



# 2015 HUD Kentucky Office Highlights

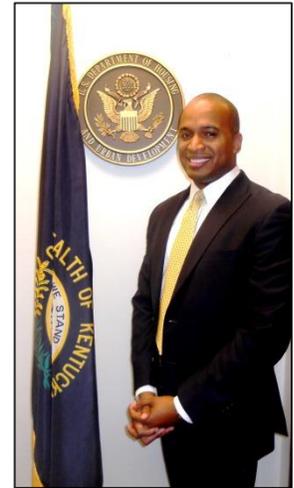
DECEMBER 2015

**HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all.**

## Message from Our Field Office Director

Greetings Friends! We are proud to work for the agency of Opportunity under Secretary Julián Castro in fulfilling HUD's mission. True to our mission, we are working closely with state and local leaders across Kentucky to promote homeownership, support community development, and increase access to affordable housing, free from discrimination. Below are some examples of HUD at work in Kentucky. We have also shared many updates with you concerning HUD's organization and programs that are at the forefront of the agency.

We look forward to working with you and for you in the coming year to achieve even greater results.



Christopher Taylor, Field Office Director

## Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday HUD!

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday of HUD. The Kentucky Field Office celebrated in style with festivities!



## Celebrating 50 Years of Creating Opportunity



## HUD Recognizes Program Participants at Kentucky Affordable Housing Conference

During the Kentucky Affordable Housing Conference in Lexington in early April, attended by housing professionals throughout the Commonwealth, Kathryn Peters, Executive Director of Kentucky Housing Corporation, presented the Mae Street Kidd Award to Kentucky's First Lady Jane Beshear and then Sara Pratt, HUD Deputy Secretary of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Enforcement and keynote speaker, presented awards to two fair housing agencies for the impacts of their wonderful work. Thereafter, the hard work and achievements of three HUD program participants were recognized by HUD Field Office Director Christopher Taylor.



HUD Kentucky Field Office Director Christopher Taylor, Myra Woodard, Monica Ross, and Brent Baker. (Photo Credit: Kentucky Housing Corporation)

The inspiring stories of these individuals touched the housing industry professionals in attendance as they saw before them people who have been helped by the programs that they administer. Monica Ross, Lexington Housing Authority Family Self-Sufficiency graduate and now homeowner, was recognized by Christopher Taylor as was Brent Baker, HUD-VASH recipient and now gainfully employed Volunteers of America social worker for veteran services.

Last, but certainly not least, was when the third award recipient, Myra Woodard, took the stage and shared her story of moving from homelessness to homeowner. Myra was homeless with her two children when she found a place to live in the public housing project formerly known Clarksdale. Clarksdale was among the first HOPE VI revitalization areas in Louisville where Myra lived with her family. When she had to be relocated, Myra was provided a Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program coordinator to help her to relocate as well as with program opportunities to set and attain goals to live independently. Myra explained that she was faced with struggles, barriers, and obstacles growing up that prevented her from moving forward. She did not believe in herself, but her FSS worker believed in her and soon Myra began setting small goals toward her dreams of owning her own home, going to school, and working to help drug- and alcohol-addicted women. Myra described it like this, "You see, all I needed was an opportunity and someone who believed in me...I just needed an opportunity and that is what you people provide those who you work with." And she took that opportunity and achieved all of her dreams. Myra is now a proud FHA homeowner, a social worker who helps drug- and alcohol-addicted women, and she received her Master's Degree from the University of Louisville on Mother's Day 2015.

HUD Secretary Julián Castro coined the phrase "Department of Opportunity" to describe HUD and Sara Pratt spent a portion of her keynote speech talking about the importance of opportunity for all. Myra as a HUD program recipient echoed that sentiment at the Kentucky Affordable Housing Conference.

"Kentucky Housing Corporation and our partners are committed to helping others achieve affordable housing," said KHC's Executive Director Kathryn Peters. "Innovative housing initiatives have lasting impacts for many Kentuckians like Myra, Monica, and Brent, who are in need of quality housing opportunities, and we are proud to recognize their achievements."

Thanks to all of the housing professionals in Kentucky and nationwide who give that hope and opportunity to their clients every day.

The HUD Kentucky Office has created an online directory of **Homeless Veteran Housing Resources by County** that you can find at [www.hud.gov/kentucky](http://www.hud.gov/kentucky).

## Kentucky Ending Veteran Homelessness

### Disabled Veteran Finds Life Changing Information at Resource Fair

A disabled veteran who has fallen on hard times attended the Barren County Veteran Resource Fair. Little did he know how much this could change the quality of his life. He has a night job that does not pay well and needs a better place to live for his children.

Sponsored by Western Kentucky University, the Veteran Resource Fair offered a full spectrum of services available for veterans. Several booths provided educational and employment services and gave him information to follow up on to help him get a better job.



Then he happened to meet HUD Kentucky Field Office Director Christopher Taylor as he mingled among the crowd where he learned about how to apply for both public housing and a **Veterans Emerging Towards Transition (VETT) voucher**. Both options would help improve his housing situation. With the additional support provided by VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families explained by Ron Georgette of Centerstone, he could also receive a full range of services to help him as well.

Mr. Taylor explained to him all of the partnerships HUD has created between the Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs, VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families, public housing authorities, and Kentucky Housing Corporation. He told him that he could receive quality, affordable housing and ensure that he receives all of the VA benefits that he is entitled to. He was overwhelmed with the opportunities opening up to him just for attending this event.

"We believe in fighting for our veterans just as they have fought for us," said HUD Kentucky Field Office Director Christopher Taylor. "We are not just about housing our veterans, but also about ensuring that they will succeed in having a better quality of life." An additional benefit to being at the Veteran Resource Event was the opportunity for Christopher Taylor to discuss the Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness with the Barren County Judge/Executive, the Tomkinsville Mayor, and the newly elected Glasgow Mayor who all pledged their support for the initiative that will end veteran homelessness by the end of 2015.

### HUD Kentucky Office Heroes Helping Heroes - How Veteran Edward Dowlen went from Homeless Veteran to Homeowner

Kicking off the Employee Appreciation Month for the HUD Kentucky Office was Edward Dowlen who shared his story of hope fulfilled because of the many HUD programs that were there to help him when he needed help most.

The likelihood of Dowlen becoming self-sufficient after years of battling drug and alcohol addiction, when he joined the HUD-VASH program over 5 years ago, was not looking promising. Yet, in spite of all that he persevered and managed to find many caring HUD partners, one after another, to give him a hand up at just the right time in his life which made all the difference. Each one provided much needed hope and nourishment to strengthen his resolve to become self-reliant and to achieve his ultimate goal of one day becoming a homeowner. The home that he was finally able to purchase was a Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) house that was part of a local strategy in response to the Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness.



HUD Kentucky Office Staff and partners with Mr Dowlen and Kentucky Field Office Director Taylor seated in the middle.

"It's important to me that our employees know the impact that they are having in communities," said HUD Kentucky Field Office Director Christopher Taylor. "When pieces of paper come across their desks, they don't just represent programs, they represent real people."

"I want to thank each one of you for believing in me and thank God for giving me the strength to make it this far," said Dowlen as he graciously told his compelling story of how he hit rock bottom only to be where he is today. "You people in Louisville are just wonderful. Had I not had the people of Louisville helping me, I don't know where I would be today."

Both HUD employees and the partner agencies that had helped him along the way were there to celebrate with him.

Through a Veterans Administration (VA) referral, he qualified for the HUD-VASH program. He received assistance from Interlink who provides supportive services for individuals suffering from drug and alcohol addiction. After successfully completing the programs, Dowlen moved into a HUD multifamily Section 8 apartment where he established wonderful credit. He learned of homeownership counseling and worked with the Louisville Urban League, which is a HUD-approved Housing Counseling Agency. A HUD-VASH caseworker referred him to the Housing Partnership, Inc., who was involved in the development of the NSP homes and worked to ensure that he could qualify for the Louisville Metro homeownership financing program.

A special thank you is offered to the Housing Partnership, Inc., who recommended that Mr. Dowlen share his story for the HUD Employee Appreciation Event.

## New Multifamily Southeast Region



Wave 3 of the Multifamily for Tomorrow transformation is complete! Last August, the new Southeast Region was presented to stakeholders with the official kickoff event in the Atlanta and Jacksonville Offices. The new model includes improvements that allow Multifamily to provide better customer service, operate more efficiently and consistently, and improve risk management. The new region is organized as follows: Atlanta (Regional Center) and

Jacksonville (Regional Satellite Office); (Asset Management: Birmingham, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Columbia, Greensboro, Jackson, Knoxville, Louisville, Miami, Nashville). Visit the [Multifamily for Tomorrow Transformation](#) page for more information and to see the latest organizational charts.

**REGISTER  
YOUR BUSINESS  
NOW!**

**The Section 3 program requires that recipients of certain HUD financial assistance, to the greatest extent possible, provide job training, employment, and contract opportunities for low- or very-low income residents in connection with projects and activities in their neighborhoods. If you live in government-assisted housing or if your household income falls below [HUD's income limits](#), you may qualify as a Section 3 resident or Section 3 business. [Learn more about Section 3.](#)**

## Housing Authority Father's Day Event

*Dads for a Day Friends for Life* brought kids from the Housing Authority of Bowling Green's Learning Center and mentors from Black Men United to learn from one another. Also participating was HUD Kentucky Field Office Director Christopher Taylor.

"Children need positive male role models who believe in them to succeed in life," said Christopher Taylor. "It was a pleasure to spend time with the kids from the Bowling Green Learning Center for this Father's Day event. It is also touching to see the ongoing mentorship provided to the youth by Abraham Williams who is the Bowling Green Housing Authority's Executive Director. You can really see the mutual care and respect that they have for one another."

HUD has encouraged housing authorities and other HUD rent assisted property managers to sponsor Father's Day events since 2011 to strengthen and empower families.



HUD Kentucky Field Office Director Christopher Taylor spends quality time with the youth from the Bowling Green Learning Center for the Dads for a Day Friends for Life housing authority Father's Day event.

## Jessica Carlson Named Employee of the Year for the HUD Kentucky Office

During the HUD Kentucky Office Employee Appreciation Month in September Jessica Carlson received the distinct honor of Employee of the Year during an all employee gathering.

Ms. Carlson is an Account Executive in the Multifamily Housing Division. During the past year, she has served as Acting Supervisor, has participated in the HUD Management Development Program and shadowed the Field Office Director, then returned to coach the next class. She has also demonstrated her strong leadership skills in various projects involving the reorganization of the Multifamily Housing Division.



HUD Account Executive Branch Chief John Hamm, HUD Employee of the Year Jessica Carlson, and HUD Kentucky Field Office Director Christopher Taylor

"I'm not speechless very often, but I was that day," said Ms. Carlson. "It's an honor to get this award from such a great office with so many wonderful people, but recognition is not what any of us are here for - helping our customers move forward in a positive manner is what makes me happy as well as our staff."

Her supervisor, Account Executive Branch Chief John Hamm, proudly stated, "Having great team members like Jess Carlson makes me want to come to work in the mornings."

"I am honored to recognize Ms. Carlson for her work with our customers in Kentucky and I am thankful for her commitment to our office and staff," said HUD Kentucky Field Office Director Christopher Taylor. "We work hard to make Kentucky a shining example of service and opportunity for all among the nation and Jess strongly contributes to that goal."

## Get on the Bus Historical Tour of Shelbyville, Kentucky

*A Celebration of the 47th Anniversary of the National Fair Housing Act of 1968*

In commemoration of Fair Housing Month, the city of Shelbyville hosted Kentucky's annual Get on the Bus guided tour to see and hear about the history of the community and the effects of racial segregation throughout the years.

Christopher Taylor, HUD Kentucky Field Office Director, provided the opening remarks for the event that included over 40 participants. Other speakers included Kathy Peters, Executive Director of the Kentucky Housing Corporation, and Mayor Hardesty of Shelbyville.

The bus tour guides were local residents whose families had lived in Shelbyville for generations. Elders described what life was like during segregation while younger narrators spoke of how the city has changed for African Americans since 1968. Stories included descriptions of poor housing conditions such as dirt floors, no indoor plumbing, and life by the railroad tracks. The tour also included a discussion of the current diversity of Shelbyville, which now has a high number of Hispanic residents living and working in the community.

"A good leader takes they people where the want to go," said HUD Kentucky Field Office Director Christopher Taylor. "A great leader takes the people where they ought to be."

The event was organized by the Lexington Fair Housing Council, the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, the HUD Kentucky Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, and the Kentucky Housing Corporation. The local NAACP, Shelby County Historical Society, Centro Latino, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture also supported the event.

## HUD Kentucky Office Assists in new Lexington Redevelopment

A ribbon-cutting was recently held for the Davis Park View development, a new neighborhood of 14 apartments and homes. The development is for the former residents of Davis Bottom in Lexington, Kentucky who were displaced as a result of the Newtown Pike extension transportation project.

HUD provided \$627,000 in **HUD HOME** funds for construction of rental units and other costs. HUD Kentucky staff members were also active in the working group that provided technical assistance on the project.



People getting on the bus for the tour.  
(Photo Credit: Kentucky Housing Corporation)



The original concept of extending Newtown Pike was conceived nearly 40 years ago as a way to give drivers another way to get from the north side of the city to major thoroughfares on the south side without having to go through downtown. This was accomplished through the **Kentucky Transportation Cabinet**, which acquired 52 parcels of land in a 1.2 mile stretch, most of which was an abandoned railroad bed.



However, there were residents living there who were displaced when the Newtown Pike extension was built and they will get first chance to rent the 14 new units that are housed in six energy-efficient buildings. The rest will go to low-to-moderate income residents who qualify. Additionally, 86 more homes are scheduled to be built over the next few phases of the project.

HUD staff will continue to participate on this working group for the next phases of the project. The working group is now strategizing over how to bring a grocery store into the development. This would be most welcome to the area residents who currently reside in a food desert, which is defined as a neighborhood or community with no affordable, fresh local food resources.

## **HUD Kentucky Office Hosts Louisville Metro Public Housing Authority Summer Students**

Who would have thought that a trip to the HUD Kentucky Office would elicit more excitement by a student than a trip to an amusement park, but it did! Recently, nine public housing students ranging in age between eight and twelve years old visited the HUD office for a day to participate in various activities to increase their civic awareness and to find out how they can become active citizens in their communities.

The highlight of the day was definitely a visit from Louisville Metro City Mayor Greg Fischer. The Mayor took time out of his day to meet each student and to answer their questions.



Louisville Metro Mayor Greg Fischer interacts with the summer students during his visit to HUD.

The opportunity to meet and interact demonstrated to the Mayor and HUD staff just how challenging some of the issues are that these children face each and every day. One child asked what the Mayor was doing to address gun violence, while another shared that she did not play outside where she lived because she did not feel safe. There were other questions as well that included why he decided to become the Mayor, how he became Mayor, and what he does every day to help people.

"We are so glad that the housing authority summer students visited our office and were so engaged in our activities," said Kentucky Field Office Director Christopher Taylor. "We believe our goal to open their eyes to all of the career and community opportunities that are available to them as they grow older was a huge success."



**Did you know that the FHA Resource Center is available to answer your questions about the full range of FHA related programs? They can let you know the basics about FHA financing; tell you about new FHA programs that allow you to purchase a new home or fix up an existing one; give you information about FHA property and qualifying requirements, or provide referral information for local housing programs and support in your area. The FHA Resource Center is available by telephone at 1-800-CALLFHA (open 8 am -8 pm Eastern); by email at [answers@hud.gov](mailto:answers@hud.gov); or [on the web](#).**

**Contact Our Office at 502-582-5251**

**We're on the web!**



**Send comments, ideas, or suggestions to:**  
[KY\\_Webmanager@hud.gov](mailto:KY_Webmanager@hud.gov)

## HUD Resource Locator



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development today unveiled the HUD Resource Locator – an innovative mobile app and website to further expand and enhance traditional HUD customer service. The resource locator will offer real-time HUD housing information at the fingertips of people looking to quickly connect with building managers, public housing authority representatives, and property management companies to inquire about housing availability and other housing-related questions.

The HUD resource locator is one of several services provided by HUD’s Enterprise Geographic Information System (eGIS). This tool uses GIS technology to pinpoint where resources are located and allow anyone with a smartphone or tablet to get relevant contact information. For example, the new app can be used during a disaster when families need to find housing, or when social service providers are helping persons experiencing homelessness look for available housing assistance. In an era where people are increasingly using smartphones to find information, the HUD resource locator app and mobile site provides an easy tool for anyone to use to find housing resources. The resource locator uses housing data from HUD and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

“The HUD Resource Locator app delivers real-time HUD housing information at the touch of a button,” said HUD Secretary Julian Castro. “In today’s global economy where more and more people have a smartphones or similar devices, HUD is committed to finding ways to make it easier for Americans to access our resources and find opportunities to move ahead.”

The HUD Resource Locator is a mobile app and mobile website that includes:

- Information about commonly requested housing-related resources from HUD field and regional offices throughout the country.
- Location data and contact information for HUD Field and Regional Offices, Public Housing Authorities, Multifamily Housing, Low Income Housing Tax Credit apartments, USDA Rural Housing, and Continuum of Care Homeless staff.
- Maps that are seamlessly linked via Facebook, Twitter, Google+, email and text messages.
- GIS and Browser Location Detection to show resources in proximity to the user.
- Ability to export search results to Excel and to generate a custom PDF resource guide.

The HUD Resource Locator mobile app is available via [Apple iTunes](#), [Google Play Marketplace](#) and also on your browser at [resources.hud.gov](http://resources.hud.gov).

