



REGION III HUDLINE NEWS

January 2012



n E-Briefs from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development n Region III (DE, DC, MD, PA, VA & WV) n
n (215) 656-0500 n Jane C.W. Vincent, Regional Administrator n www.hud.gov/pennsylvania n

A Message from the Regional Administrator

Dear Friends,

As we launch 2012, I offer my best wishes for a successful and productive new year. It's true that these challenging times will demand that all of us be innovative and collaborative as we work to make good things happen. We are inspired by the stories of friends, neighbors, and partners who succeed in spite of economic challenges. Later in this issue, you'll find a link to a report showing that the numbers of homeless families, individuals and veterans went down by almost every measure. Over the last decade, we've seen that when localities combine housing with supportive services, the results are real changes for people who are homeless and real savings for taxpayers. My wish list for 2012 is long, and includes continuing to focus on helping homeless families, including veterans, continuing to provide more affordable housing, creating more jobs, stabilizing more neighborhoods, helping more people hang on to their homes, building more awareness about fair housing, improving the quality of life for seniors and people with disabilities, providing more affordable housing and building more sustainable communities with quality health care, schools, and access to transportation, work and grocery stores. I'm sure many of you share some of these goals, and have even more you'd like to see done in 2012. I look forward to working with you to tackle the challenges and celebrate the successes.

Happy New Year!



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Focus on Fair Housing...

HUD has launched the HUD Language Line, a telephone language service pilot (to run through September 2012) that will offer live, one-on-one interpretation services in more than 175 languages. Accessible throughout the nation, the language line will help HUD staff communicate with people who have limited English proficiency (LEP) about HUD housing programs, services, and activities. "Access to government should not be determined by how well a person speaks English," said John Trasviña, HUD Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. "The HUD Language Line is another example of HUD's efforts to ensure that persons with limited English proficiency have equal access to HUD programs and services."

[Read more about it here.](#)



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HUD's Mission: To create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities with quality, affordable housing for all.

MORE FAIR HOUSING NEWS

The Department of Justice filed its largest residential fair lending settlement in history to resolve allegations that Countrywide Financial Corporation and its subsidiaries engaged in a widespread pattern or practice of discrimination against more than 200,000 African-American and Hispanic borrowers who qualified for loans, but were charged higher fees or placed into subprime loans from 2004 through 2008. The settlement provides \$335 million in compensation for victims of Countrywide's discrimination during a period when Countrywide originated millions of residential mortgage loans as one of the nation's largest single-family mortgage lenders. A copy of the complaint and proposed settlement order, as well as additional information about fair lending enforcement by the Justice Department, can be obtained from the [Justice Department website](#).

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MONEY MATTERS

President Obama and Secretary Donovan are strong supporters of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) programs, and recognize their long and vital history of supporting critical neighborhood and housing needs. The tough economy has demanded some painful decisions, though, and we all must work with and through the challenges these decisions have created. Here they are in a nutshell: CDBG has been reduced by 11% and HOME has been reduced by 38% in the FY2012 HUD budget recently passed by Congress. FY 2012 also marks the first year the CDBG and HOME program funds will be allocated by a new formula calculation that relies on the Census Bureau's annual data source, the American Community Survey (ACS) and the 2010 Census data. The application of updated data to the allocation formulas, along with recent cuts to the CDBG and HOME programs, is expected to create a serious funding challenge for some communities. A [table](#) that provides an *estimate* of the combined effect of the new Census data and the FY 2012 budget on expected CDBG and HOME program funding for our grantees for FY 2012 is available. It's important to remember that these numbers are *preliminary estimates* only and are subject to revision in advance of the formal notification of HUD formula grant program allocations. HUD understands the potential for hardship the new census data combined with budget cuts represents, and we are taking steps to provide increased technical assistance to help Region III communities use their CDBG dollars in the areas of greatest need. Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development Mercedes Márquez has sent all formula grantees a [message](#) concerning these changes saying, "We are committed to doing everything we can to support you in this period of transition." For more information on the new data and how it will potentially affect the funding for grantees in FY 2012, visit this website to view a [HUD study](#) on the redistribution effect of this new data.

SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERS AT WORK

The US Green Building Council has created a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Neighborhood Development standard which provides a nationally recognized method for creating neighborhoods that are walkable, bikeable resource-efficient, and equitable. Download [A Citizen's Guide to LEED for Neighborhood Development](#) to see if your neighborhoods are smart and green.

January 26 - The Green Affordable Housing Coalition is offering the second in a series of forums on green affordable housing. "Greening the Existing Stock of Single-Family Homes" will be held from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM at the U.S. Green Building Council, 2101 L Street, NW, Suite 500, in Washington, DC. To learn more and to register, click [here](#).

Do you have Community Sustainability information you'd like to pass along to HUD? Maybe you'd like to know more about HUD's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities. Feel free to contact HUD's Region III Sustainability Officer, [Lorraine Richardson](#) (Capital District), or any of the Field Office Sustainability Officers: [Carol Payne](#) (Maryland), [Toni Schmiegelow](#) (Delaware), [Scott Smith](#) (Western PA), [Michael Torreyson](#) (West Virginia) and [Sharon Maclean](#) (Eastern PA).

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

HUD announced the selection of the German Marshall Fund (GMF) partnership as the recipient of \$2.5 million award to manage the Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) fellowship program. The [partnership](#) is comprised of the German Marshall Fund, Cleveland State University, and the Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech. SC2 is a pilot program focused on retooling and rebuilding the capacity of cities facing long-term economic challenges (often known as cities in transition or legacy cities), which have been identified as:

- * Chester, Pa.;
- * Detroit;
- * New Orleans;
- * Fresno, Calif.;
- * Memphis, Tenn.; and
- * Cleveland, Ohio.

Region III Homeless Intervention programs received \$168,245,855 in [FY 2011 Continuum of Care Renewal funding](#). This funding will allow continuation of desperately needed housing and services for families, individuals and veterans who are homeless.

The trustees administering Mary Ludlow's legacy donated \$1 million to the [Hampton Roads Community Foundation](#) to create a permanent endowment to benefit ForKids. The Norfolk-based nonprofit started in 1988 as an emergency homeless shelter. Over the years it has added other housing and programs to assist homeless families, and currently helps 175 children and parents in Norfolk and Suffolk create self-sufficient, happy lives.

HUD FUNDING RESOURCES

- [Housing Counseling Grant](#) applications due January 12.
- [Lead Hazard](#) Reduction Demonstration Grant Program applications are due January 18, 2012.
- [Lead-Based Paint Hazard](#) Control in Privately-Owned Housing applications are due January 18, 2012.
- [FY 2010 Section 202 Demonstration Pre-Development Grant Program](#) applications are due January 18, 2012.

All the latest in HUD funding news may be found at [hud.gov funds available](#) or [grants.gov](#). All applicants are reminded to register or update information at [grants.gov](#) before submitting applications.

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

- **January 6** - Applications are due for the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration FY12 discretionary programs. Each of the 12 programs has its own eligibility and selection criteria. Here are links to each program:
 - [Interstate Maintenance](#)
 - [Transportation, Community, and System Preservation](#)
 - [Ferry Boats and Terminals](#)
 - [Rail Highway Crossing Hazard Elimination in High Speed Rail Corridors](#)
 - [Truck Parking Facilities](#)
 - [Public Lands Highways](#)
 - [National Scenic Byways](#)
 - [Highways for LIFE](#)
 - [Innovative Bridge Research and Deployment](#)
 - [National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation](#)
 - [Value Pricing Pilot Program](#)

➤ [Delta Region Transportation Development](#)

- **January 7** – Applications are due for BJ's Clubs grants for services in the areas of hunger prevention, self-sufficiency, health care and education. To learn more about this opportunity, click [here](#).
- **January 11** – due date for Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) Fund Flexible Financial Assistance awards and capacity building Technical Assistance awards. For certified and certifiable CDFIs and Native American certified and certifiable CDFIs (due date January 18). Visit <http://www.cdfifund.gov> or <http://www.grants.gov>. Contact CDFI Fund staff, 202-622-6355, cdfihelp@cdfi.treas.gov.
- **January 15** – deadline to apply for the American Association of University Women grants for individuals and community-based nonprofit organizations to promote education and equity for women and girls. To learn more, click [here](#).
- **January 17** – deadline to apply for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant to support research and analysis of key policy issues affecting rural communities. For more information, click [here](#).
- **January 18** – deadline to apply for the High School Equivalency Program (HEP) grants to help migrant and seasonal farm workers and their children obtain GED certification. To apply, click [here](#).
- **January 18** – deadline to apply for the College Assistance Migrant Program grants to help migrant and seasonal farm workers and their children complete their first year of college. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).
- **January 23** – due date for proposals to EPA for Urban Waters Small Grants. Information, including the Request for Proposal (RFP) and registration links for the webinars, is available [here](#).
- **February 15** – applications are due for [Supportive Services for Veteran Families](#) grant program. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced \$100 million in 2012 grants available to community agencies that assist low income Veterans and families facing homelessness.
- **February 29** – applications are due for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) environmental justice small grants, to ensure equal environmental and health protections for all Americans, regardless of race or socioeconomic status. The grants enable non-profit organizations to conduct research, provide education, and develop solutions to local health and environmental issues in communities overburdened by harmful pollution. For more information [click here](#).

FHA LEADS THE WAY

New [Mortgage Letters](#):

Mortgagee Letter 2011-37 - Discusses the extension of implementation and reporting dates regarding trial payment plan for loan modifications and partial claims under Federal Housing Administration's Loss Mitigation Program.

Mortgagee Letter 2011-38 – rescinds and supersedes Mortgagee Letter 2009-38 regarding secondary financing eligibility requirements for IRC Section 115 Nonprofits.

Mortgagee Letter 2011-39 discusses Federal Housing Administration Maximum Loan Limits effective October 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012." The loan limits for effective dates as referenced in ML 11-39 have now been posted to [FHA's website](#). The loan limit data files have also been updated and posted for download [here](#).

HUD has released its FY2012 Median Family Income estimates and FY2012 Income Limits, effective December 1, 2011. All of the FY2012 Income Limit materials, including the interactive documentation systems are available at the [HUDUser website](#).

[News from FHA](#): In an effort to continue stabilizing home values and improve conditions in communities experiencing high foreclosure activity, Acting Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Commissioner Carol J. Galante will extend FHA's temporary waiver of the anti-flipping regulations. The new extension will permit buyers to continue to use FHA-insured financing to purchase HUD-owned properties, bank-owned properties, or properties resold through private sales. It will allow homes to resell as quickly as possible, helping to

stabilize real estate prices and to revitalize neighborhoods and communities. The extension is effective through December 31, 2012, unless otherwise extended or withdrawn by FHA.

For FHA technical support, please contact the FHA Resource Center at: www.hud.gov/answers Search our online knowledge base & find answers to our most commonly asked questions. You can also get email technical support at: answers@hud.gov or phone FHA toll-free between 8:00 a.m. & 8:00 p.m. ET (5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PT) at: (800) CALLFHA or (800) 225-5342. Call FHA TDD at: (877) TDD-2HUD (877) 833-2483).

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

January 6 - Nominations are due For Community Reinvestment Awards. The National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) will make several awards, including one for a rural nonprofit. Visit [NCRC's award nomination page](#), or contact Karen Taylor, NCRC, ktaylor@ncrc.org, 202-464-2716.

January 17 - Comments are due HUD's Fair Housing rule on discriminatory effect. The proposed rule would establish uniform standards for determining when a housing practice with a discriminatory effect violates the Fair Housing Act, even without discriminatory intent. See [Federal Register, 11/16/11](#) or [Regulations.gov](#), or contact Jeanine Worden, HUD, 202-402-5188.

February 3 – Comments are due on the interim Emergency Solutions Grants program rule, with corresponding amendments to the Consolidated Plan. See the December 5, 2011 [Federal Register](#). Comments may be submitted to HUD either by mail or electronic submission at [Regulations.gov](#). For more information about submitting a comment, see page 75954 of the ESG Interim rule.

February 6 - Comments are due regarding the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund) New Markets Tax Credit Program (NMTC Program), seeking to increase its effectiveness, while reducing cost and burden on program participants. See the November 7, 2011 [Federal Register](#) for more information. Mail comments to Bob Ibanez, Manager, NMTC Program, CDFI Fund, U.S. Department of the Treasury, 601 Thirteenth Street, NW, Suite 200 South, Washington, DC 20005; e-mail to cdfihelp@cdfi.treas.gov; or fax to (202) 622-7754.

February 8 - Comments are due regarding the Federal Housing Finance Agency's (FHFA) proposal to require Federal Home Loan Banks to monitor their members' compliance with Community Reinvestment Act and first-time homebuyer requirements. See the [Federal Register, 11/10/11](#) or [Regulations.gov](#), or contact Charles E. McLean, FHFA, 202-408-2537.

February 10 – Comments are due on proposed changes to HUD's Wetlands and Floodplains Rules. Updated procedures would apply to HUD and to state, tribal, and local governments responsible for environmental reviews under HUD programs. See the [Federal Register, 12/12/11](#) or [Regulations.gov](#), or Contact [Jerimiah Sanders](#), HUD, 202-402-4571.

February 14 – Comments are due on a proposed rule to amend HUD's HOME Investment Partnerships program regulations, updating property standards for housing assisted by HOME funds. To read the Federal Register notice, click [here](#).

March 5 – Responses are due on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau request for suggestions for regulations. The CFPB is responsible for regulations originally written by other agencies, including rules for the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, and the SAFE Mortgage Licensing Act. It requests specific suggestions by for ways to streamline "inherited" regulations and practical measures to make compliance easier. See [Federal Register, 12/5/11](#) or [Regulations.gov](#), or contact Jane Gell, CFPB, 202-453-7700.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Presentation materials from Housing Assistance Council's November training, "Housing Seniors in Rural America: Aging in Place in a Shifting Landscape," are now available on [the Housing Assistance Council's website](#).

HUD has released the FY12 median family income limits. The limits and other materials are available at <http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/il/il12/index.html>.

See the National Housing Conference "[Open House](#)" Blog for more good news about the benefits of Housing Counseling to help prevent foreclosures.

A drop in homelessness has been noted by the Obama administration. On a single night in January 2011, HUD states, 636,017 people were homeless, a reduction of 2.1% from January 2010 and 5.3% since 2007. The study also shows that homelessness among veterans dropped by 12% over the same period, and indicates that the effort to implement "Opening Doors," the Federal strategic plan whose goal is to end homeless among vets by 2014, and chronic homelessness by 2019, is having measurable results. [Read the press release here](#).

The **January 2012 Point-in-Time Count** of people who are homeless will soon be conducted in communities throughout the nation. Help is always needed for this critically important effort. If you or a team would like to volunteer to help, [Click here](#) to go to a search page where you can find your local Continuum of Care contacts.

The final "Definition of Homeless" rule was published in the [Federal Register](#). This final rule will apply to ESG recipients, as well as Supportive Housing Program and Shelter + Care grantees that receive funding through the FY 2011 Continuum of Care Competition, effective January 4, 2012. HUD has updated the Homeless Resource Exchange (HRE) to include the versions of the rules published on December 5, 2011. To access the documents on the HRE, and other HEARTH related information, including archived training materials and a schedule of upcoming trainings, please see [the Homeless Resource Exchange "Hearth" website](#).

The Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) has launched a new website to help states and supportive housing stakeholders prevent and end institutionalization and homelessness of people with disabilities. The Resource Center focuses on new and innovative supportive housing approaches and models that link affordable and accessible permanent housing resources with community-based supports and services for people with significant and long-term disabilities. Learn more [here](#).

There's always more to the story...The December, 2011 issue of [ResearchWorks](#) contains a summary of a study that sheds light on the commonly held belief that there is a direct relationship between housing voucher ("Section 8") tenants and neighborhood crime. It's worth a read.

"Aging in Place: A State Survey of Livability Policies and Practices," by the National Conference of State Legislatures and AARP, examines state policies on land use, transportation, and housing, including consideration of rural issues. To read the survey, visit [the AARP website](#) or contact AARP, 202-434-3890.

A uniform appraisal dataset (UAD) has been adopted for Section 502 direct and guaranteed loans. For appraisals completed on or after January 1, appraisers must use the new Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac UAD for both Section 502 programs. [Click here](#) for UAD information, or visit [the USDA Rural Development Appraisal page](#), or contact an [RD office](#).

The Housing Assistance Council (HAC) has launched a research series using 2010 census data. "Rurality in the United States" is the first in a series of Rural Research Notes presenting data and findings regarding social, economic, and housing characteristics of rural America based on the recently released 2010 Census and American Community Survey. Copies are free [at this website](#), or from [Dan Stern](#), HAC, 202-842-8600.

"Rural Voices" covers housing and water links in "Housing and Water: The Critical Connection," a joint fall 2011 issue of HAC's quarterly magazine and the Rural Community Assistance Partnership's "Rural Matters" magazine. It provides examples of successful projects that have improved opportunities for affordable housing

and water and waste services for low-income rural families and communities. This and other issues of “Rural Voices” are free at [HAC's website](#), or from [Dan Stern](#), HAC, 202-842-8600.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND REGION III..

HUD EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA/ REGIONAL OFFICE

The residents of Paschall Village in Philadelphia, PA are enjoying the latest energy efficient systems in their homes, and that will add up to real energy savings as winter's cold creeps into the Mid-Atlantic Region. The green development is complete with geothermal heating and cooling, a solar domestic hot water system and a rainwater harvesting irrigation system. HUD invested \$46.3 million in this Energy Star certified, 100 unit development that includes a computer lab and community space. HUD's Acting Deputy Regional Administrator Richard Ott was on hand to dedicate Paschall Village. Read the story [here](#).



Administrative Receiver/Executive Director Michael P. Kelly (center) cuts the ribbon as part of the dedication ceremony for the agency's newest development, Paschall Village in Southwest Philadelphia. Also pictured from left to right: HUD Acting Deputy Regional Administrator Richard Ott, Southwest Leadership Academy Charter School Principal Alphonso Evans, Director of Development for the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency Holly Glauser, City Council President Anna Verna, and Resident Liaison Nellie Reynolds.

The Pennsylvania Association of Housing and Redevelopment Agencies posed some questions to HUD Regional Administrator Jane C. W. Vincent about the status and the future of the HOME program, CDBG funding and achievements of housing authorities in PA. Check out Ms. Vincent's responses in the latest "[PAHRA Monitor](#)."

The HUD has approved a \$1.3 million Section 108 loan guarantee to Berks County to rehabilitate the Second Street area of the Borough of Hamburg. The funds will be used to acquire property to build a pedestrian promenade that will include walking and bike trails, sitting areas and open space. The project also includes street and road improvements throughout the Second Street redevelopment area and construction of public parking. HUD's Section 108 Loan Guarantee Assistance Program enables local governments to borrow money at reduced interest rates to promote economic development, stimulate job growth and improve public facilities. Read more about the Second Street project [here](#).

- **March 1** – Applications are due for the Philadelphia Children's Scholarship Fund. See [the Children's Scholarship Fund website](#) for more information or to apply.

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HUD WEST VIRGINIA

PATHS, the Partnerships in Assistive Technologies, is taking applications for two \$550 awards to qualified West Virginia residents who need assistive technology (AT). For more information contact PATHS, Inc. in Morgantown at (800)841-8436, or fax to (304)293-7294

- **January 4** – registration deadline for “Sort my Space” workshop on January 7, sponsored by Habitat for Humanity of Kanawha and Putnam. Contact lori@hfhkp.org or (304)720-0141 Ext. 12
- **January 6** – application due date for the Disability Determination Process (DDP) Small Grant Program, a one-year stipend program to allow graduate-level students to conduct supervised independent research on improving disability determination processes. E-mail ddp@policyresearchinc.org or see [the DDP grant web site](#). Additional contact information: Will Connelly, Program Coord., (518) 439-7415 ext. 5256.
- **January 19** – First cycle of Citizen Corps grant applications due – click on [this link](#) for more information.

- **January 20** - Concept papers for AmeriCorps State Formula Grants due to Volunteer West Virginia. Volunteer West Virginia staff will be hosting technical assistance conference calls on December 13, 2011 and January 11, 2012. Conference Call Number: 1-866-453-5550, PIN Code: 3730200#

During the month of January, there will be a number of volunteer training sessions for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program through the [Financial Stability Partnership](#) of United Way River Cities in Huntington. Contact Ed Davis, Coordinator, at 304.523.8929 x 6.

HUD CAPITAL DISTRICT

(Right) Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Mayor Vincent Gray, and officials from HUD and the DC Housing Authority cut the ribbon on the \$105 million [Sheridan Station](#) development, made possible through a \$6 million HOPE VI grant in 2008. The new construction on 11 acres in Ward 8 will bring 342 units of housing when all 4 phases are completed; and replaces Sheridan Terrace, which was torn down in 1997.



HUD WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA



Erie County was one of the 29 recipients of a 2011 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. Jane Miller, Field Office Director of the Pittsburgh HUD Office, presented Barry Grossman, County Executive, and several of Erie County's core partners with a Regional Planning Grant in the amount of \$1.8 million. The grant will be used to develop the Destination Erie: Regional Plan for Sustainable Development. Read more about it in the December 21 issue of the [Erie Times-News](#).

The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh hosted the opening and rededication of the [Frank H. Mazza Pavilion](#) on December 13, 2011 in Brookline, a thriving and bustling city neighborhood and business district. The building on the left is a 30 unit low-rise for seniors originally constructed in 1982. Using \$7 million in Recovery Act funds, the Authority completed a comprehensive "green technology" interior and exterior renovation, complete with new walls, windows, flooring, kitchens and bathrooms, and enhanced common areas.



- **January 12** - The Spirit of KING Award Ceremony in East Liberty. RSVP to Evelyn Newscome at 412-566-5259 by January 6, 2012.

- **January 12** – “Housing Demand and Neighborhood Choice with Housing Vouchers in Pittsburgh” Brown Bag Seminar hosted by the Urban and Regional Analysis Program of the University of Pittsburgh. RSVP to pncis@pitt.edu.
- **January 20** – “Analyzing Urban Structure in Pittsburgh with Network Models and Cartography” Brown Bag Seminar hosted by the Urban and Regional Analysis Program of the University of Pittsburgh. RSVP to pncis@pitt.edu.
- **January 21** - 14th Annual Summit Against Racism, Pittsburgh. [Click here](#) for more information.

On December 14, 2011 the Allegheny Engagement Network of homeless service providers met to discuss enhancements and changes to the street homeless service system. Part of the discussion revolved around eligible uses of Travelers Aid never identified before. Patricia Wilson (Right), Program Manager of [Travelers Aid Pittsburgh](#), joined the meeting to offer information about Travelers Aid and AEN partnership possibilities.



HUD VIRGINIA

Virginia’s veterans will have two more locations where they can receive assistance with preparing their claims for benefits from the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) has opened two new offices in Alexandria and Virginia Beach. Governor Bob McDonnell commented, “I believe that one of the absolute best things we can do for those who have served our country so bravely, is to provide them an easier way to receive the benefits that are so well deserved.” Read the news release [here](#).

Funds to renovate and construct the Mary Marshall Assisted Living Residence (formerly Arlington Volunteers of America Assisted Living Residence) in Arlington, VA were provided through grants from HUD and Arlington County, VA. Thirty-nine vacant apartments have been converted into fifty two assisted living units. The Mary Marshall is operated in partnership with Arlington County Department of Health & Human Services. [Click here](#) for more information.



Sylvia Berry, HUD Virginia FHEO Director, Consular Anibal Gomez of the Mexican Consulate, and Carrie Schmidt, Field Office Director, attended a meeting on December 3 to learn about housing issues that affect Mexican immigrant communities in VA, West VA, MD, and D.C (the area this Consulate covers). More specifically, the discussion centered on HUD’s programs, and those of other federal agencies, that may assist with housing and other issues faced by the growing Latino population in South Richmond.

Homeowners in southwest Virginia will be able to dramatically improve their homes' energy efficiency thanks to the newly-created Community Alliance for Energy Efficiency (**cafe**²). Christiansburg-based [Community Housing Partners](#) (CHP) formed **cafe**² through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings

initiative, which is administered by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (DMME) and the Southwest Energy Efficiency Alliance.

Volunteers are needed to make the 32nd [National Veterans Wheelchair Games](#), being held in Richmond June 25 – 30, a success. Contact Alice Faulk, Chairperson, at 804-675-5265.

In recognition of the kick-off year for the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, Governor Bob McDonnell announced [ten State grant awards](#) to organizations working to conserve historic battlefield lands for present and future generations of Americans. The grant awards are drawn from the Civil War Historic Sites Preservation Fund that Governor McDonnell and the General Assembly permanently established in 2010. Funds for the awards, this year totaling \$1 million, are distributed by the [Virginia Department of Historic Resources](#) based on a rigorous evaluation process.

March 8 – Tidewater 2012 Regional Conference to End Homelessness - Old Dominion University - Webb Center. Contact Lynanne Gornto, 757-622-9268 Ext. 3005, lgornto@theplanningcouncil.org.

HUD DELAWARE

- **January 12** – YWCA Delaware – Don't Lose Your Assets – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., 153 East Chestnut Hill Road, Suite 102, Newark, DE 19713 - To register at (302) 224-4060, ext 200 or at: dfefinfo@ywca.org
- **January 18** – Mortgage Default and Foreclosure Prevention Workshop – Consumer Credit Counseling of MD and DE – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Elsmere, Library, 30 Spruce Avenue, Elsmere, DE 19806 – For more information contact Tami Levy Schoenfeld at 800-267-5002 or at 302-792-1200.
- For a complete listing of similar events in Delaware through March 2012, go to: www.delawarestatehousing.com and click on Events.

HUD Region III Administrator Jane Vincent and HUD Delaware Field Office Director Toni Schmiegelow convened meetings with HUD's major partners in Delaware in Georgetown and Dover on November 28. Two additional meetings on November 29 and 30 were held in Christiana and Wilmington, where Region III Fair Housing Director Melody Taylor Blancher was also in attendance. Among the issues discussed were Project Rebuild and HUD's FY 2012 priorities and budget. Toni Schmiegelow (center), responds to a question from a participant at the event in Wilmington on November 30.



HUD MARYLAND



Maryland's Housing Secretary Ray Skinner (center in photo) hopes to use federal and state resources to help finance a construction boom of affordable rental housing in Maryland, adding much-needed housing for low to moderate income families and putting thousands of people back to work, according to a Dec. 16 report in the [Baltimore Business Journal](#). He unveiled his "Rental Housing Works" initiative recently during the Governor's jobs summit, The Journal reports. Left to Right: Gene Flinn, Vice President; First United Bank & Trust; Doug Devlin, Devlin Architecture; Julianna Albowicz, Senator Barbara Mikulski's Office; DHCD Secretary Raymond Skinner, Richard Devlin, Devlin, Inc. General Contractor; Robin Summerfield, Senator Ben Cardin's Office.

The Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning, a Baltimore-based national non-profit organization received a \$930,000 Healthy Homes Production Grant from the HUD's Office of Healthy Housing and Lead Hazard Control, to continue its work to eliminate health and safety hazards in the homes of Baltimore's most vulnerable children and families. The funding will support Baltimore's Green & Healthy Homes Initiative. [Read more about it here.](#)

With the support of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's [Window of Opportunity](#) program, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development has joined nine county governments to preserve affordable rental housing in the areas of growth brought on by the federal Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process, which is expected to bring more than 25,000 new households to the State.

Stephanie Rawlings Blake, Mayor of Baltimore (third from right), joined community leaders at an event marking the successful marketing of a dozen homes in the Barclay neighborhood of Baltimore. These homes had been acquired and rehabilitated by Telesis, Inc., a for-profit developer, using neighborhood stabilization program funds which HUD awarded to [Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc.](#)



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