



## News of Note:

- [HUD awards grants to combat housing discrimination](#)
- [HUD awards grants to reduce health, safety hazards in housing](#)
- [HUD launches overhaul of consolidated planning process](#)

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## *Celebrating a Renaissance in Brockton, MA*



**Above:** HUD Regional Administrator Barbara Fields speaks at the rededication ceremony for Brockton Housing Authority's Crescent Court which underwent a five-year \$14 million modernization. The project included exterior and interior upgrades to the 121 homes, in addition to a community center renovation. **Below left:** Newly renovated homes at Crescent Court. **Below right:** Administrator Fields (left) and HUD's new Regional Director of Public and Indian Housing Marilyn O'Sullivan (right) with Crescent Court Tenant Association President Benita Smith, at the rededication ceremony.



## Congratulations to RI Partners in Housing Awardees

Governor Lincoln Chafee and Richard Godfrey, Executive Director of Rhode Island Housing, honored members of the Rhode Island housing community for their dedication and commitment to ensuring affordable, safe and healthy homes for all Rhode Islanders.

The six recipients of the 2012 Partners in Housing Awards are Brenda Clement, the outgoing Executive Director of the Housing Action Coalition of Rhode Island who has taken a position as the Executive Director of CHAPA; Craig Stenning, Director, RI Dept. of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals; The Reverend Jean Barry, Executive Director, WARM Center; Pawtucket Citizens Development Corporation; Barbara Sokoloff, President, Barbara Sokoloff Associates; and the Town of Burrillville.



**Above:** Pictured from left are: Barbara Sokoloff; Richard Godfrey; Craig Stenning; Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee; Regional Administrator Fields; and Brenda Clement.

*Photo by Gretchen Ertle Photography*

## Using NSP to create housing, jobs in Vermont

This month marks the completion of three years of Vermont's Housing Acquisition & Rehabilitation Program (HARP)—a program that has helped renovate 55 homes including an historic St. Albans colonial purchased by first-time homebuyers, Meghan and Joseph Swan. The purchase culminated their quest to buy a home for their active family of five, made possible with help from VHFA, **Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD)** and **Champlain Housing Trust (CHT)**.

The HARP program is funded through \$9.9 million in Housing and Economic Recovery Act funds from the **U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)**. The funds are part of the larger Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) administered by ACCD and HUD.



**Above:** Vermont first-time homebuyers Meghan and Joseph Swan with their children in front of their newly renovated St. Alban's home.

Under the HARP program, VHFA works with Champlain Housing Trust and four other HomeOwnership Centers throughout Vermont to acquire, rehabilitate and re-market foreclosed homes. The 4-bedroom home purchased by the Swan family needed extensive renovations after foreclosure including a new roof, weatherization, new kitchen cabinets and countertops, refinishing wood floors, new bath and kitchen flooring and chimney repair. The home also received a new furnace and appliances.

Since June 2009, VHFA has restored 35 homes and sold them to income-eligible Vermonters. Most homes can be viewed on VHFA's [web site](#). Read more about [HARP](#) program

*"This program is a success story on several levels. We're converting foreclosed properties, most of which need major repairs and would have otherwise dragged down neighborhood values, into desperately needed energy efficient homes at prices Vermonters will be able to afford long into the future."*

- VHFA Executive Director **Sarah Carpenter**



## Partnering to end homelessness



HUD New England Regional Administrator Barbara Fields speaks to the Portland, Maine Task Force to End Homelessness about collaborative efforts in New England.

## Maine homeowners go green with PowerSaver



HUD joined Efficiency Maine officials at an event in Augusta to promote FHA's Power Saver program that offers loans to Maine residents to make their homes more energy efficient. Pictured at the event from left are Michael Freedberg, HUD Senior Energy Advisor; Dana Fischer, EfficiencyMaine; Property Owner John Dickens; HUD Maine Field Office Director Bill Burney; and Dwayne Marsh, HUD Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities. For more information on the PowerSaver loan program go to [Efficiency Maine](#).

## HUD Priority: Green Affordable Housing

Every year HUD identifies certain high priorities. This year, in an effort to become more "place-based" in the delivery of programs HUD has identified particular places in which to concentrate our efforts. As a result, regional office staff in Massachusetts and Rhode Island are making a special effort to encourage the green retrofit of HUD-supported affordable housing in the Providence-Fall River-New Bedford Metropolitan Statistical Area.

The Office of Policy Development and Research chose these areas to focus on given the age of the housing stock and number of households that fall into the low-income categories. Older homes generally equate to higher utility costs therefore any savings that green retrofits produced would mean that HUD, its partners and the families living there would have more money to spend on other essentials.

To this end, each of the major program staffs are working with partners to find ways to improve energy efficiency in this area – which includes the entire state of Rhode Island and Bristol County, Massachusetts.

This project has been underway for six months and is expected to yield ever-increasing benefits as time goes on. It promises to be a model not only for New England but for the entire country, as HUD looks for ways to save money on energy costs and use the cost savings to meet other housing needs.

## Celebrating Fair Housing Month



The Cambridge Human Rights Commission of Massachusetts hosted its annual fair housing poster and essay contest awards ceremony at Cambridge Rindge & Latin School.

Above: Meklit Melaku, Morse School, won first place in the essay contest. Lucas Gibson, Kennedy/Longfellow School was awarded first prize in the poster contest. Photos by Carmen Negron.

Click to read a copy of [Meklit Melaku's](#) winning essay.

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HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. For more information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov) and [espanol.hud.gov](http://espanol.hud.gov).

## Collaborative effort transforms Massachusetts development

Every day, local Housing Authorities (HAs) face the challenge of providing affordable housing to their residents. Much of the hard work goes unrecognized. Recently, at the annual awards dinner of the Watertown-Belmont Chamber of Commerce, the Watertown Housing Authority was spotlighted with a Special Recognition Award. This was a day to celebrate the accomplishments and dedication of staff across several agencies in providing affordable housing to the Water-



town community. Brian Costello, Executive Director of the Watertown Housing Authority, takes pride in the fact that "the recently renovated elderly complex now known as the E. Joyce Munger Apartments is a shining example of what senior housing should be."

Watertown, a city west of Boston, has one federally funded development. Originally built in the early 1980s, it was falling apart and even under discussion to be demolished. Staff from the Boston Office of Public Housing worked closely with the HA to discuss possible solutions to address three decades of leaking roofs. The housing authority applied for and was awarded a \$3.75 million competitive grant through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA). "If not for President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, this complex would now simply be a concrete pad. Instead we have a beautiful structure that will continue to serve the community for many, many years to come," said Mr. Costello.

When the HA received the funds, they immediately moved to procure bids and remedy all of the structural deficiencies from the original construction. The work was completed last December. Dwight Hebert, senior facilities management specialist at HUD, remarks: "I had an opportunity to visit this site and was so taken by the metamorphosis. The building is not your stereotypical public housing façade and the interior is equally warm and inviting." The building includes 50 units of senior housing.

"This is just one example of the successful collaborative efforts taking place throughout our region between HUD staff and our partners to improve the quality of life for residents," said Regional Administrator Barbara Fields. As residents praise the leadership of both HUD and the Watertown HA in the effective rehabilitation effort, Region 1 is proud to be a partner in these efforts.

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