



HUD Great Plains Region VII News



July 2015

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MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR



In his first year, Secretary Castro has focused on advancing policies, helping families and individuals secure quality housing, ending homelessness, addressing climate change and natural disasters, leveling the playing field for Americans from all walks of life, strengthening all communities in this century of cities, and building a stronger HUD.

Across the country HUD continues to provide rental assistance to low-moderate income households and making homeownership more affordable for families. In an ongoing effort to end homelessness, HUD awarded, almost \$55 million in Continuum of Care grants to support over 300 homeless programs in Region VII. In addition, permanent housing for nearly 350 homeless veterans was provided through the HUD-VASH program. To further encourage self-sufficiency among HUD assisted households, invest in neighborhood revitalization, and expand economic opportunity, communities in Region VII received much needed assistance through the Jobs Plus Program, Choice Neighborhood Program, and Promise Zone Initiative. HUD continues to strive to improve the quality of life in some of the country's most vulnerable areas.

Over the past 22 years, communities have produced more than 1.2 million affordable housing units with HOME funds. HOME provides financing for a variety of housing related projects, including critical affordable rental and homeownership housing, and housing for the homeless. In FY 2015, approximately \$36 million in HOME funding reached urban, suburban, and rural communities across Region VII. The HOME program has been the catalyst for transforming neighborhoods and has been a unique source of funding for local governments to revitalize their communities.

HUD will continue to invest in initiatives that have demonstrated outcomes in helping the people we serve. Thank you for the commitment and compassion you display every day with your work.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Tidwell

NEW RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY and NEW RESIDENTIAL SALES

Each month, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Census Bureau jointly announce the new residential construction statistics and sales of new single family houses. Read the most current new residential construction data available at <http://www.census.gov/construction/nrc/>. For the most current monthly report for sales of new single family homes, please visit <http://www.census.gov/construction/nrs/>.

Housing Scorecard

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of the Treasury produce a monthly scorecard on the health of the nation's housing market. The scorecard incorporates key housing market indicators and highlights the impact of the Administration's unprecedented housing recovery efforts, including assistance to homeowners through the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP). [Monthly Scorecards](#)

HUD AWARDS OVER \$300,000 TO 2 PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCIES IN REGION VII TO SUPPORT EMERGENCY, SAFETY AND SECURITY NEEDS

WASHINGTON – On May 18, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded \$250,000 and \$51,966, respectively, to the Kansas City, KS Housing Authority and the Carrollton Housing Authority in Missouri. The grants were part of the \$6 million awarded to 29 public housing authorities to help fight crime and drug activities at their public housing properties. [Read individual project descriptions.](#)

HUD AWARDS OVER \$1.1 MILLION TO HIV/AIDS HOUSING PROGRAM IN MISSOURI *Funding supports stable housing for individuals and families at risk for homelessness*

WASHINGTON – On May 19, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced \$1,109,912 to a local HIV/AIDS housing program in Missouri to help extremely low-income persons and families living with HIV/AIDS.

Interfaith Residence, Dba “Doorways” will use grant funds to continue its *Outside Missouri Next Step Supportive Housing Program* that serves individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS in rural and underserved communities in central and southern Missouri. The project consists of a combination of housing assistance based on client needs, including tenant-based rental assistance to 22 households, 11 leased rental units, and short-term rental assistance to 43 households annually. In addition, the program offers supportive services to 120 households through partnerships with local providers such as the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network of Central Missouri (RAIN).

HUD AWARDS ADDITIONAL \$6 MILLION IN HOUSING COUNSELING GRANTS *Funding follows \$36 million awarded in April*

WASHINGTON – On June 15, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded nearly \$6 million in grants to hundreds of national, regional and local organizations to help families and individuals with their housing needs and to prevent future foreclosures. The grants announced are in addition to \$36 million awarded in April. In Region VII, housing counseling agencies in Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska received over \$64,000 in addition to over \$225.1 thousand awarded earlier this year. [See list of all counseling agencies awarded funding.](#)

HUD SELECTS FINALISTS FOR NATIONAL DISASTER RESILIENCE COMPETITION *States in Region VII among Finalists*

WASHINGTON – On June 22, HUD Secretary Julián Castro announced that 40 states and local communities will compete in the second and final phase of HUD's [National Disaster Resilience Competition](#) (NDRC). Aligned closely with a companion education and technical assistance effort by the Rockefeller Foundation, HUD's competition is designed to help states and local communities recover from past disasters while improving their ability to withstand future extreme events through strategic community investments.

In Phase 2, each finalist is invited to propose specific projects that advance their community's comprehensive resilience plans, as envisioned in Phase 1. Finalists from Region VII include the states of Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri. [Read more on the National Disaster Resilience Competition.](#)

2015 HUD SECRETARY'S AWARD FOR HEALTHY HOMES WINNERS ANNOUNCED

WASHINGTON – Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics in Kansas City was one of four model programs that received the inaugural [HUD Secretary's Award for Healthy Homes](#), each being recognized for excellence in promoting resident health through housing interventions. [Read more about the winning programs.](#)

HUD AND VA ANNOUNCE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO HOUSE HOMELESS VETERANS IN IOWA *\$48.7 thousand awarded to City of Iowa City Housing Authority*

WASHINGTON – HUD and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced a second round funding to help provide permanent homes to ten veterans experiencing homelessness in Iowa. The 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.



HUD in Kansas

Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition 16th Annual Summit

On Thursday, May 14, 2015 Regional Administrator Jennifer Tidwell provided remarks at the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition 16th Annual Summit in Wichita, KS. Ms. Tidwell thanked summit participants for the work they do every day to help the most vulnerable in their communities and assured that HUD and the Kansas City Regional Office would continue to partner in this effort. In January, Kansas received over \$9.1 million dollars in grants, through the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition, to support 61 local homeless housing and service programs across the state.

HUD's 2014 homeless data reveals that 393 veterans are homeless in Kansas. In April, HUD and the Department of Veterans Affairs awarded over \$550,000 to help homeless veterans in Kansas find a permanent home through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program.



Regional Administrator
Jennifer Tidwell



Diane Nilan, Founder/President of the non-profit organization HEAR US, was the keynote luncheon speaker. Ms. Nilan created HEAR US, in 2005, to advocate for homeless children, youth, and families. To date, she has logged over 200,000 miles traveling to rural, resort, and affluent areas (not typically thought of experiencing homelessness) and documenting families and teens talking about their homelessness. Read more about Diane at <http://www.hearus.us/pdf/Bio.pdf>

(Pictured: Diane Nilan)

Kansas City Regional Office FHAP Conference

June 2 - 4, 2015 – Regional Administrator Jennifer Tidwell provided welcoming remarks for the Region VII Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) region-wide Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) Training Conference held at the Kansas City Regional HUD Office. Joseph Pelletier, Director, HUD' Office of Enforcement FHAP Division, conducted the Opening Session with an "Overview of the Fair Housing Assistance Program". Topics covered during the training included Intake & Dual Filing Requirements, Fair Housing Legal Updates, Criteria for Cause/No Cause Determinations, FHIP (Fair Housing Initiatives Program) & FHAP Partnerships, and a panel discussion of FHAP Best Practices and Outreach to Underserved Communities. The conference concluded with over 50 participants viewing the FHEO Speaker Series - "The Problem We All Live With: Residential Segregation and the Implications for Urban Policy" moderated by Assistant Secretary Gustavo Velasquez.



(Photos)
Left: Jennifer Tidwell
Center: Joseph Pelletier
Right: Participants from state and local Fair Housing Assistance Program agencies across Region VII.

From the Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement

1099 Workers/Independent Contractors – Did You Know?

On July 15, 2015, the U. S. Department of Labor (DOL), Administrator David Weil, issued Administrator's Interpretation No. 2015-1, which explains DOL's interpretation of the standards for classifying workers as 1099 workers/independent contractors. Below is the link to the DOL website pertaining to this subject.

http://www.dol.gov/whd/workers/Misclassification/AI-2015_1.htm

Please share this information with contractors on HUD-funded/assisted and/or FHA-insured construction work and anyone who may be interested in this subject. Should you have questions, as related to HUD-funded/assisted and/or FHA-insured construction work, please contact Fannie Woods, Regional Supervisor, Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement (OLSE), HUD Region VII, via email at Fannie.J.Woods@hud.gov or telephone at (913) 551.5577.

Upcoming Events

August 4, 2015 – U.S. Dept. of Labor – Prevailing Wage Survey Briefings – Wichita, KS – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Unions & Union Contractors – IBEW Local 271 Office, 1040 S. Broadway, Wichita, KS; **Non-Union Contractors 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** – Kansas Small Business Development Center Wichita State Metroplex, 5015 E. 29th St. North, Wichita, KS – *the purpose of this survey is to solicit information on wages and fringe benefits paid on projects that were active and ongoing between 01/01/2014 and 05/31/2015.* For more information contact Nolan Fine at (312) 596-7089.

August 5, 2015 – U.S. Dept. of Labor – Prevailing Wage Survey Briefings – Kansas City, KS – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Unions & Union Contractors – Laborers Local 1290 Office, 2600 Merriam Lane, Kansas City, KS; **Non-Union Contractors 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** – Enterprise Fleet Management Building, 5429 Merriam Drive, Merriam, KS – *the purpose of this survey is to solicit information on wages and fringe benefits paid on projects that were active and ongoing between 01/01/2014 and 05/31/2015.* For more information contact Nolan Fine at (312) 596-7089.

August 26-28, 2015 – Kansas Housing Resources Corporation - 10th Annual Kansas Housing Conference – Manhattan Conference Center, Manhattan, KS – *Join housing industry leaders and experts to learn best practices, innovative strategies and fresh perspectives in housing and community development. Register at <http://kshousingconference.org/>.*



HUD in Iowa

AMES, IA CELEBRATES FAIR HOUSING MONTH

On April 14, 2015, Mayor Ann Campbell read a Proclamation declaring the month of April as Fair Housing Month in the City of Ames, IA. The Proclamation states the “Strength of our nation and all of its states and cities flows from the promise of individual equality and freedom of choice”. The Proclamation refers to the new national media campaign to be undertaken by HUD to help the public recognize various forms of housing discrimination. Finally, the Mayor urges citizens to recognize, participate, support, and endorse the practice and policy of fair housing and reaffirm the commitment to fair housing opportunities for all throughout the year.



Consequently, the City of Ames has undertaken a media campaign for Fair Housing Month. In partnership with the Ames Human Relations Commission, the Central Iowa Board of Realtors, Professional Property Management (PPM), Hunziker Property Management, Shriver Rental Properties, and 1st Property Management, the City has purchased ads for four buses with routes throughout the City and Iowa State University campus. These buses, at peak ridership, carry up to 25,000 riders on a daily basis. The city will also have a billboard signaling a similar message along a major commercial street in the heart of the City, area newspapers and on the City’s Channel 12 Cable network.

(Pictured): Vanessa Baker-Latimer, City of Ames Housing Coordinator and Steve Eggleston, Des Moines Field Office Director, in front of a bus advertisement for Fair Housing Month.



Polk County Housing Trust Fund – Housing Matters Symposium

April 16, 2015 - Regional Administrator Jennifer Tidwell and Des Moines Field Office Director Steve Eggleston and staff joined national and local experts for the Polk County Housing Trust Fund’s “Housing Matters Symposium” held at the Olsen Medical Education Center, Des Moines University. The symposium focused on the impact of housing on health, education, and economic development. Guest speakers included Michelle McDonough Winters, Visiting Fellow for Housing at the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Terwilliger Center for Housing and Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba, Research and Policy Director for Children’s HealthWatch.



ULI’s Terwilliger Center for Housing was established in 2007 and focuses on affordable and workforce housing. Children’s HealthWatch has conducted several studies regarding how Housing Insecurity (families in unstable housing conditions) can have serious harmful effects on the health and emotional/behavioral development of children (age 0-4 most vulnerable) and family well-being. Panelists including Tom Ahart, Superintendent, Des Moines Public Schools, Angela Dethlefs-Trettin, Vice-President of Community Investment & Initiatives for the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, Dr. Angela Franklin, President of Des Moines University, and Eugene Meyer, President of Greater Des Moines Partnership discussed how housing impacts the Des Moines community and better ways to collaborate on housing issues.

Seated (L-R): Gene Meyer, Dr. Angela Franklin, Tom Ahart, and Angela Dethlefs-Trettin.

Third Annual Iowa Peer to Peer Homeless Symposium a Success

Des Moines, IA – On June-3-4, 2015, the Des Moines HUD Field Office along with state and local partners held the third Iowa Peer-to-Peer Homeless Symposium at the Iowa Methodist Medical Center Education and Research Center. Homeless service professionals from across the state were able network and expand their knowledge on homeless policy initiatives and programs.

Regional Administrator Jennifer Tidwell welcomed symposium attendees and Mayor T. M. Franklin Cownie provided opening remarks.

The symposium featured several tracks that focused on 1) options for hard to house individuals/families, 2) local resources available to assist to assist very low income and homeless Iowans, 3) Veterans Homelessness, 4) best practices for homeless and housing provision in rural areas, 5) strategies for Continua of Care to establish partnerships with local school systems, 6) Human trafficking and assisting populations and 6) grant management.

See more symposium photos at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/hudopa/sets/72157654097498955>



(Pictured):
Regional Administrator Jennifer Tidwell;
Mayor T.M. Franklin Cownie

Upcoming Events

September 9-10, 2015 – HousingIowa Conference – Coralville Marriot, 300 E. 9th St. in Coralville, IA - Iowa's premier housing conference for advocates, developers, managers, owners, lenders, real estate professionals and homeless service providers offering sessions with national trainings and education sessions. Register at http://www.ifameetings.com/en/registration_information/



HUD in Western Missouri

NeighborWorks Training Institute Returns to Kansas City

May 4-8, 2015 - Kansas City, MO was chosen once again as a host city for NeighborWorks Training Institute. NeighborWorks offered more than 100 courses during the four-day conference.

On May 6, Regional Administrator Jennifer Tidwell and Deputy Regional Administrator Bruce Ladd attended the symposium on "Housing & Community Innovations for An Aging America." Most seniors want to age in place, remaining in their homes and communities as they grow older. Panel discussions included 1) how demographic and economic shifts have created growing need for affordable and age-appropriate housing opportunities, 2) more cost effective home modifications, affordable rental options, and ensure that new construction includes accessible features/ designed with future modifications in mind, and 3) provide affordable transportation options and services (medical and non-medical) to improve health and decrease isolation,

Symposium participants selected from among several tours/mobile workshops regarding green build development (Make It Right Foundation); intergenerational housing development (Kansas City Housing Authority), and remote health technology (Cerner Vision Center).

Congratulations to NeighborWorks America and the City of Kansas City, MO for yet another successful event!

HUD Secretary Visits Kansas City

On May 28, 2015, Kansas City was the latest stop for HUD Secretary Julián Castro's Opportunity and Investment Community Tour traveling across the country to gain a better understanding of housing and urban development issues facing American communities. Secretary Castro was joined by Congressman Cleaver II, Regional Administrator Jennifer Tidwell, and local officials for a bus tour of Kansas City's Westside. The tour began at Guadalupe Centers, Inc. and included stops at Villa Del Sol and Posada Del Sol where Secretary Castro met with residents of the senior citizen complex. Secretary Castro believes that strong, diverse communities benefit each of us, but they are especially critical for older adults who want to remain active, find affordable housing, and access needed health and social services.

See more photos of the Secretary's visit at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/hudopa/sets/72157653544009786>

(Top Photo [L-R]: Cris Medina, CEO, Guadalupe Centers, Secretary Julián Castro, Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II. Bottom Photo: Meet & Greet with the Secretary at Posada Del Sol.)



Assistant Secretary Gustavo Velasquez Speaks at NCLR Conference

Assistant Secretary (AS) for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Gustavo Velasquez was in Kansas City on July 10 to speak at the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) Homeownership Network Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the 2015 NCLR Annual Conference.

AS Velasquez noted that NCLR has long been in the forefront of civil rights, and continues to meet the needs of Hispanics everywhere. In his remarks, AS Velasquez reminded the audience that homeownership is still a powerful engine that creates diverse communities and is a tangible symbol of the American dream. He thanked the Homeownership Network for the work they do ensuring access to homeownership. The Assistant Secretary also talked about HUD's announcement of the final rule on Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) and how it establishes policies and practices that provide greater life-changing opportunities.

(Top Photo): Assistant Secretary Gustavo Velasquez. (Bottom Photo L-R): Betty Bottiger, FHEO Director, Region 7; AS Velasquez; Lot Diaz, Vice-President of Housing and Community Development, NCLR; Bruce Ladd, Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 7.



Upcoming Events

September 16-18, 2015 – National Association of State and Local Equity Funds (NASLEF) 22nd Annual Conference – Kansas City, MO at the Hotel InterContinental – Forum for training, networking and trends impacting affordable rental housing development. More info and online registration at <http://www.naslef.org>.



HUD in Eastern Missouri

St. Louis CREA Fair Housing Month Kick-Off

On Wednesday, April 1, the St. Louis Civil Rights Enforcement Agency (CREA) held its 9th Annual Fair Housing Month Kick-Off Celebration. The Honorable Francis G. Slay opened the event with an official welcome and Fair Housing Month proclamation on behalf of the City of St. Louis. Regional Administrator, Jennifer Tidwell, thanked CREA for their long-standing dedication and commitment to end housing discrimination and talked about how diverse, inclusive communities offer the most education, economic, and employment opportunities to their residents. "Today, it is about more than just addressing outright discrimination and access to the housing itself," she said. "Housing should be a springboard to success. That's why we're linking homes to the jobs, training, transit options, and other community assets that allow families to thrive." Dr. Senoria A. Brown, Manager/Team Leader at the St. Louis Vet Center, was the keynote speaker. Dr. Brown is a veteran who served as a Flight nurse in the United States Air Force.

During the event, CREA honored and presented Distinguished Fair Housing Service Awards that serve Veterans. Honorees included April Ford-Griffin, Executive Director of the city's Affordable Housing Commission and former Director of CREA, the Salvation Army, Paralyzed Veterans of America - Gateway Chapter, and Home Services, Inc. Ms. Ford-Griffin was recognized for her continued work in improving the lives of children, families, senior citizens and addressing the negative conditions of blighted, disinvested neighborhood and to further fair housing in St. Louis communities. Major Lonneal Richardson accepted the award on behalf of the Salvation Army for the Harbor Light Center in downtown St. Louis which offers housing, rehabilitation, and job services for homeless or ill veterans for up to 24 months. The Gateway Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America serves almost 650 honorably discharged men and women who sustained a spinal cord injury or dysfunction. Chapter President Stan Brown accepted the award. Dr. Betty Davison, President of Home Services, Inc. accepted the award for the organization that provides accessibility modifications and home repairs for St. Louis' disabled and elderly residents.

HUD AWARDS \$3 MILLION TO THE ST. LOUIS HOUSING AUTHORITY TO HELP LOW-INCOME PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS SECURE HIGHER PAYING JOBS

April 2, 2015 - In an effort to help low-income residents find higher-paying jobs, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Regional Administrator Jennifer Tidwell announced a \$3 million investment for the next four years to the St. Louis Housing Authority (SLHA) and their partners to help residents of Clinton-Peabody increase their earned income and become self-sufficient. SLHA is one of nine public housing authorities, across the country, to receive funding. The event was held at the AI Chapelle Community Center near the Clinton-Peabody public housing development. St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay provided remarks following the announcement. Executive Director Cheryl Lovell and Board Chairman Thomas Jerry represented the SLHA.



Pictured (L-R): Cheryl Lovell, Sam Blue, Jennifer Tidwell, Mayor Francis Slay, and Thomas Jerry.

Both Alderwoman Christine Ingrassia and Mr. Sam Blue, President of the Clinton-Peabody Resident Association (who was also instrumental in the planning process) gave emotional remarks regarding the opportunity Clinton-Peabody residents will now have for a better future. Field Office Director, James Heard, John Scates, Community Liaison for Senator Roy Blunt, and Michael Holmes, Executive Director for the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment (SLATE) were also recognized.

HUD's [Jobs-Plus Pilot Program](#) supports work readiness and connects public housing residents with employment, education, and financial empowerment services—and it's a model proven to help public housing residents find and keep jobs.

HUD Secretary Castro Makes Promise Zone Announcement in St. Louis



On April 28, HUD Secretary Julián Castro visited St. Louis to announce the Promise Zone designation for St. Louis and St. Louis County. Secretary Castro was joined by Missouri Governor Jay Nixon, Congressman Lacy Clay, St. Louis Mayor Francis G. Slay, St. Louis County Executive Steve Stenger, Wellston, MO Mayor Nate Griffin, and Rodney Crim, President, St. Louis Economic Development Partnership lead partner for the Promise Zone. Portions of North St. Louis County and City were designated as 1 of the 8 new Promise Zones unveiled across the nation.

“With this announcement we’re making a simple, but bold declaration: we believe in this area, we believe in its people, we believe in its vision, and we believe in its future,” said Secretary Castro.

The announcement was made at the MET (Metropolitan and Education Training) Center which offers job training, placement, assessment, career development services and transportation services to individuals living in low to moderate income communities of the St. Louis region.

Secretary Castro took time to visit the local HUD Field Office with Regional Administrator Jennifer Tidwell and Field Office Director James Heard and met and fielded questions from staff. Secretary Castro also attended a “My Brother’s Keeper” event at the Ferguson Community Center where he was joined by Congressman Clay and Ferguson, MO Mayor James W. Knowles III.

Photo: (Back: L-R) Wellston, MO Mayor Nate Griffin , St. Louis County Executive Steve Stenger , Congressman Lacy Clay, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon, St. Louis Mayor Francis G. Slay, and Rodney Crim. (Front: Center) HUD Secretary Julián Castro. See more photos at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/hudopa/sets/72157652249583725>

Regional Administrator Jennifer Tidwell Hosts Workshop at Missouri Housing Summit

The 2015 Missouri Housing Summit was held April 29-May 1, 2015 at the St. Louis City Center Hotel. This year’s summit was sponsored and facilitated by the Missouri Department of Mental Health Housing Unit and the Community Initiatives staff of the Missouri Housing Development Commission. Participants attended workshops and discussions designed to help agencies with planning, development and management resources, and expertise needed to develop and operate supportive housing for people with special needs and disabilities.

On April 30, Regional Administrator Jennifer Tidwell and Ed Warts, Director, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) in the St. Louis Field Office facilitated the *Housing Mobility Program* workshop. Panelists for the workshop included Antonio Riley, Regional Administrator, HUD Region V, Teresa Hunter, Executive Director, Family Housing Advisory Services in Omaha, NE and Robin Snyderman, Principal, Brick Partners LLC, Chicago, IL.

The Housing Mobility Program has been implemented in a number of cities and assists families in the Housing Voucher (HCV) program to move into Opportunity Areas that offer quality housing and positive economic characteristics which include education, employment, housing, and high-quality counseling. A Mobility Counselor assists families in identifying housing and community needs and desires, as well as locating a unit in an Opportunity area. In addition, participating families work with the Mobility Counselor throughout the move to assist with the transition into a new communities such as locating and enrolling children in schools, finding community resources, workshops for home maintenance, financial management and tenant rights, and a community tour to assist in the search of units.



Pictured (L-R): Jennifer Tidwell, Ed Warts, Theresa Hunter, Robin Snyderman, and Antonio Riley.



RAs Jennifer Tidwell and Antonio Riley

Regional Economic Resilience Forum – Metro East Region

On May 20-21, 2015, Regional Administrator Jennifer Tidwell and federal partners from Regions V and VII participated in the Regional Economic Resilience Forum hosted by Region V Regional Administrator Antonio Riley. Local officials, community leaders and various stakeholders from East St. Louis, IL, St. Clair County, and neighboring St. Louis, MO gathered to discuss economic development issues and solutions for the metro region.

Read more at <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/illinois/esl>.

See Photos - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/hudopa/sets/72157653603909050>

Secretary Castro Stops in Jefferson City on Opportunity and Investment Community Tour



HUD Secretary Julián Castro visited Jefferson City on May 27, 2015 extending his Opportunity and Investment Community Tour to Missouri. Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer joined Secretary Castro for a tour of the Ted H. Herron Apartments, a meet and greet with the residents, and a roundtable discussion with local housing advocates. Secretary Castro and Congressman Luetkemeyer also met with Jefferson City Mayor Carrie Tergin and a host of housing industry stakeholders for a roundtable discussion at City Hall. The tour has provided an opportunity for Secretary Castro to see firsthand how innovative ideas and solutions are being generated to create strong, inclusive communities, and quality affordable homes across the country. See more photos at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/hudopa/sets/72157653678181700>



Top Photo: Secretary Julián Castro and Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer host roundtable discussion at Ted H. Herron Apts. Bottom Photo: Mayor Carrie Tergin (left front) joins Secretary Castro and Congressman Luetkemeyer for roundtable with housing industry stakeholders.

Upcoming Events

July 23, 2015 – WEBINAR - Emergency Solutions Grants Program: Using IDIS for Financial Management - 1:00 PM CDT- for all ESG recipients and especially those staff responsible for funding and drawing ESG funds in IDIS. This webinar is limited to 1,500 participants. Register at <https://www.hudexchange.info/training-events/courses/emergency-solutions-grants-program-using-idis-for-financial-management/>



HUD in Nebraska

Lincoln Civil Rights Conference

By: Earl Redrick



Photo (L-R): Heather Ously, OGC, Kansas City; Betty Bottiger, FHEO Director, Kansas City; and Kitty Amaya, FHEO,

HUD employees from the Kansas City Regional and Omaha Field Offices participated in the 12th Annual Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission's (NEOC) Civil Rights conference. The conference was held on April 1, 2014 at the Cornhusker Hotel and Conference Center in Lincoln, NE and was attended by 187 participants. Attendees came from across the state to hear and train on the most recent civil rights issues in employment and housing.

HUD employees Alfonso Eason, Office of General Counsel (OGC) and Omaha Field Office Director Earl Redrick presented and participated as panelists. Region VII's Office Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) Director, Betty Bottiger and the entire Omaha FHEO staff attended the event.

HUD Region VII Participates in Fair Housing Training

Partnered with local agency and fair housing guru regarding housing accessibility

On April 3, 2015, Deputy Regional Administrator Bruce Ladd, Omaha Field Office Director Earl Redrick, Omaha Acting FHEO Director Kitty A. Amaya, and Equal Opportunity Specialist Connie Radcliff participated in training on Accessibility, Section 504, Americans with Disability Amendments Act, and the Fair Housing Act. Scott P. Moore, a civil rights attorney in Omaha, Nebraska provided the all-day training through a grant HUD awarded to Fair Housing Accessibility First. Deputy Regional Director Ladd provided opening remarks. More than 100 persons participated, and based on the feedback, the training was vital and well received.



Photo (L-R): Scott Moore; Bruce Ladd, DRA Region VII; Kitty Amaya and Connie Radcliff, FHEO

3rd Annual Omaha Field Office Bus Tour

By: Andrew Burgin

July 15, 2015 - With a population of nearly 270,000, Lincoln, NE was the sight for this year's Omaha Field Office bus tour. NeighborWorks Lincoln was the first stop. Through its various programs, NeighborWorks Lincoln has revitalized neighborhoods and helped residents achieve their dreams of owning a home through its homebuyer education and homeownership programs.

The second stop was the new City Impact location, located on N. 33rd Street. City Impact is a faith-based 501c(3) non-profit organization started in 1996. The organization offers a number of programs primarily staffed with volunteers. Over 1,450 volunteers have invested 28,000+ hours, and have impacted over 3,200 children and families. City Impact is preparing to break ground on a new community fitness center, thanks to a sizeable donation from the Scheels All-Sport Foundation. The center will be free to all program recipients, and will offer low-cost memberships to a limited number of residents in the community.

Staff also enjoyed a tour of multiple properties of the Lincoln Housing Authority (LHA) including Wood Bridge, Summer Hill, and Prairie Crossing apartment complexes. LHA manages over 1,450 units of affordable and assisted rental housing, and administers 2,880 Housing Choice Vouchers. With 79 full-time employees, LHA's budget exceeds \$28 million dollars, of which \$15 million is provided by HUD.

More information can be found at:

Neighbor Works Lincoln: www.nwlincoln.org

City Impact: www.excelgdg.com - search "City Impact"



Tour of Neighbor Works Lincoln developed properties sold to new homeowners.



Wood Bridge Apartments a Lincoln Housing Authority property.

WHAT'S NEW

Income Calculator Updated with FY 2015 Income Limits - [CPD Income Eligibility Calculator](#)

The HUD USER website has been updated with several resources related to the American Housing Survey (AHS) - <http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/cinch.html>

HUD Releases a Policy Brief on Coordinated entry which describes HUD's views of the characteristics of an effective coordinated entry process - [Coordinated Entry Policy Brief](#)

Grant-Based Accounting for HOPWA Grantees Webinar - August 6, 2015 - 1:00 PM (CDT) - [Register here](#)

New Resources Available: USICH and Partners Release Key Strategies for Connecting People Experiencing Homelessness to SSI/SSDI - [Read the document.](#)

Announcement: Vets@Home Technical Assistance - As established in *Opening Doors*, the goal of ending veteran homelessness by December 31, 2015 is getting close. HUD is launching Vets@Home, a technical assistance (TA) initiative to help Continuums of Care (CoCs) meet this goal. Read more at <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/announcement-vets-home-technical-assistance-opportunity/>

HUD and Department of Labor Launch Getting to Work: A Training Curriculum for HIV/AIDS Service Providers and Housing Providers - See more at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/hud-and-department-of-labor-launch-getting-to-work-a-training-curriculum-for-hiv-aids-service-providers-and-housing-providers>

SNAPS In Focus - This page provides Continuums of Care (CoCs), grantees, and other stakeholders a series of messages and related materials about SNAPS policy priorities and key information relating to the implementation of the CoC and ESG Programs - <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/snaps-in-focus/>

HUD Launches Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Page and Ask A Question on the HUD Exchange - <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/affh/>

From our Federal Partners

USDA Announces \$18.1 Million to Help Rural Businesses Create Jobs - [more information](#)

USDA Seeks Applications for Loans and Grants to Create Jobs and Support Rural Economic Development - [Read more.](#)

EPA News in the Heartland (Region VII) - <http://www.epa.gov/region7/newsevents/map/index.htm>

Region VII HHS - <http://www.hhs.gov/iea/regional/region7/>

SBA in Region VII - <https://www.sba.gov/offices/regional/vii>

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Employment Toolkit - *resources for employers and veterans focused on transitioning from military service, finding employment and supporting veteran employees*

QUICK RESOURCES

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

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.