

HUD HAPPENINGS

MINNESOTA

FALL 2014



Julián Castro was sworn in as the 16th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on July 28, 2014.

JULIÁN CASTRO SWORN IN AS THE 16TH SECRETARY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Julián Castro was sworn in as the 16th Secretary for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on July 28, 2014. The brief swearing-in ceremony took place at HUD headquarters in Washington, D.C. and was administered by Chief Judge Richard W. Roberts of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia at 12:35pm E.T. HUD Chief of Staff Nealin Parker held the Bible during the ceremony.

Secretary Castro will now lead the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in carrying out its mission of creating opportunity for all Americans through strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes. Secretary Castro's official photo and pictures from the swearing-in ceremony and Secretary Castro greeting HUD employees this morning can be found at the following links:

Secretary Castro Official Photo:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/hudopa/14765712571/>

Swearing-In Ceremony Photo:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/hudopa/14582900868/>

Secretary Castro Greets Employees at HUD Headquarters:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/hudopa/14769511325/>



Pictured left to right: United States District Chief Judge for the District of Columbia Richard W. Roberts, HUD Secretary Julian Castro, and HUD Chief of Staff Nealin Parker

HUD MINNEAPOLIS WELCOMES OFFICE OF ECONOMIC RESILIENCE DIRECTOR HARRIET TREGONING DURING GRAND OPENING OF THE LANDING IN CHASKA

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) granted \$7.8 million to Aeon for The Landing -- a new, 54-unit apartment building of affordable apartment homes exclusively for seniors near downtown Chaska. The number of residents age 65 and older in Carver County is anticipated to quadruple to 24,490 by 2030. Older residents will be transitioning from single family homes to housing that meets a wide range of affordable living needs. The Landing will assist the City of Chaska in achieving its goal to encourage the development of housing with a range of rents to allow residents to stay in the city as they age.

The Landing will provide 54 one-bedroom apartment homes for seniors with low incomes. Located on the banks of the Minnesota River, the high-quality, sustainable development will be adjacent to downtown Chaska's historic commercial district. Its residents will have convenient access to shopping, health care, religious facilities, recreational trails, a library, and public transportation.



HUD Office of Economic Resilience Director Harriet Tregoning



The Landing's intentional design weaves the development into the existing fabric of the Chaska community (current drawing represents housing development concept). The Landing will incorporate green, sustainable features, providing the property and its residents with long-term cost savings.

For more information on The Landing, view the development's [fact sheet](#).

(Text courtesy of [Aeon](#) press release)

HUD Office of Economic Resilience Director Harriet Tregoning addresses the crowd during the grand opening of The Landing in Chaska, Minnesota

HUD STAFF ATTENDS MINNESOTA ASSISTANCE COUNCIL FOR VETERANS (MAC-V) STANDDOWN EVENT AT FORT SNELLING

The original StandDown for homeless veterans was modeled after the StandDown concept used during the Vietnam War to provide a safe retreat for units returning from combat operations. At secure base camp areas, troops were able to take care of personal hygiene, get clean uniforms, enjoy warm meals, receive medical and dental care, mail and receive letters, and enjoy the camaraderie of friends in a safe environment. StandDown afforded battle-weary soldiers the opportunity to renew their spirit, health and overall sense of well-being.

That purpose still stands today when MACV hosts a StandDown for homeless veterans and those experiencing an issue that has become a barrier in their lives. The idea is to bring many services to one location and make them more accessible to ALL veterans who otherwise may not seek out services or take advantage of benefits due to them.

MACV hosts a number of StandDown events throughout the state during the year. The Metro StandDown is a two day event, the other MACV StandDowns that are held throughout the year are one day events. These events offer the same one-stop services – this ability to gather so much information and receive assistance from multiple agencies at one time is what makes each MACV StandDown such a huge success.

[Click here for to download the "What is a StandDown Event" informational flyer.](#)

2014 StandDown Dates

(Please see the [MAC-V website](#) as dates are subject to change)



Duluth Area StandDowns

August 21st Virginia
 August 22nd Duluth
 September 24th Bemidji
 September 25th Grand Rapids

Contact Paul Pedersen
 218.722.8763

Mankato Area StandDowns

October 14th Marshall
 November 12th Mankato

Contact Sue Worlds 507.345.8258

Pictured above: Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans President/CEO Kathleen Vitalis addresses the crowd at an August 2014 StandDown event at Fort Snelling.

PICTURES FROM 2014 MAC-V STANDDOWN AT FORT SNELLING

HUD Minneapolis field office staff met with over 40 veterans, distributed homeownership and housing counseling information, and provided subsidized housing literature to many social service providers and veterans during the two-day event at Fort Snelling.



Clockwise from top left: HUD Minneapolis Field Office Director Dexter Sidney discusses the event during an interview with MAC-V. Office of Public Housing Portfolio Management Specialist Tony Landecker changes a flat tire on his way to the StandDown. Panorama of the StandDown event at Fort Snelling.

HUD MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE OF GENERAL (OGC) STAFF RECEIVE SERVICE AWARDS

Several HUD Minneapolis field office staff received service awards during a July ceremony. Among those honored were Associate Regional Counsel for Housing Finance and Programs Steven Gronewold and OGC Attorney Charles Sorenson. Steve has been with HUD for over 40 years and Charles recently celebrated his 39th year with HUD.



Pictured left to right: Associate Regional Counsel for Housing Finance and Programs Steven Gronewold and OGC Attorney Charles Sorenson

OFFICE OF RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES PROVIDES A NATIONAL LENDER TRAINING IN MINNEAPOLIS

The Office of Residential Care Facilities (ORCF) provided a national lender training at the Minneapolis Central Library in Minneapolis on July 29th and 30th with approximately 150 attendees. The training provided valuable information on the newly published Section 232 Handbook, guidance on issues that cause delays in application reviews, and the opportunity for underwriters to ask questions of seasoned ORCF staff.



Clockwise from top left: Patrick Berry, Detroit; Spencer Ash, St. Louis, Amy Schwarz, Minneapolis; Susan Gosselin, Manchester; Rachel Coleman, Minneapolis; Rita Dockery, Chicago

HUD MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE OF HOUSING COUNSELING PRIDE IN HOMEOWNERSHIP EVENT IN MINNEAPOLIS SKYWAY

When President Obama took office in 2009, the nation's housing market was in free-fall, leaving many families trapped and anxious about their mortgages. Today, the housing market is in recovery as homeowner equity is more than \$10 trillion, foreclosure starts are at their lowest levels since 2005, and American families are on pace to purchase more than five million homes this year.

HUD is also taking concrete steps to increase access to mortgage credit. This spring, the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) issued its **"Blueprint for Access"** outlining the additional steps the agency is taking to expand access to credit for underserved borrowers. These steps include enhancing FHA's quality assurance processes and encouraging a broader use of housing counseling through the *Homeowners Armed with Knowledge (HAWK)* program. By clarifying quality assurance policies, FHA seeks to encourage lenders to make loans to a broader range of qualified, underserved borrowers. Under the HAWK pilot program, homebuyers who commit to housing counseling will qualify for tangible savings on their FHA-insured loans. The average buyer would save approximately \$325 a year – or nearly \$10,000 over the life of their loan. By completing HUD-approved housing counseling provided through independent nonprofit organizations, people will be given the tools they need to understand the rights and responsibilities of homeownership.

The third step of preserving homeownership as a key aspect to the "American Dream" is securing it for generations to come. As part of the historic \$25 billion National Mortgage Servicing Settlement announced last year, the Administration and 49 state Attorneys General negotiated with the nation's largest mortgage servicers to address loan servicing and foreclosure abuses. The agreement provides substantial financial relief to homeowners and establishes significant new homeowner protections for the future.



Pictured: Anita Olson speaks with a prospective homeowner in the Minneapolis Skyway

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

WHAT IS CPD?

The Office of **Community Planning and Development (CPD)** seeks to develop viable communities by promoting integrated approaches that provide decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities for low and moderate income persons. CPD Works towards this end through the provision of grants to State and local government agencies.

These local agencies use these funds to make available a range of public services and assistance programs to eligible individuals and families with low or moderate incomes. This brochure highlights these services and assistance programs, which are funded specifically through HUD's Home Investment Partnership (HOME) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs.

To access these services, contact one of the following representatives in your area.

City of Bloomington

Bryan Hartman – (952) 563-8943

Home Rehabilitation, Rental Assistance, Homebuyer Assistance, Senior Housing, Referral Services, Development

City of Duluth

Keith Hamre – (218) 730-5297

Home Rehabilitation, Development, Homeowner Assistance, Youth Services, Emergency Assistance

City of Eden Prairie

Molly Koivumaki – (952) 949-8439

Home Rehabilitation, Rental Assistance, Homelessness, Immigrant Services, Homebuyer Assistance, Senior Services, Senior Services, Youth Services, Referral Services

City of Mankato

Patty Zeigler (507) 387-8623

Home Rehabilitation, Rental Assistance, Senior Services, Self-Sufficiency Assistance

City of Minneapolis

Peter O'Toole – (612) 673-5456

Home Rehabilitation, Homebuyer Assistance, Rental Assistance, Youth Services

City of Moorhead

Lisa Vatnsdal – (218) 299-5372

Home Rehabilitation, Rental Assistance, Homelessness, Homebuyer Assistance Services, Referral Services

City of Minnetonka

Elise Durbin – (952) 939-8285

Home Rehabilitation, Rental Assistance, Homebuyer Assistance, Senior Services

City of North Mankato

Michael Fischer – (507) 625-4141

Homebuyer Assistance

City of Plymouth

Jim Barnes – (763) 509-5412

Home Rehabilitation, Homebuyer Assistance, Foreclosure Prevention, Rental Assistance, Youth Services, Senior Services

City of Rochester

Theresa Fogarty – (507) 328-7123

Home Rehabilitation, Rental Assistance, Homelessness, Homebuyer Assistance Services

City of St Cloud

Carla Chapman – (320) 255-7218

Home Rehabilitation Loans, Homelessness, Senior Services, Youth Services, Disabled Persons Services, Emergency Assistance

City of St Paul

Ron Ross – (651) 266-6692

Home Rehabilitation, Homelessness, Referral Services

City of Woodbury

Karl Batalden – (651) 414-3438

Homebuyer Assistance, Foreclosure Assistance, Home Rehabilitation

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Anoka County

Karen Skepper – (763) 323-5709
Rental Assistance, Homeownership Assistance, Homelessness, Home Rehabilitation, Foreclosure Prevention, Financial Assistance, Youth Services, Homeless Services, Senior Services, Veterans Services, Development

Dakota County

Lisa Henning – (651) 675-4400
Home Rehabilitation, Senior Housing, Homeownership Assistance, Rental Assistance, Development

Hennepin County

Kevin Dockry – (612) 348-2270
Home Rehabilitation Loans, Homebuyer Assistance, Emergency Assistance, Foreclosure Assistance

Ramsey County

Mary Lou Eagan – (651) 266-8025
Rental Assistance, Homeownership Assistance, Homelessness, Home Rehabilitation, Foreclosure Prevention, Financial Assistance, Homeless Services, Development, Youth Services,

Washington County

Mary Farmer Kubler – (651) 430-6503
Legal Assistance, Youth Services, Consumer Education, Emergency Assistance, Economic Opportunities, Food Assistance, Referral Services

State of Minnesota

Small Cities Program
 (For other areas in MN not listed)
 Tom Gast (651) 259-7425



U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

Office of Community Planning & Development

Michele Smith
Director

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 Minneapolis, MN 55402
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**U.S.
 Department of
 Housing &
 Urban
 Development**



**Office of
 Community
 Planning &
 Development
 (CPD)**

Minneapolis Field Office

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Suite 1300
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Phone: 612-370-3000

Fax: 612-370-3218

HUD Minneapolis
Field Office Director
Dexter J. Sidney



HUD'S MISSION IS TO CREATE STRONG, SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES AND QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR ALL. HUD IS WORKING TO STRENGTHEN THE HOUSING MARKET TO BOLSTER THE ECONOMY AND PROTECT CONSUMERS; MEET THE NEED FOR QUALITY AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOMES; UTILIZE HOUSING AS A PLATFORM FOR IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE; BUILD INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION; AND TRANSFORM THE WAY HUD DOES BUSINESS.

More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at hud.gov and espanol.hud.gov.

You can also follow HUD on Twitter [@HUDMidwest](https://twitter.com/HUDMidwest) and on Facebook at facebook.com/HUD



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