



REGION III HUDLINE NEWS

February 2012



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

A Message from the Regional Administrator

Dear Friends:

January has been a busy month. HUD employees across Region III volunteered to help with local Point-In-Time (PIT) counts last week. These annual community counts provide critical information about the breadth of homelessness, progress toward preventing and ending it, and determination of each community's next steps in addressing this tragic issue. As chairman of the Regional Interagency Council on Homelessness, I'm proud to say the volunteer response from HUD and other federal employees was overwhelming, as you'll see from some of the stories in this issue. I, too, had the privilege of volunteering, and spoke with several formerly homeless veterans who are now living in safe, affordable housing and participating in job programs provided by [Impact Services](#) in Philadelphia. Putting vets back to work and increasing manufacturing job opportunities were some of the "Built to Last" ideas President Obama offered in his State of the Union Address last week. The President also proposed allowing responsible homeowners to refinance at today's historically low rates, saving an average of \$3,000 a year. For more on the State of the Union Address, take a look at [this page](#). Finally, President Obama will unveil his budget plan for FY 2013 this month. Afterward, we'll be in contact with many of you; and together, we'll work on creative and innovative ways to address our communities' most urgent needs. I look forward to continuing to work with you to meet the challenge.



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Focus on Fair Housing...

As a pilot program in Washington D.C., HUD is launching a [Section 3 Business Registry](#) that will expand job opportunities for low-income people and public housing residents by maintaining a registry of businesses that hire them. HUD will also implement the pilot program in New Orleans, Detroit, Los Angeles and Miami to give contractors, agencies and low-income residents a single source to find eligible Section 3 businesses and job opportunities. The District of Columbia recently passed a historic jobs bill that requires 51% of new employment opportunities created with local funding to be provided to D.C. residents. Since this bill is closely related to Section 3, HUD will work closely with the District government to ensure that jobs and contracting opportunities are provided to local residents. Read the full announcement [here](#).



Follow HUD happenings between newsletters through social media – search @HUDMidAtlantic on Twitter or



join the HUD group on Facebook!

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

🎵 **STAFF NOTES...SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT...** 🎵



Region III is delighted to congratulate and welcome Richard M. Ott as he brings his many talents to his new position as Deputy Regional Administrator. Mr. Ott has been with HUD since 1999, and has served in a number of capacities for the Department; including Philadelphia Homeownership Center Housing Program Officer and Director of Operations and Customer Service. Most recently, Mr. Ott was the Deputy Director for the Philadelphia Homeownership Center.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan has [announced](#) that 13 communities across the U.S., including two in Region III, will receive \$3.6 million in Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants. Washington DC will receive \$300,000 for the Kenilworth Courts/Kenilworth Parkside Resident Management Corporation; and Suffolk, VA will receive \$255,656 for the East Washington Street Corridor and White Marsh Neighborhood. “All across the country, local planners are serious about rolling up their sleeves to transform distressed neighborhoods into choice neighborhoods,” said Donovan. “These communities can now begin the comprehensive planning needed to turn distressed housing and long-neglected neighborhoods into viable and sustainable mixed-income communities that support positive outcome for families.” Read more about these awards later in this issue.

HUD FUNDING RESOURCES

- [Housing Counseling Training](#) program applications are due February 7.
- [Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Program](#) applications are due April 10.

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

- **February 10** – applications are due for the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) [Recycling Awards](#).
- **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 28** – applications are due for Dollar General’s [Adult](#) and [Family](#) Literacy grant programs.
- **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. For more information [click here](#).
- **March 1** – applications are due for the [2012 Do Something Awards](#).
- **March 1** – applications are due for the Hispanic College Fund’s [College and Career Institute Scholarship program](#).
- **March 1** – applications are due for the National Endowment for the Arts ["Our Town" grants](#).
- **March 16** – deadline for nominations for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s [Richard H. Dreihaus National Preservation Award](#).
- **March 22** – applications are due for the Department of Labor’s [Workforce Innovation](#) grant program.
- **April 1** – deadline for nominations for the Tech Museum of Innovation [Tech Awards](#) (for using technology to help solve some of humanity’s most pressing problems).
- **June 1** - applications are due for 2012 Neighborhood Builder awards from the [Bank of America Charitable Foundation](#), and the deadline to nominate an outstanding volunteer for the Bank of America Charitable Foundation's “Local Heroes” award, which could win the nominating organization a \$5,000 grant. For details on both programs visit [this website](#).

FHA LEADS THE WAY

[FHA has announced](#) additional steps to limit risk and strengthen finances. Lender indemnification and seller concession measures will help FHA better manage risk while maintaining support for the housing market and access for qualified borrowers.

FHA has issued a final rule that updates and enhances the Lender Insurance process, through which the majority of Federal Housing Administration (FHA)-insured mortgages are endorsed for insurance. View the Federal Register Notice in its entirety at: [click here](#).

- **January/February** - Freddie Mac Home Affordable Refinance Program (HARP) overview webinar for nonprofit housing counseling agencies only, will provide information about changes to HARP that were effective December 1. Learn about borrower, mortgage and property eligibility in a 60 minute webinar. There is no fee, but registration is required. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.
- **February 29** - HUD-FHA Loss Mitigation webinar series, exclusively for FHA-approved servicing lenders and HUD-approved housing counseling agencies, will restart. The webinar modules provide servicing managers and staff with a detailed overview of HUD-FHA's Loss Mitigation options and process workflows, and will be conducted as a series on a rotating basis. All webinars will be held on Wednesdays at 2:00 pm EST, and are 2 hours long. Housing Counselors may register by completing all information on the registration site and entering "00000" for the Lender ID. There is no fee, but registration is required. [Click here](#) to register for the first webinar in the series.
- **March 6** - Pittsburgh, PA - FHA Loss Mitigation Training Course at the HUD Western Pennsylvania Office. There is no fee, but registration is required. Register online at: <https://eclass.hudtulsa.org> For questions and to confirm your registration, contact dave.gallian@hud.gov.

Two Notices for FHA Lenders:

1. New Prefixes for Baltimore, MD and Richmond, VA became effective January 7. New case number prefix 244 replaces 241 for Baltimore, MD field office cases, and new case number prefix 544 replaces 541 for Richmond, VA field office cases for future case numbers.
2. Effective January 14, lenders are required to indicate whether a purchase transaction was previously sold as a Real Estate Owned (REO) property and if so, a previous REO case number (only if HUD is the seller on the current transaction) will be required at case number assignment in FHA Connection.

For technical support on these or any other FHA issue, please contact the FHA Resource Center at: www.hud.gov/answers and search the online knowledge base to find answers to the most frequently asked questions. You can also get email technical support at: answers@hud.gov, or call FHA toll-free between 8:00 a.m. & 8:00 p.m. ET at (800) CALLFHA or (800) 225-5342. Call FHA TDD at: (877) TDD-2HUD (877) 833-2483.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

February 7 – Comments are due regarding the proposed rule for HMIS Requirements. The proposed rule provides uniform technical requirements for HMIS, proper data collection and maintenance of the database and client confidentiality with regard to the data collection. Interested parties may submit comments to www.regulations.gov.

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 [Jeremiah Sanders](#), HUD, 202-402-4571.

February 14 - Comments are due regarding a proposed rule to amend HUD's HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program regulations, updating property standards for housing assisted by HOME funds. See the Federal Register, [12/16/11](#) or [regulations.gov](#), or contact Virginia Sardone, HUD, 202-708-2684.

February 17 - Comments are due regarding the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) and the Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act (SAFE) regulations republished by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in the Federal Register, [12/19/11](#). Interested parties may also contact Mitchell E. Hochberg, CFPB, 202-435-7700 or [regulations.gov](#).

February 21 - Comments are due regarding the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA) regulations republished by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in the Federal Register, [12/20/11](#). Interested parties may also contact Joseph Devlin, CFPB, 202-435-7700 or [regulations.gov](#).

March 5 - Comments are due regarding 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

HUD has a new guidebook that addresses combining HOME and NSP funds. "[HOME and NSP: A Guide for Successfully and Effectively Combining Funding Sources](#)" explains how to comply with both the HOME and Neighborhood Stabilization Programs when using both.

[Housing Virginia](#) has released a new study, "[The Effects of Housing on the Local Community](#)," that explores the direct connection between housing and economic vitality at the state, local and neighborhood level.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) helps to fill the summer meal gap for low-income children. Faith-based, community and private non-profit organizations can make a difference in the lives of hungry children by serving meals with SFSP, a federally funded program administered by states, that reimburses organizations for children's summer meals. [Click here](#) to view an information webinar.

The [Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act \(PTFA\)](#), Title VII (pages 30 – 32) of the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009 [has been extended](#) to December 31, 2014, and provides protections to tenants in foreclosed properties. Under the Act, the immediate successor of interest (generally the purchaser) of a foreclosed property must provide all tenants with at least 90 days notice prior to eviction because of foreclosure. Additionally, tenants must be permitted to stay in the residence until the end of the lease, with two exceptions:

1. The property is sold after foreclosure to a purchaser who will be an owner-occupant, or
2. There is no lease or the lease is terminable at will under state law.

Even if these exceptions apply, the tenant must be given at least 90 days notice prior to eviction. The rights of Section 8 tenants are also protected under the Act. The National Housing Law Project (NHLP) has prepared [materials](#) that can help housing counseling agencies understand the Act's provisions and help tenants exercise their rights under the law.

"Designing for Healthy Communities: Active Living and Comprehensive Community Development" is a paper from the Institute for Comprehensive Community Development. It offers a summary of empirical evidence that can be used by community developers to add a public health component to their work. To read the paper, click [here](#).

CDFI Fund Announces its Capacity Building Initiative's First Resource Bank. The "Financing Healthy Food Options Resource Bank" makes the training and resource materials used for the Financing Healthy Food Options training series available to the general public and members of the community development industry. To learn more about the bank, click [here](#).

February 19-26 is “America Saves” Week. The theme for 2012 is: Set a Goal, Make a Plan, Save Automatically. Organizations, municipalities, or employers may find campaign support materials at: [America Saves Week](#).

Test, Fix, and Save a Life - give some thought to the dangers of radon gas. With cold winter weather upon us, most people are spending more of their time inside closed homes. The EPA estimates that 1 in fifteen homes in the US has an elevated level of radon; and that high levels of radon (a colorless odorless gas) exposure, may contribute to lung cancer or other respiratory illnesses. Knowledge is power - click on this [website](#) how to find out if you should be concerned about radon gas, and what to do about it.

Rural Support Partners has collected data from 24 practitioners at six successful networks working across the country on issues related to local food, housing and conservation. The report “Rural Networks for Wealth Creation” led to the development of a toolkit with worksheets designed for a range of audiences. To access these and other materials, click [here](#).

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND REGION III...

HUD EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA/ REGIONAL OFFICE



Before participating in the Point-in-Time (PIT) count, Regional Administrator Jane C. W. Vincent spent a few minutes talking with formerly homeless veterans who are now living in housing provided by Impact Services.

HUD and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) are two of the major funding sources (more than \$6 million) for [Impact Services](#), a community economic development organization mentioned in Regional Administrator Jane Vincent's message in this issue. Impact Services' core mission is jobs, but they are also one of the largest providers of homes for veterans in the Nation. VA Deputy Assistant Secretary Michael Cardarelli and Jane Vincent stopped in for a visit with the veterans at Impact Services before joining Philadelphia's Point-in-Time (PIT) count. (See pictures above). The vets had inspiring stories of survival on the streets, and spoke of their appreciation for Impact Services having helped them into safe, affordable housing with access to the supportive services they need to be successful. Impact Services has helped place more than 3,400 people in full time jobs since 1993, and has helped more than 2,200 veterans since 1996. For more information about HUD's commitment to veterans, please visit [HUD's Veterans Information website](#).



HUD employees were among the 50 volunteers at [Project H.O.M.E.](#), a provider of services to people who are homeless in Philadelphia. After brief training, volunteers teamed up to canvas the City streets and underground subway concourses for homeless individuals. In one section of the underground subway passages alone, volunteers counted 83 individuals. They slept on the floor, on benches or in hallways...even tucked away under the boarding platforms. That night the volunteers counted more than 430 homeless individuals living on the streets and in the subway concourses. These numbers don't include individuals and families who are staying in shelters during the count. Their numbers will be counted in the spring. This experience opened the volunteers' eyes and hearts, and now they know first-hand the need for HUD's homeless programs. Some have already pledged to volunteer again next year.

\$49.2 million in emergency aid through HUD's [Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery](#) Program has been awarded to Pennsylvania to assist the recovery from 2011's natural disasters. These grants will support long-term disaster recovery efforts in the areas of greatest unmet need. HUD is allocating \$27,142,501 to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, at least 80 percent of which will be directed to Bradford, Dauphin, Columbia, Wyoming, and/or Luzerne Counties; which had significant damage from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. In addition, Luzerne County will receive \$15,738,806 and Dauphin County will receive \$6,415,833 directly from HUD.

[The Small Communities and Cities \(SC2\) Initiative](#) is taking flight in Chester. In January, HUD team lead David Marable convened a meeting with Chester City officials, HUD program directors and staff, and other federal partners to talk about Chester's issues and what existing resources may be available to help the City revitalize its downtown. Everyone left the room with a better understanding of what the needs are, and what HUD programs may be used to help the City to tackle those challenges. It was an informative session—one HUD would like to have more often with other jurisdictions and communities in Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware, as well as around Region III.

- **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.

HUD MARYLAND



Work is underway on some parts of the [Downtown Partnership of Baltimore's Open Space Plan](#). The plan was introduced last year and "outlines a broad range of recommendations to improve existing areas, create new open space, and to use green corridors to connect parks and plazas." A [recent article](#) in the Baltimore Sun highlights some of the plan's projects that are already being implemented.

Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz announced that Baltimore County government has launched "Homefront – Our Turn to Serve" to welcome veterans home from deployment by providing extra support services and the potential for a good job with the County. Baltimore County is implementing hiring preferences for veterans, who will receive priority in screening and hiring for potential vacancies. Kamenetz also announced that Baltimore County's Mobile Career Center and Department of Workforce Development staff will participate in the National Guard's "Yellow Ribbon" Reintegration events. [View photos](#) from the announcement at the National Guard Ruhl Armory in Towson, and [click here](#) for the news article.

- **February 14** - The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Baltimore Branch is hosting a forum to discuss the recommendations of the Maryland Foreclosure Task Force. For more information, call 410-576-3317.
- **April 18** - Baltimore County Human Relations Commission's 2012 Fair Housing Conference, "Fair Housing Opportunities for Older Communities in Transition" at the Sollers Point Multi-purpose Center. Contact: ldwalker@baltimorecountymd.gov for more information.

HUD WEST VIRGINIA

The Financial Stability Partnership, a program of United Way of the River Cities, has posted its schedule of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) dates. [Click here](#) to see the schedule.

- **February 16** – Housing Day at the West Virginia Legislature sponsored by Community Works in West Virginia, Inc. E-Mail Kmorgan@communityworkswv.org for more information.
- **February 29**- applications are due to Volunteer West Virginia to propose presenters for the August 7-9 Faces of Leadership Conference. Email applications to [Moya Doneghy](mailto:Moya.Doneghy@volunteerwv.org) or mail to: Conference Presentations, Volunteer West Virginia, 710 Central Avenue, Charleston, WV 25302. For more information, call Moya Doneghy at 304-558-0111.
- **March 28 – 29** - 5th Bi-Annual Suicide Prevention Conference, “Drugs, Alcohol, and Suicide Across the Life Span,” Charleston Civic Center, Charleston, WV. For questions or to register contact [Lora Humphrey](mailto:Lora.Humphrey@wv.gov), 304-296-1731, ext 4269.

HUD CAPITAL DISTRICT

Regional Administrator Jane C. W. Vincent joined Acting Federal Housing Administrator Carol Galante, Mayor Vincent Gray, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and DC Housing Authority Executive Director Adrienne Todman to announce that the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) has been awarded a \$300,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant. DCHA competed with 71 applicants to become one of 13 cities nationwide to receive this funding, and will use it to begin grassroots revitalization of the 288-unit Kenilworth Courts subsidized housing development and the transformation of the Parkside-Kenilworth neighborhood. Mayor Gray explained the DCHA Choice planning process will build upon and strengthen the planning process of the DC Promise Neighborhoods (US Department of Education) Initiative, led by the Cesar Chavez Charter Schools. "We now have a Choice, so we can keep our Promise," he quipped.



(l to r) HUD Regional Administrator Jane C.W. Vincent, HUD Acting Assistant Secretary & FHA Commissioner Carol Galante, DC Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, DC Mayor Vincent Gray, DCHA Executive Director Adrienne Todman and DCHA Board Chair Pedro Alfonso.

In January, staff from the HUD Capital District Office participated in several events to help people who are homeless:



(Left) Members of the HUD Capital District Office joined with HUD’s Veterans Affinity Group to collect and distribute boots for homeless veterans, both male and female. Dubbed “Walk in Their Footsteps,” the office and volunteers collected nearly 300 pairs of new shoes and boots. These shoes and boots were later distributed at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center during their Winterhaven Stand-down for homeless veterans on January 21, 2012. HUD Capital District Office Director Marvin Turner joined VA Secretary Shinseki in thanking the volunteers and veterans during a tour of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. And HUD Capital District Office staff participated in the 2012 Point-in-Time count. During the Point-in-Time count, these volunteers helped with the community’s efforts to count people who are homeless.



(Left) Field Office Director Marvin Turner and Belinda Fadlemola spent a Saturday working at the Winterhaven Stand-down for Homeless Veterans. (Right, back row), Belinda Fadlemola joins other volunteers for the Point-in-Time count in Prince George's Co., MD



HUD WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

In New Castle, PA LCCAP (Lawrence County Community Action Partnership) enhances the quality of life for residents by mobilizing and directing resources to assist, educate, and promote self-sufficiency. Comprised of Lawrence County Social Services, United Community Services of Lawrence County and Allied Coordinated Transportation Services, Inc., LCCAP is a master of funding streams and “braiding” of multiple programs and initiatives to promote sustenance and staying power for smaller communities with limited resources. Several of its programs are funded in part by HUD: Section 3 GreenWorks Training Program, Healthy Homes and Lead Based Paint Hazard Control Program and Supportive Housing Programs-Turning Point, TEAM, New Options, and NWRegional. Contracting and sub-contracting opportunities and avenues increase partner investment and longevity. To learn more about LCCAP and community investments see www.lccap.org.

Kathy Presnar, Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP) staff member, outlined LCCAP’s HUD-funded transitional and permanent supportive housing programs to (seated, left to right) Regional Administrator Jane C.W. Vincent, HUD Western Pennsylvania Field Office Director Jane Miller, and Sr. Management Analyst Cindy Haines.



Everyone Counts in Western Pennsylvania! On Wednesday January 25, HUD Western PA staff volunteered to work with Operational Safety Net (OSN), a member organization of the Allegheny County Continuum of Care, to help conduct their annual Point-in-Time count of people who are homeless. This year the annual count occurred in two venues: the severe weather shelter in a downtown Pittsburgh church, and in the surrounding streets. In hundreds of towns, communities, and neighborhoods across the nation, homeless funding and services are calculated on the results of the annual homeless count. HUD staff and other volunteers, and specially trained urban outreach teams, met with homeless men and women who came to the shelter for warmth, food, clothing and medical attention. To learn more about OSN and homeless street outreach go to: www.pmhs.org.



(Left) HUD volunteers (clockwise from left) Marva Tolbert, Phoebe Buchannan, Daniel Behrend, Rose Jacobson, Owen (ONS paramedic) and Field Office Director Jane Miller. Not pictured, HUD team member Cindy Haines. (Right) Linda Sheets, Program Director of OSN, goes over surveys with HUD Staff: Phoebe Buchannan, Marva Tolbert and Jane Miller.



If it weren't for the Housing Authority City of Erie's (HACE) 2011 capital improvement projects, more than 100 Erie area residents might still be unemployed. HACE had "shovel ready" projects when HUD money recently became available, just as they did when [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#) (ARRA) money arrived in Erie. HACE has a strong commitment to [Section 3](#), which requires that organizations receiving federal funds must provide job training, employment, and contract opportunities for low- or very-low income residents in connection with projects and activities in their neighborhoods. HACE tenants appreciate both the construction improvements and the job opportunities they bring. Read more about it [here](#). Below, pictured "on the job" are:



Wajdi Ahmad puts in Windows



Tony Milone prepares work tools



Dave Beans reviews construction site



Representing community collaboration at its best, Pittsburgh's Trail Lane Apartments "Housing First" program is affordable, low-demand housing where people who have been homeless can find a place to call "home." Trail Lane residents go directly from homelessness into housing, and are linked to services that help them resolve problems and become re-involved in stable, successful community living. Read more about Trail Lane Apartments [here](#). (Left) Paul K. appreciates his new living space after nearly 25 years of homelessness.

- **February 9, 16 and 23** - Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh free business programs for February 2012. Contact Natalie S. Lustig, 412-281-7130, ext. 2019.
- **February 16** – Webinar on Transportation Patterns and Impacts from Marcellus Development, with Scott Christy, Deputy Secretary for Highway Administration, PennDOT, and Mark Murawski, Lycoming County Planning & Community Development. No fee, but registration is required. [Register here](#) or contact [Carol Loveland](#) at 570-433-3040.

- **February 18** - For Butler County Residents - Mortgage Assistance and Anti-Predatory Lending Classes at the [Housing Authority](#) of the County of Butler. Registration is required, contact Martha Brown at 724-287-6797
- **March 1 through April 5** – [Family Services of Western Pennsylvania](#) is offering “24/7 Dad” ParentWise classes. Call 724-837-5410 ext 704 for more information.
- **March 14** - Real Estate Continuing Education Series “Ethics” at the Four Points Sheraton, North-Warrendale/Mars, PA. For more information go to www.pahma.org.
- **March 28** – “What Today’s Property Manager Needs to Know” workshop at the Four Points Sheraton, North-Warrendale/Mars, PA. For more information go to www.pahma.org.

HUD VIRGINIA

Regional Administrator Jane C. W. Vincent joined (l-r) Suffolk Mayor Linda Johnston, Suffolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority (SHRA) Board of Commissioners Chair Teresa Provost, SRHA Executive Director Clarissa McAdoo, Jane Vincent, HUD Virginia Field Office Director Carrie Schmidt and HUD Virginia Public Housing Program Director Jerryl Bennett, to announce the award of a \$255,656 [Choice Neighborhoods](#) Planning Grant to Suffolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority. Suffolk is one of only 13 cities nationwide to receive this funding, which will enable it to begin a grassroots effort to revitalize the East Washington Street corridor and transform the White Marsh Neighborhood. Read the full announcement [here](#).



[The Academy for Nonprofit Excellence](#), a partnership between the Hampton Roads Foundation and Tidewater Community College, has posted its course offerings for the spring semester. Sessions are offered both in the classroom and online.

Governor Bob McDonnell has announced the distribution of \$1.2 million in farmland preservation grants from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) to 13 Virginia localities. Read more about it [here](#).

Volunteers are still 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.

Everyone Counts in Richmond, Virginia! On Thursday, January 26, 19 HUD Virginia staff members joined 55 other volunteers to help [Homeward](#), the Richmond metro area Continuum of Care lead agency, conduct the Winter 2012 Point-in-Time count of people who are homeless in downtown Richmond. Homeward’s semi-annual count takes place in a number of locations: shelters, meal sites and wherever people who are homeless may be found. The downtown Richmond location, historic St. Paul’s Episcopal Church lunch program, hosted nearly 300 guests and had service information, clothing and free haircuts available. Joining the volunteer effort were partners from McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Virginia Department of Social Services, and a number of other outreach partners. Additionally, HUD Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs Action Programs Mark Johnston, his wife Lynne, VA Assistant Secretary for Operations, Security and Preparedness, Joe Riojas, his wife Susan, and VA Network Homeless Coordinator for VISN6 Jeff Doyle served as volunteers in the downtown Richmond effort. Among the people participating in the survey was Earl Dunn, birthday boy and brand-new recipient of a HUD-VASH voucher, who was reached during the summer 2011 “1,000 Homes” effort.



Left, the downtown Richmond Winter 2012 Point-in-Time count in full swing on January 26 at historic St. Paul's Episcopal Church.



Above left, HUD Virginia Public Housing Program Director Jerryl Bennett, McGuire VAMC HUD-VASH program coordinator Sue McHenry, HUD-VASH program participant Earl Dunn, McGuire VAMC Homeless Coordinator Ray Patterson, and VA Assistant Secretary Joe Riojas.
 Above right, (clockwise from left) Jerryl Bennett, McGuire VAMC Chief of Social Work Robin Jackson, Ray Patterson, Jeff Doyle, HUD Virginia Community Planning and Development Director Ronnie Legette, Susan Riojas, VA Assistant Secretary Riojas, McGuire VAMC Intern Melody Wilson, HUD Deputy Assistant Secretary Johnston, Homeward Executive Director Kelly King-Horne, HUD Virginia Sr. Management Analyst Anne Davis and HUD Virginia Field Office Director Carrie Schmidt.

- **February 15** – applications are due for 2012 operating support grants from the [Business Consortium for Arts Support](#). Applicants must be arts or cultural nonprofits that regularly perform or exhibit in South Hampton Roads. Email questions to info@bcartsupport.org.
- **February 24** – applications are due for 2012 [Community Organization Grants from the City of Virginia Beach](#). Applicants must be nonprofits that provide services or capital improvements for Virginia Beach residents. Applications will be posted soon. Email questions to lhedberg@vbgov.com or call 385-8388.
- **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.
- **March 20** - Statewide Tornado Drill - Registration is now open at www.ReadyVirginia.gov. Businesses, schools, organizations, families and individuals are encouraged to take part in this critical safety exercise. 2011 was a tough year for tornadoes – nearly every part of Virginia experienced tornadoes during 2011 – from Southwest to Hampton Roads. [Click here](#) to learn more about tornado safety and how to hold a drill.

HUD DELAWARE

On Tuesday, January 31st, United Cerebral Palsy of Delaware (UCP) held the grand opening for [Garrett House](#), a HUD Section 811 housing opportunity for people with disabilities. The HUD funding was leveraged with funding from 10 other partners: the city of Wilmington, Delaware State Housing Authority, Delaware Division of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, New Castle County, JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, First State

Community Loan Fund, Delmarva Power, Longwood Foundation, and Crystal Trust. The result is a remarkable example of community-wide support!



UPC started Garrett House with a historic building in great disrepair. They converted the upper two floors of the three-story building into 7 accessible and affordable apartments for persons with disabilities. The design involves a focus on integration into the existing community, so the residents of Garrett house are fully part of the community, sharing grocery stores, parks, movie theaters, restaurants, and sidewalks with everyone else. Garrett House is the beginning of a personal growth process for residents and their neighbors - there is no substitute for this kind of intentional community building.

- **February 2** - The Delaware Division of Human Relations – Fair Housing Training for Property Managers (and other interested parties) in Wilmington. To register, [click here](#).
- **February 5** – Every Sunday from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., the Latin American Community Center of Wilmington sponsors “The Latin Beat” on WDEL 1150 am. To participate in the program, call Maria Matos at (302) 655-7338.
- **February 10** - Hilltop Neighborhood Meeting – 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. in Wilmington. For information call 302-295-2160.
- **February 11** – YWCA Delaware – Homebuyer Education Workshop in Newark. To register call ((302) 224-4060, ext. 200 or go to: dfainfo@ywcade.org.
- **February 23** - Mortgage Default and Foreclosure Prevention Workshop – Consumer Credit Counseling of MD and DE in Elsmere. For more information contact Tami Levy Schoenfeld at 800-267-5002 or 302-792-1200.

For a complete listing of similar training opportunities in Delaware through December 2012, go to: www.delawarestatehousing.com and click on “Events.”

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We welcome your feedback and invite you to share your news with editor Anne Davis at anne.davis@hud.gov. If you know anyone who might like this news, please feel free to share it with them and let them know they can subscribe by emailing Anne Davis, or by sending a message to REGION-III-NEWS-L@hudlist.hud.gov.

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