK LINKS - Use our quick links directory to access HUD information from one location

CENSUS TRACTS: Find out which Census tracts are for Low Income Housing Tax Credits in 2013 by visiting [http://www.huduser.org/portal/pdredge/pdr edge research 042412.html](http://www.huduser.org/portal/pdredge/pdr%20edge%20research%20042412.html)

FIND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES - [Funds available](#)

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We welcome your comments and feedback and invite you to share your stories and/or news with Agatha (Aggie) Gutierrez at Agatha.R.Gutierrez@hud.gov.