



REGION III HUDLINE NEWS

Special Edition 2013



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A MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Given that we faced sequestration, budget shortfalls and a federal government shutdown this year, it was reassuring to know a cause the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is championing could draw more than 25,000 people to Philadelphia in November.

Not only did the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) bring its 2013 Greenbuild International Conference & Expo, billed as the world's largest conference and expo dedicated to green building, to the City of Brotherly Love. They kicked off this year's conference prior to the Philadelphia Eagles game against the Washington Redskins on Nov. 17 by presenting Lincoln Financial Field with LEED Silver certification—one of the first professional football stadiums in the country to take this important step.

Then, before they officially began three days of extensive programming, workshops and showcasing all of the latest green products and services, USGBC hosted a two-day Affordable Housing Summit. With the HUD contingent visibly present and involved throughout the Summit and the three-day Conference, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan clearly articulated our agency's stance in his plenary remarks during Greenbuild's closing session.

"We gather here today at an important moment for the global community. We all know we've got to act now to combat climate change and prepare our communities for tomorrow. I know that all of you in the green building community are committed to meeting this challenge," stated Secretary Donovan (pictured above right). "And so is President Obama. As he said in his Inaugural Address, we must 'respond to the threat of climate change, knowing that failure to do so would betray our children and future generations.' Under his leadership, the U.S. generates more renewable energy than ever; has doubled its use of wind, solar and geothermal; and raised fuel standards so that by the middle of the next decade, cars will get double the mileage per gallon of gas.

In my own department—which is charged with building decent housing and a suitable living environment for every American—we have worked tirelessly to advance this agenda. For example, we partnered with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency to create the Partnership for Sustainable Communities. In just a few short years, we've provided planning grants to communities that are home to nearly a half of the American people—helping them meet their housing, transportation, economic development and energy goals."

At HUD, we understand that, in order to tackle climate change and have an impact on the resiliency and sustainability of our country—and our communities—we must all do our share and we must start now. Greenbuild provided the perfect venue for spreading the message of what we are doing and what we need to do moving forward to make our homes and communities more resilient and sustainable. And, we were presented with multiple opportunities to do so throughout the week.





HUD Sustainable Communities Senior Advisor Trisha Miller led off the Summit appearances by joining USGBC moderator Bryan Howard (far left), Enterprise Community Partners' Tom Osdoba and Cohn Reznick's Beth Mullen for a frank discussion on *Finance and Policy: Finding Tools Amid the Roadblocks*.

With Pat Sapinsley, Build Efficiently; Edward Mazra, Architecture 2030, pictured at right with me, moderator Jeff Lesk, Nixon Peabody and Peter Madden,

New York City Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development, we explored *Creating Resilient Communities: Building (and Rebuilding) Affordable Housing Projects to Endure the Impact of Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events*.



In an expo panel organized and moderated by Michael Dunn, who heads EPA Region III's Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainability Program, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrators discussed how the federal government continues to lead in the implementation of sustainability in complex projects with ambitious goals for creating green and resilient buildings and how they are helping American communities strengthen their resilience to extreme weather and prepare for other impacts of climate change. Joining Michael Dunn for the photo from left to right are Federal Emergency Management Agency's MaryAnn Tierney, HUD's Jane Vincent, General Services Administration's Sara Manzano-Diaz and EPA's Shawn Garvin.

But, the week wasn't simply filled with presentations and panel discussions—though there were many experts on hand providing great information on green building, energy efficiency and sustainability. HUD's Energy Innovation Fund team had the opportunity to spend some quality face time with our grantees and nonprofit partners in Region III during a roundtable organized by Enterprise Community Partners.

Our Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control team took advantage of the time to help educate the tens of thousands who visited the extensive expo. I had the chance to catch up with Vernell Queen (left), the Conference Coordinator for Millennium Services 2000 Inc., and a minority woman-owned company in Silver Springs, MD that provides us with support for events like Greenbuild and Keara O'Conner, the Marketing and Outreach Specialist for the Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control.



Thanks to the USGBC team for being such good hosts and to Secretary Donovan and all of the members of the HUD team who presented, worked and attended on our behalf. It was a great week!

Jane C.W. Vincent, Region III Regional Administrator
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Just a Friendly Reminder: The deadline to sign up for health care coverage that begins on Jan. 1, 2014 is Monday, Dec. 23. After Monday, you will still be able to sign up for coverage, but it will begin later in 2014. If you or someone in your family or community is looking for healthcare coverage or just has questions, you can call 1-800-318-2596 or click on the link below:



Learn about the Health
Insurance Marketplace &
your new coverage options.

GET ANSWERS NOW

NEWS YOU CAN USE

HUD has set a **Feb. 3 deadline for Continuums of Care to submit applications for an estimated \$1.7 billion in fiscal year 2014 funds to provide permanent and transitional housing to homeless persons** as well as services including job training, health care, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment and child care to homeless individuals and families. In announcing the Notice of Funding Availability competition, HUD did note that due to a record number of existing programs requesting funds to continue operating, flat funding from Congress and sequestration, this amount represents a 5 percent cut to existing programs and risks halting or even reversing recent reductions of homelessness in communities across the country. “In recent years we have made great progress in reducing homelessness, especially among veterans and people who are chronically homeless,” said HUD Secretary Donovan. “We shouldn’t be cutting our budget on the backs of the most vulnerable in our society.” For more, [click here](#).

HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan and U.S. DOT Secretary Anthony Foxx unveiled the **Location Affordability Portal (LAP)** on November 12, a cost calculation tool that allows users to estimate housing and transportation costs for neighborhoods across the country. The LAP will help consumers and communities better understand the combined costs of housing and transportation in a specific region, street, or neighborhood and make better-informed decisions about where to live, work, and invest. Read more [here](#) and click [here](#) to visit the new portal.

HUD will implement **new FHA single-family loan limits** on Jan. 1, 2014, as specified by the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA). [Read FHA’s mortgagee letter detailing the agency’s new loan limits](#). The current standard loan limit for areas where housing costs are relatively low will remain unchanged at \$271,050. The new national-ceiling loan limit for the very highest cost areas will be reduced from \$729,750 to \$625,500. Areas are eligible for FHA loan limits above the national standard limit, and up to the national ceiling level, based on median area home prices. Additional information and loan limit adjustments for two-, three-, and four-unit properties, and in Special Exception Areas, are noted in [FHA’s mortgagee letter](#). The mortgage loan limits for FHA-insured reverse mortgages will remain unchanged.

Two HUD studies have found that discrimination continues. [Housing Discrimination Against Racial and Ethnic Minorities 2012](#) reports that in paired tests conducted in metro areas, minorities were shown fewer homes or apartments than whites. [An Estimate of Housing Discrimination Against Same-Sex Couples](#) reports on the first study of its kind, also using paired testing in metro areas. Same-sex couples received significantly fewer responses to e-mail inquiries about advertised units than heterosexual couples.

Created as a **central source of information for all programs operated by the Office of Public and Indian Housing**, [the PIH Information Resource Center](#) is back in operation to provide information to the public, PIH residents, HUD’s partners, landlords and HUD staff on various aspects of Public, Indian and Assisted Housing Programs. For direct customer service [email](#) or call 800-955-2232.

HUD has revised the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) Notice Disclosure Form that emphasizes the rights of the active duty military and their dependents who are protected under the SCRA. The notice reflects the extensions of certain protections provided by the Honoring America’s Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012, Pub. L. 112-154, 126 Stat. 1165 (2012). The revised notice can be accessed at [this link](#).

The **Innovation in Affordable Housing Student Design and Planning Competition (IAH)** is a new HUD initiative to encourage research and innovation in affordable housing, to raise practitioner and future practitioner capacity, and to foster cross-cutting team-work within the design and community development process. The IAH will join the suite of annual Planning Development & Research awards for community planning, historic preservation and affordable housing design. For more information, [click here](#).

The recently signed **Home Equity Conversion Mortgage Stabilization Act** authorized HUD to issue new policy and guidance for the reverse mortgage program. To read the “Changes to Home Equity Conversion Mortgage Program (HECM) Counseling Protocol Compliance” document in its entirety, please [click here](#).

The National Stabilization Program (NSP) Resource Exchange (<https://hudnsphelp.info>) website content is now available on the OneCPD Resource Exchange (<https://www.onecpd.info>). **NSP Resource Exchange URLs will automatically redirect to the OneCPD Resource Exchange.**

The www.enrollamerica.org website contains a wide range of **up-to-date information on the Affordable Care Act** including health insurance outreach and enrollment opportunities in every state. Enroll America is a non-profit, non-partisan organization with a mission to facilitate easy and accessible enrollment in affordable health insurance for the millions of Americans who currently lack health care coverage.

Have you been looking for [HUD's Office of University Partnerships \(OUP\)](#)? Then you'll be glad to know that **information on grants, interactive conferences, and housing and urban development-related research** that was previously available from OUP is now integrated into [HUD USER](#), the website and clearinghouse for HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R).

The **Dodd-Frank Consumer Protection & Wall Street Reform Act** mandated a simplified, streamlined mortgage process and the Consumer Financial Protection Board has now issued a final rule requiring lenders, as of Aug. 15, 2015, to use "easier-to-use mortgage disclosure forms that clearly lay out the terms of a mortgage for a homebuyer." The CFPB new "Know Before You Owe" form will replace the long-used, but often confusing, Truth-in-Lending and HUD-1 documents. The rule also sets forth "when the new forms are given to the consumer, and limits how the final deal can change from the original loan estimate." For more, [click here](#).

The Housing Assistance Council (HAC) has updated its [Rural Data Portal](#), a simple, easy to use, on-line resource that provides essential information on the social, economic, and housing characteristics of communities in the United States.

The **2010 Census Data will modify eligible rural areas** for the Rural Housing Service programs. The future eligibility area maps can be viewed on the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) website at: <http://eligibility.sc.egov.gov>.

Department of Labor (DOL) officials have launched a **new website devoted to issues affecting women veterans**. The new website highlights potential challenges that may affect the economic security of women veterans, and contains links with information on employment opportunities, education and health care options and data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and other government agencies. For more information, visit the DOL Women Veterans website [here](#).

The Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 enacted many **changes to the National Flood Insurance Program**. Find out how new flood insurance reform measures will affect your community. [Video on Demand](#) is now available.

HUD FEDERAL REGISTER RULES, NOTICES & FUNDING

Notices

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: HUD Multifamily Energy Assessment](#)

[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Public Housing Energy Audits and Utility Allowances](#)

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Application for FHA Insured Mortgages](#)

[Federal Property Suitable as Facilities To Assist the Homeless](#)

[Announcement of Requirements and Registration for "Innovation in Affordable Housing Student Design and Planning Competition"](#)

[Announcement of Funding Awards for Fiscal Year 2013 Research Partnerships Program](#)

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: HUD-Owned Real Estate Good Neighbor Next Door Program](#)

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: FHA Stakeholder Feedback for the New FHA Single Family Policy Handbook](#)

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: FHA-Insured Mortgage Loan Servicing for Performing Loans Including: Collection and Payment of Mortgage Insurance Premiums, Escrow Administration, Providing Loan Information and Customer Services, Assessment of Post Endorsement Fees and Charges and Servicing Section 235 Loans](#)

Rules and Regulations

[Qualified Mortgage Definition for HUD Insured and Guaranteed Single Family Mortgages](#)

[Federal Housing Administration \(FHA\) Risk Management Initiatives: New Manual Underwriting Requirements](#)

[Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards](#)

[Public Housing Capital Fund Program](#)

[Federal Housing Administration \(FHA\) Approval of Lending Institutions and Mortgagees: Streamlined Reporting Requirements for Small Supervised Lenders and Mortgagees](#)

HUD Notices of Funding Availability

DUE Dec. 31 – [FY 2013 Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\) Policy Requirements and General Section to HUD's FY2013 NOFAs for Discretionary Programs](#)

DUE Feb. 3, 2014 – [Fiscal Year 2013 and Fiscal Year 2014 Continuum of Care NOFA](#)

AROUND THE REGION, DELAWARE

Maria L. Bynum, Field Office Director
302-573-6300, hud.gov/delaware

A Model Home for People with Disabilities

In partnership with United Cerebral Palsy of Delaware (UCP) Inc., New Castle County used Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds to transform a blighted property into a beautiful new home. Vacant for more than a year, the Robinson Drive property had deteriorated to such a degree that it almost needed to be torn down. But, with NSP funding, the three bedroom house was converted to a 100 percent compliant Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) unit featuring two bedrooms and two handicapped accessible bathrooms, with a shared living and kitchen area. The new “model home” equipped for people with physical disabilities, was unveiled at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 24. New Castle County Councilman George Smiley, Delaware State Housing Authority Director Anas Ben Addi, United Cerebral Palsy of Delaware Executive Director Bill McCool and New Castle County Executive Tom Gordon, pictured left to right, celebrated the new property which will enable two individuals with disabilities to live independently in their own home. For more of the story and the before and after photos, [click here](#).



Health Care Connection Expanded at Luther Towers I & II

Donning their best Wild, Wild West attire, staff from Wilmington’s Luther Towers I & II, affordable senior housing and assisted living complexes for those 62 and over, joined Wilmington Mayor Dennis Williams and representatives from U.S. Senator Chris Coons’ office for their annual picnic. Newcomers to the event included the Bayada Health Care Team which recently formalized a partnership to provide an onsite health care team including a nurse, occupational and speech therapists and a social worker for the residents of both complexes. “People have been very receptive,” said Service Coordinator Cynthia Whisker. She says that forming

trust is so important and having health care workers onsite will enable residents to develop that bond. “It makes sense that people can have health care here where they live,” added Whisker, pictured at right with the Bayada Health Care Team and HUD’s Customer Service Representative David Sillery, kneeling in the center of the first row. For more of the story, [click here](#).

Investing in Communities to Provide Affordable Housing

Passion White found herself in a women’s shelter while her children were living with other family members. She was working full-time but she still couldn’t make ends meet. White found affordable housing at Compton Apartments. The affordable rent allowed her to bring her children under one roof where the family was safe. Now she is building a better life. “I see a bigger and brighter future where I can support my children,” said Ms. White, pictured here. “With the assistance of the program, and with stability in my life, I will succeed.” White’s story is one of the reasons the Delaware Community Investment Corporation (DCIC) revitalizes communities by investing in housing and related activities designed to address the needs of people in Delaware. To read how DCIC’s recent merger with Great Lakes Capital Fund will expand its organizational depth, regional footprint, the ability to reinvest, and help more people like Passion White, [click here](#).



Delaware Housing Development Fund Featured in HUD Publication

[HUD’s Models for Affordable Housing Preservation](#) article (PD&R Evidence Matters, Summer 2013) looks at two notable approaches to addressing some of the key challenges in affordable housing preservation. One approach is the use of state housing trust funds, like those in Delaware that use a dedicated and ongoing public source of revenue to fund affordable housing projects.



Christina Riverfront Becomes Environmental Classroom for Youngsters
Wilmington's Christina Riverfront became a classroom for nearly 120 students when the team from Wilderness Inquiry Canoemobile, a traveling fleet of 24 six foot Voyageur canoes, made stops along the Lower Delaware River with the mission of getting youth paddling on their local waterways. Youngsters from Wilmington's Prestige Academy and East Side Charter received half-day lessons on environmental stewardship from the Urban Waters Federal Partnership supported activity. Not only did the students see abundant wildlife, they learned about water quality and how pollutants from Delaware's farms and industries negatively impact the river's inhabitants. The Delaware Nature Society, Wilmington Youth Rowing

Association and University of Delaware's Water Resources Agency partnered with Canoemobile to host the event. Many of the students had never been on the river before, and paddling canoes helped them to connect with this important local natural resource. To learn more, [click here](#). Photo reprinted by permission of Wilderness Inquiry Canoemobile.

University of Delaware's Complete Communities Summit 2013 Attracts Nearly 400 Attendees

HUD's Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Jane C.W. Vincent joined David Edgell of the Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination, Drew Boyce of the Delaware Department of Transportation and Brian DiSabatino of EDiS for the final panel at the Delaware Complete Communities 2013 Summit at Dover Downs on Nov. 4. With moderator Phil McGinnis of the Delaware Association of REALTORS®, the four discussed how emerging demographic, economic, housing-choice, transportation and health trends are influencing the appeal of Complete Communities—great places to live, work, and play. The panelists focused on planning innovations being used to successfully respond to these trends and how they are driving the need/demand for affordable housing and mixed-use development, master-planned communities, transportation improvement districts, and form-based codes. Seven Delaware municipalities received a special recognition for their efforts to make their communities more complete and healthy. To learn more about the day-long event, [click here](#).



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Greening Public Housing in Delaware

The Wilmington Housing Authority lays claim to one of the premier "green" buildings in the City of Wilmington, Delaware. It's the newly reconstructed Lincoln Towers, an 88-unit mixed income high rise for seniors over the age of 62. The development also features a new state-of-the-art firehouse for Wilmington's Fire Company No. 5. "We applaud Wilmington for leading the effort to promote the 'greening' of public housing to save energy and money for the Housing Authority and the residents," said HUD Regional Administrator Jane C. W. Vincent. Green practices were incorporated in the development of the new and improved Lincoln Towers right from the start. Over 77% of the construction debris was

recycled, diverting over 170 tons from landfills. On the interior, Lincoln Towers has high-energy efficiency systems and materials. Energy Star appliances, water source heat pumps and efficient lighting in the residential units and the common areas reduce the building's heat load and energy consumption while providing a healthy living environment for residents. U.S. Congressman John Carney joined Wilmington Mayor Dennis Williams, members of the Wilmington City Council and Wilmington Housing Authority Executive Director Fred Purnell to officially open the fire hall and housing complex on Oct. 9. To learn more, [click here](#).



Marvin W. Turner, Field Office Director
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National Capital Field Office Participates in Women Veterans Ladies' Night 2013

For the second consecutive year, the District of Columbia Field Office participated in the Washington DC Veterans Administration Medical Center's Women Veterans Ladies' Night. On November 22, women veterans from throughout the Washington Metropolitan Area came together under the theme of "Education, Relaxation, and Rejuvenation." Over 200 veterans, including current military officers, received information on health and wellness programs, community resources and medical services provided by the VA Medical Center and its five Community Based Outpatient Clinics throughout the District, Maryland and Virginia. Health screenings and flu shots were among the services rendered at the event. One of the highlights? Entertainment was provided by Grammy-nominated singer Carolyn Malachi. HUD's National Capital Area Office was the only participant providing housing information at the event. Many veterans were interested in first-time homebuying, foreclosure prevention, subsidized housing (non HUD-VASH Vouchers) and reverse mortgages. The HUD booth was continuously busy during the two-hour evening event with many veterans asking "What does HUD do?" This question was a clear indication that HUD was needed and will certainly continue to participate as long as there is a ladies' night for women veterans sponsored by the DC VA Medical Center. Brig. Gen. Linda Singh, head of the Maryland Army National Guard, poses with Alyce Dixon, a 106-years-young World War II Veteran who is a patient at the medical center.



Washington Metropolitan Area Jurisdictions Come Together for Point-In-Time Training

On Dec. 4, over 70 participants from more than 10 jurisdictions as far away as Frederick, MD attended the annual Homeless Point-In-Time Training hosted by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC). In his welcoming address, Michael Ferrell, Chairman of the MWCOC Homeless Committee, informed the group of HUD's 2013 Homeless Assessment Report to Congress. In his testimony, HUD Secretary Donovan said in November that HUD and its partners are "making real and significant progress to reduce homelessness in this country." Now, he added, "is not the time to retreat from doing what we know works." The report, based on data collected from one-night, point-of-time counts reported by some 3,000 communities across the country estimates that, from 2010 to 2013, nationally there was "a 24 percent drop in homelessness among Veterans and a 16 percent reduction among individuals experiencing long-term or chronic homelessness." Meanwhile, local homeless housing and service providers in the District of Columbia reported that the number of sheltered and unsheltered persons increased by 326 individuals since 2010--an obvious cause for concern. Representatives from local governments and HUD's continuum of care grantees were reminded of the newly published Notice of Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-In-Time (PIT) Data Collection for Continuums of Care (CoC) that provided changes on how to collect data under these programs. The training was timely as these changes will be incorporated in the upcoming Jan. 29, 2014 Point-In-Time count in the Washington DC Metropolitan area.

VAG 4th Annual "Walk In Their Foot Steps" Boot Collection an Overwhelming Success

More than 600 pairs of new boots and shoes for veterans experiencing homelessness were collected for the 4th Annual "Walk In Their Foot Steps" Boot Collection. The annual campaign is led by the HUD Veteran Affinity Group (VAG) with the support of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Washington, DC and other community partners. All new shoes and boots will be distributed to those in need during the 20th Annual Winter Haven Homeless Veteran Stand Down scheduled for Jan. 25 at Freedom Plaza in the nation's capital. Last year's event served a record-breaking 651 veterans experiencing homelessness. The Stand Down supports those who had previously served in the armed forces by offering full medical examinations, flu shots, dental services, haircuts, clothing donations, housing and employment referrals and discharge upgrades. For those willing to be a part of HUD's team on the ground, please contact HUD VAG Chairman Walter Elmore by emailing walter.a.elmore@hud.gov. Pictured with this year's boot collection are back row, left to right: John Gilmore, COO NGEN, Natalie Bishop, VAG Member,



HUD HQ, Stephanie Burns, Volunteer Services Coordinator, U.S. Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Letitia R. Grant, Blacks In Government (BIG) Chapter, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Walter Elmore, Chairman, HUD Veterans Affinity Group (VAG), Sheila Webb, Blacks In Government (BIG) Chapter, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC, Saad X. Akhdar, Volunteer Coordinator, Veterans Affinity Group, Larae Dudley, Blacks In Government (BIG) Chapter, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC, Tom Mills, Transportation Specialist, U.S. Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Gary Plowden, Transportation Assistant, U.S. Veterans Affairs Medical Center. In the front, left to right: Marvin Turner, Director, HUD District of Columbia Field Office and Brian A. Hawkins, CEO, U. S. Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Washington, DC. To view additional photos, [click here](#).

MARYLAND



Carol B. Payne, Field Office Director
410-962-2520, hud.gov/maryland

Baltimore Field Office Participates in Affordable Care Act Session

U.S. Congressman Elijah Cummings recently presented an Affordable Care Act Health Townhall bringing together a host of elected officials, community leaders, faith-based organizations, health agencies and constituents to discuss the law that is providing many Americans with health care coverage for the first time. Over 400 people packed the University of Baltimore's Business Center for "Making Good Health MY Reality," a day-long event held in collaboration with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. Health

Braintrust. Congressmen John Conyers and Robert Scott, Maryland Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Regional Director Joanne Corte Grossi, and Dr. Oxiris Barbot, Baltimore City Health Commissioner joined Congressman Cummings for the four-hour session. Baltimore Field Office Director Carol B. Payne served on the steering committee that planned the event. Pictured from left are: Carolyn Quattrocki, Governor's Office of Health Care Reform; Carlesia Hussein, Maryland's Office of Minority Health; Dr. Oxiris Barbot; Congressman Conyers; Joanne Corte Grossi; Congressman Scott; Carol B. Payne and Danielle Davis, Maryland Health Connection.

Three morning break-out sessions were held including Health Insurance Marketplace for the Individual, Health Insurance Marketplace and Small Business and the Role of Community Health Centers and the Consumer Ambassador and Advocate Education and Outreach before a free lunch was served. Afternoon events included a health and resource fair and a farmer's market—complete with fresh produce. Resource and information tables ranged from Healthy Start Infant Mortality Prevention program to the state's insurance administration, as well as health alliances and organizations from Park Heights Community, Howard County, and Baltimore City disseminated valuable information on their programs. The Baltimore City WIC Program and the Baltimore City Health Department's CPEST Program were also on hand to provide documents outlining their offerings. Free health screenings were offered to participants by certified health professionals who also dispensed information on health care providers. Barbara Di Pietro of Baltimore's Healthcare for the Homeless and national HUD award winner, discussed the Medicaid expansion effort, part of the ACA, and its impact on the homeless problem. Baltimore City Cancer Program offered oral cancer screenings and registration for colonoscopies, information on child immunization and registration for mammograms and PAP Smears. Hidden Gardens offered HIV screenings. Bon Secours Health Systems offered glucose and cholesterol screenings along with blood pressure and vision testing. Height/weight, blood pressure, oral health and vision screenings were offered by Park West Health System. There were also fitness and massage therapy demonstrations.

Sarah Gerecke Appears at Federal Reserve Bank Program

HUD Deputy Assistant Secretary for Housing Counseling Sarah Gerecke served as the keynote speaker for the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond's Housing Counseling Leaders Financial Development Workshop in Baltimore on Nov. 14. The Federal Reserve's Ellen Janes, Maryland Housing Counselors Network's Ruth Griffin and Baltimore Field Office Director Carol Payne provided the welcome and set the goals for the day-long event designed for executive directors, supervisors, senior staff and financial decision makers for not-for-profit housing counseling organizations that serve Maryland. Hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Baltimore Branch and developed in collaboration with Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), the Maryland Housing Counselors Network, Inc. (THE NETWORK), and the Baltimore Neighborhood Collaborative (BNC), Bruce Dorpalen of the National Housing Resource Center and Carol Gilbert, Assistant Secretary, DHCD, also provide their perspectives on current and upcoming issues impacting housing counseling.

Over 1,200 Attend Baltimore Project Homeless Connect Event

HUD Management Analyst Teresa Stovall and Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity's Vonzell Cummings provided housing assistance to hundreds of homeless people during Baltimore's 2nd Annual Project Homeless Connect event held on Sept. 19 at the Baltimore Convention Center. Over 1,200 individuals experiencing homelessness gathered for the day-long event offering financial assistance, legal help, medical and dental care, employment assistance and options to collect important documents such as birth certificates and identification cards. HUD staff distributed housing information to those participating while four local clinics provided dental care, including extractions. Often the issue for those experiencing homelessness is a lack of knowledge of how to navigate the system to receive help. Struggling with red tape seems to be a universal problem. Staffers from the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Human Services, Homeless Services Program and the United Way of Central Maryland (UWCM) addressed concerns by collecting support providers in one place and by collecting contact information to follow-up with attendees receiving services. Baltimore City estimates that over 4,000 homeless people, including children, are on the street without shelter on any given day. The Baltimore Field Office is a proud supporter and participant of Project Homeless Connect each year. Photo courtesy of United way of Central Maryland.



Director Payne Makes Brassica Fest Panel Appearance

On Nov. 23, Residents, activists, farmers and green food pioneers explored issues of wellness, health and food access at the Brassica Fest, A Celebration of Greens in the Park Heights section of the city. Brassicas are a genus of plants in the mustard family such as collards, kale, cabbage, mustard greens, Brussels sprouts, broccoli and others. Organized by the Park Heights community Health Alliance, the event at the AFYA Center featured a farmers' market, vendor fair, garden and food summit and food preparation demonstrations. Panel discussions included: *The State of Food: The Intersection of Race, Poverty and Health*; *Eating Well on a Budget*; *99 Problems, but a Grocery Ain't One: Alternative sources to Procuring Food in a Food Desert*; and *Self Determination: Finding the Resources to Move Forward in Building a Livable Future*. Baltimore Field Office Director Payne served on the final panel discussing the challenges of creating a sustainable food system in the Park Heights community. Guest Speaker was 2013 CNN Hero Robin Emmons (center), Founder and Executive Director of Sow Much Good, a nonprofit dedicated to eliminating socio-economic, racial and ethnic health disparities that result from a lack of access to nutritionally dense food products.

Baltimore Field Office Brings Healthy Lifestyle to Employees

The Office of Human Capital Field Support (HCFS) in HUD's Baltimore Field Office organized a "W.E. C.A.R.E. Lifestyle Expo" for the various agencies housed in the City Crescent Building. More than 75 employees attended the informative health fair. Blue Cross Blue Shield displayed healthy heart and nutritious food items while the American Heart Association provided small servings of healthy low calorie chicken along with the recipe and information on how to lower your sodium intake. BJ's Wholesale Club shared information on how to save on nutritious foods using manufacturers' coupons. And, Chesapeake Urology showed a short presentation on prostate cancer, testing, treatments and side effects. HUD's Phyllis White of the Employee Assistance Program distributed pamphlets on stress, family and work relationships and money management. And, everyone had the opportunity to have their blood pressure checked. Deloris Brooks, HCFS Coordinator of the health fair event is shown with the basket of healthy fruits and vegetables that were shared with participants.



PENNSYLVANIA – EASTERN REGION

Richard Ott, Deputy Regional Administrator
215-656-0600, hud.gov/pennsylvania

PHA Receives Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant

HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan joined City of Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) President and CEO Kelvin Jeremiah and others to officially announce the award of a \$500,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant at the Norman Blumberg Apartments on Nov. 20. The grant will provide PHA with the opportunity to plan for the redevelopment of the public housing that currently consists of 510 units in three high-rise towers and 15 adjacent low-rise buildings over the dense 8-acre site. The goals of the plan include the development of affordable and sustainable housing as well as the encouragement of new investment in private and public housing, retail, and commercial properties. Twenty-three partner agencies committed to actively engage in the planning and implementation processes. "PHA is thrilled to receive the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant," said Jeremiah. "The Blumberg Apartments and the neighboring North Philadelphia community has been a neglected part of the city. PHA has made a commitment to revitalize this community but we cannot do it alone. With the support of HUD and the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant, Mayor Michael A. Nutter, City Council President Darrell Clarke and development partners, PHA will be able to make significant strides to restore this part of the city and help eliminate blight and crime and provide new career and educational opportunities for residents." From left to right, Secretary Donovan, Lynn Cox, Jennifer Bert and Dennis Bellingtner from HUD's Philadelphia PIH team and Mayor Michael A. Nutter take a time-out after the announcement.



Agencies Collaborate to End Homelessness

A multiagency effort is underway to end homelessness in Philadelphia. In support of a national initiative called Dedicating Opportunities to End Homelessness (DOEH), 30 federal, state and local agencies are working closely to get veterans and the chronically homeless off the streets and out of shelters. HUD is leading the initiative, bringing together the expertise of all levels of government, academia and local homeless service providers to align and supplement existing plans that address homelessness. Key partners include the City of Philadelphia, U.S Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), select nonprofits and the Philadelphia Housing Authority. In partnership with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), HUD launched the 10-city initiative in October 2012 in Philadelphia, Seattle, Atlanta, Chicago, Fresno, Houston, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Phoenix, and Tampa. In 2010, the Obama administration made a historic commitment to ending homelessness through the release of the federal strategic plan called Opening Doors, the nation's first plan to prevent and end homelessness. The plan provides a roadmap for ending chronic homelessness and homelessness among veterans by 2015 and for eradicating all types of homelessness by 2020. The Philadelphia initiative supports the goals of the federal strategic plan. The multiagency team has created shared goals that will set the city on a path for addressing the needs of the first two populations – veterans and the chronically homeless. In late February, the team will engage an even wider network of homeless advocacy groups and nonprofit organizations to brainstorm new strategies.



Rapid Results for Team Housing Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

Teams from the Rapid Results 100,000 Homes Veterans Boot Camp held in August in Philadelphia reconvened to see how they fared with each of their 100-day initiatives to reduce veterans experiencing homelessness in their communities. Nearly 150 participants from agencies and organizations in Baltimore, MD; Boston, MA; Long Island, NY; Norfolk, VA; Philadelphia, PA; Salt Lake City, UT; Washington, DC and Westchester County, NY attended the initial event with the goal of working together to create better efficiencies to end homelessness among veterans. The second workshop

served as an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of each team, share the learning across teams and plan for locking in any changes needed to sustain the impact in the coming months. Apart from the cross-team learning and joint planning for the way forward, the Philadelphia team acknowledged they set some lofty goals. Their overarching goal to house 225

veterans experiencing homelessness found their 100-day efforts meeting their monthly targets by housing 75 individuals per month. Their pre-boot camp housing placement rate averaged moving just over 30 people into housing per month—clearly showing how the team’s united efforts were making a difference. By the time all was said and done, Team Philly had increased their chronic placement rate by 448% and met their goal of housing 75 chronically homeless veterans per month. They also have many veterans already in the pipeline for housing—15 HUD-VASH voucher holders with a unit identified and simply waiting for inspection; 25 HUD-VASH voucher holders searching for new homes. In addition, 20 veterans were assisted with homelessness prevention services and 59 formerly homeless veterans found employment by two organizations on the team. So, armed with their success, Team Philly has committed to yet another 100-day campaign. Starting January 9, the Philly Team goal will be to house 189 veterans in 100 days—targeting 75 who have been chronically homeless and 25 individuals who are currently unsheltered. To monitor their ongoing progress, visit www.phillyvetshome.org.

PIH Effort “morphs” into Making a Difference

On Nov. 20, nine members of the Philadelphia’s Public Housing team came together to distribute frozen chickens, bread, baked goods, fruit and other food staples at Truth Memorial Baptist Church, a food pantry serving approximately 200 families in need on a weekly basis. They joined Melissa Black from Philabundance, the region’s largest food bank and hunger relief organization, and Madie Bannister, the Church’s lead volunteer who has overseen their food distribution since 1993. Designed to improve office morale, team building opportunities and hands-on pursuit of the goals of the Department, PIH’s ad-hoc group called “Making Opportunities for Real Public Housing” change (MORPH), met all of their intended goals for their first volunteer effort. PIH staff felt empowered by helping those less fortunate and gained a new sense of camaraderie while addressing HUD’s goal to end homelessness. And, the at-need community in West Philadelphia benefitted by receiving, with dignity, important food supplies with friendly greetings.



Fare & Square Brings “Good Food Right Around the Corner” to Chester

With the opening of Fare & Square, the nation’s first nonprofit grocery store of its kind, HUD’s Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) met an important initial goal—to bring a market to the City of Chester. Chester had been without a grocery store for 12 years, but that ended with the Grand Opening of the Fare & Square market on Sept. 28. Community leaders and elected officials, including U.S. Congressman Bob Brady, Pennsylvania’s 1st District, State Senator Dominic Pileggi, Pennsylvania’s 9th District, Mayor John Linder of Chester and HUD’s Regional Administrator Jane C.W. Vincent celebrated the occasion with an official ribbon cutting followed by a

block-party celebration. Local nonprofit Philabundance rehabbed the last operating full-scale grocery store space to create the new venture while adding 69 new jobs to Chester with 82% of employees being Chester residents. Last summer, Philabundance offered a free 5-week Service Industry Training Course for residents in Chester interested in working in the service industry and at Fare & Square. Employment was not guaranteed but Fare & Square hired 36 graduates from the program. To learn more, [click here](#).

Ten Years of “Toys for Joy” Celebrated in Philadelphia Regional Office

More than 400 toys, bears, balls, books and clothing were collected and donated to local children in need by employees of the Philadelphia Regional Office as the “Toys for Joy” campaign celebrated its 10th anniversary. The gifts will be distributed by Youth Services, Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to providing immediate shelter and support services to Philadelphia’s children, youth and families for over 60 years. Committee members organizing the collection for distribution included the Homeownership Center’s Antoinette Spencer, Multifamily’s Stacy Taylor-Whitehead; Single Family’s Valerie McCoy; Legal’s Elizabeth Ross; Fair Housing’s Ronaldlyn Latham; Single Family’s Lisa Pusicz and Field Policy and Management’s David Marable. Others active on the committee included Audrey Clark, Christopher Coleman, Andrea Edwards, Juanita Fulton-Jenkins, Rose Greaux, Meaghan Messner, Felicia Rivera, Patricia Shaw, Barbara Snively, Kamilah Williams, Melvina West and Michelle Yisrael-Bottoms.





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Former Braddock Hospital Site Redeveloped to Provide Affordable Rental Housing as “The Overlook”

Following the decision by University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) to close the UPMC Braddock Hospital in 2009, the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County in partnership with Braddock Borough and the Braddock Hospital Working Group immediately began to identify redevelopment opportunities for the site with the dual focus of maximizing job creation and minimizing

the negative impact on the community. The Redevelopment Authority selected Trek Development Group, in partnership with Rothschild Doyno Collaborative and Mistick Construction, as the development team for the project. AWK Development is serving as the site engineer, while Mon Valley Initiative and Braddock Economic Development Corporation are the non-profit community partners involved in “The Overlook.” The first phase in this development has included the construction of 24 apartment units, along with extensive site infrastructure improvements. To date, over \$9.3 million has been invested from Low Income Housing Tax Credit Equity Funds (\$7,956,528); Allegheny County Economic Development HUD HOME Funds (\$947,145); Allegheny County Affordable Housing Trust Funds (\$200,000) and Developer Equity (\$201,960). U.S. Congressman Mike Doyle, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency Executive Director Brian Hudson, Trek Development Group President Bill Gatti and Borough of Braddock Council President Tina Doose and other community leaders tend to the ribbon cutting ceremony at the grand opening of “The Overlook.”

Responding to the Spread of Homelessness in Suburban Communities

On Nov. 15, The Homeless Children’s Education Fund and The Heinz Endowments sponsored the 4th Annual Homeless Education Network Summit. This year’s summit represented a coordinated effort by educators, community leaders, and service providers to raise awareness, collect data, and develop effective programming for at-risk suburban communities who are facing a rising tide of poverty and homelessness. The objectives of the summit were threefold: to increase awareness of suburban homelessness and its effect on families; to identify the impact homelessness is having on suburban school districts and community resources and to identify best practices and opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration to support the needs of homeless families. In Pittsburgh’s suburban communities, the poverty rate increased by 15.7 percent from 2000-2011, compared to 6.3 percent in the city. From 2007-2010, the number of people utilizing homeless shelters in American suburbs increased by 57 percent compared to a decrease of 17 percent in urban areas. While suburbs are historically ill-prepared to deal with the problems of homelessness, summit attendees were called upon to reach for collective impact on stemming this burgeoning challenge in our affected neighborhoods. To this end, an expert panel discussion was offered on “Confronting Increased Instances of Suburban Poverty and Homelessness through Collaboration.” Facilitated small group discussions followed and were focused on “Accelerating Momentum for Solutions in Our Local Communities.” Diverse partners and community stakeholders left the summit feeling inspired, hopeful and able to create innovative solutions to suburban homelessness unique to each neighborhood. To envision solutions is step one, the next step is to execute them. Together we can, and will. Pictured left to right are Chuck Keenan, Allegheny County Dept. of Human Services; Phyllis Comer, Comer Educational Consulting Services and Jane Miller, Pittsburgh Field Office Director discussing suburban homelessness and its effects on the educational needs of children and youth.



Continuum of Care Program Start-Up Conference Illuminates Interim Rule Requirements and Responsibilities

On Oct. 24 and 25, HUD Technical Assistance Consultants provided Continuum of Care (CoC) program material on project operations and grant management to a standing-room-only crowd of homeless providers. The workshop design afforded attendees an opportunity to participate in interactive exercises and mini-quizzes to prod their retention of newly-acquired knowledge. The delivery of the content offered revolved around COC related topics including program components, rental assistance and leasing, program income and more. Attendees were reminded to utilize OneCPD Resource Exchange and available HUD resources.

PAHMA Fall Conference Educates and Supports Affordable Housing Industry Partners Focus on “GPS-Gaining Positive Strategies”

On Oct. 17 and 18, Pennsylvania Affordable Housing Management Association held their much anticipated Annual Fall Conference in Seven Springs. Nearly 100 conference attendees gained perspectives on *Navigating Changes in Affordable Housing*. Workshops included an all-day presentation by Mary Ross of Ross Business Development on preparing for a management review and multifamily TRACS updates. Other presenters included representatives from the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, US Housing Consultants, and VOICE, as well as, as Attorney Michael Pater. Prior to the announcement of the PAHMA Platinum Awards and REAC Honor Roll, an expert panel consisting of Pittsburgh Field Office Director, Jane Miller (pictured); Holly Glouser, Director of Development, PHFA and Michelle Kitchen, Director of Government Affairs for NAHMA addressed resilience and strategies for navigating changes in the affordable housing marketplace.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Provides the Opportunity to Celebrate New Affordable Housing in Erie

Flagship City Apartments, a much anticipated housing development in Erie, PA, was made possible with funding provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, City of Erie HOME Program, Erie County's Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the Housing and Neighborhood Development Service (HANDS). During a ribbon cutting ceremony held on Sept. 5, U.S. Congressman Mike Kelly addressed the Supporters of Flagship Apartments as Barry Grossman, Erie County Executive, Brenda Sandberg, City of Erie Director of Economic and Community Development, and HUD Pittsburgh Field Office Director Jane Miller look on (pictured). The Housing and Neighborhood Development Service (HANDS) is a

private not-for-profit organization which prides itself on “making stronger and more vibrant neighborhoods.” It believes in a holistic approach to community development and has to date created more than four dozen housing developments resulting in the production of more than 1,000 units of affordable housing in nine counties across Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Stand Down in Armstrong County Draws Support for Homeless Veterans

Ford City Park provided the backdrop for homeless veterans to gather for fellowship and nourishment as well as receive much needed medical and social services on Sept. 14. Attendees were provided with medical and dental check-ups; job search support; housing assistance and even haircuts! Camaraderie was paramount as active and enlisted military personnel were also on hand to provide support and appreciation for their comrades. Stand Down is a community-based intervention program and was designed to assist homeless veterans “combat” life in the streets. On this day, in Ford City, homeless veterans received clothing, blankets, a hot meal, numerous linkage opportunities and most important, compassion and understanding. HUD's Cindy Haines, center, joins two American Red Cross volunteers as they offer respite to veterans experiencing homelessness during the Armstrong County Stand Down.



Point-In-Time Counts Scheduled throughout Pennsylvania and the U.S.

The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night in January. HUD requires that Continuums of Care conduct an annual count of homeless persons who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night. Continuums of Care also must conduct a count of unsheltered homeless persons every other year (odd numbered years). Each count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally. In Philadelphia, the PIT will be conducted on Jan. 22 and in Pittsburgh, on Jan. 29. To find out where you can volunteer to help with this year's count, visit the [OneCPD Resource Exchange's Resource Center](#).



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Discussing Richmond's Promise Zones

A child's zip code should never decide their future, yet all across the country, children's communities are impacting their academic, health, and economic opportunities. That's why Deputy Secretary Jones of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development met with business leaders in Richmond, Virginia on Dec. 2. At the roundtable, the group discussed ways that the public sector could work with the private sector to provide people in impoverished neighborhoods the prospect to climb the ladder of opportunity. With the Presidential Initiative Promise Zones already set forth, Deputy Secretary Jones spoke with Business Forward and many business leaders on its potential economic benefits, as well as possible strategies for revitalizing these poverty-stricken areas. Deputy Secretary Jones emphasized the need partner with local leadership to create better schools and provide more access to transportation to people living in impoverished neighborhoods. Richmond business leaders also had the opportunity to brief Deputy Secretary Jones on Richmond's economic recovery, which has stabilized the housing market and added almost 8 million jobs to the area since March 2010. While it's a good start, the business leaders stressed the importance of the work that still needs to be done. Carrie Schmidt, HUD Richmond Field Office Director, addresses those in attendance as Deputy Secretary Maurice Jones (left) and Langston Davis, Jr. of Davis Brothers Construction Company look on. To view more photos of the event, [click here](#).

Norfolk's Resilience Challenge

The Rockefeller Foundation launched the 100 Resilient Cities Centennial Challenge to enable 100 cities to better address the increasing shocks and stresses of the 21st century. Out of nearly 400 cities across six continents that applied, 100 of the world's cities will be selected to receive technical support and resources for developing and implementing plans for urban resilience over the next three years. Each city was asked to present a clear and compelling description of how they are approaching and planning for resilience to decrease vulnerabilities, and after careful review of the applications, a panel of esteemed judges, including former presidents Bill Clinton and Nigeria's Olosegun Obasanjo, recommended the first set of 33 cities for the 100 Resilient Cities Network. In Region III, City of Norfolk Mayor Paul Fraim was successful in the initial round. According to the Rockefeller Foundation website, "Having been nearly destroyed during the American Revolution, burned down during the Civil War, and flooded repeatedly during the past century, Norfolk knows a thing or two about resilience. In this city anchored by the Navy, and taking a whole community approach focused on hazard mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery, Norfolk has learned to 'live with the water' as a coastal city, but rising sea levels and recurrent flooding remain a major threat. Two major concerns trump others; local transportation officials estimate thousands could be stranded if a major hurricane hits the region, because the state's evacuation plan is inadequate. And energy security and redundancy remain a challenge, as power outages present safety and health hazards." To learn more about the Challenge and to follow Norfolk's progress, [click here](#).



Crafting a Regional Vision—New River Valley, Virginia is Developing Long Range Strategic Plan to Shape its Future

One of the challenges with implementing USDA Rural Development programs is that many of the communities we serve have not had the opportunity to develop strategic plans to guide federal infrastructure investments effectively. Fortunately, a 2010 grant from HUD's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities enabled the [New River Valley Planning District Commission](#) to engage the public in the rural Southwest Virginia counties of Pulaski, Montgomery, Giles, and Floyd and all the major towns to develop a blueprint for

future economic activity. Earlier this month I had the opportunity to attend a meeting where over 100 rural citizens in the New River Valley gathered to put some of the finishing touches on the three-year regional planning process, known locally as their

Livability Initiative,” according to blogger Chris Beck, a USDA Senior Projects Advisor. “I came away inspired by the dialogue that has evolved over the past three years and am looking forward to seeing how the communities in this economically diverse rural region look for ways to implement some of the ideas they have generated to improve their communities and enhance long-term economic opportunities.” To read Chris’ complete blog, [click here](#).



Housing Our Virginia Heroes

“There’s no greater shame than too many of our heroes are living on our streets and in our shelters. Today, one out of every six men and women in our shelters has worn our country’s uniform. That is simply wrong and, we can do better,” stated HUD Deputy Secretary Maurice Jones in his remarks at the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Cedar Grove Apartments in Virginia Beach, VA on Sept. 27. Cedar Grove Apartments is the first permanent rental housing for disabled and homeless veterans in the region. Virginia Beach Community Development Corp. built the beautiful \$6.6 million, 32-unit complex with a mix of loans, grants and tax credits from the Commonwealth, city and federal government. For the Federal government’s part, HUD and

the Department of Veterans’ Affairs forged an innovative partnership, which combines our rental assistance with the VA’s case management and clinical services. Through HUD-VASH, we have housed more than 40,000 homeless veterans--nearly 20 times as many veterans in the last two years as we had before. “That’s more than just a number...its people reclaiming their lives. It’s all of us being true to that promise we make with our men and women in uniform,” Deputy Secretary Jones said in closing. He is pictured second from right with one of the veteran residents and members of the Cedar Grove team.

Congratulations!

The [Hampton Roads Housing Consortium](#) (HRHC) announced the winners of its **Seventh Annual Members' Housing Awards**. These awards recognize individuals and organizations that have contributed to improving housing conditions for the region, and include: HRHC Lifetime Achievement Award, Lori Miller, Executive Director, Our House Families; HRHC Housing Warrior, Sheila Doplemore, Business Development Officer, Virginia Housing Development Authority; HRHC Housing Partner, Special Project Award, Virginia Supportive Housing, Heron's Landing SRO; and HRHC Across the Region Service Award, Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia, Inc.

The City of Richmond, in partnership with Chesterfield County, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), and the Virginia-based planning and design firm Rhodeside & Harwell were honored at the annual conference of the [Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association \(APA-VA\)](#) with an **Outstanding Plan Award for their Comprehensive Revitalization Plan for the Hull Street Corridor**. The final plan, implementation strategy, appendices and visuals can be seen at [this link](#).

Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NRHA) received an **honorable mention for a Platinum PR Award** given at the [PR News Awards Luncheon](#) on Oct. 15 in New York, NY. NRHA’s [annual report](#) was recognized at the event.

Governor Bob McDonnell has announced that overall homelessness in the Commonwealth has declined 16 percent from 2010 to 2013, with a 17 percent decrease in family homelessness in the same period. Of special note is the decrease in homeless veterans, where, between 2012 and 2013, there was an 18 percent reduction in the number of veterans experiencing homelessness. The new numbers originate from the annual point in time data collected by local Continuum of Care groups across Virginia in January each year, and compiled by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. "Preventing and ending homelessness is a significant component of our ongoing efforts to build a healthy and prosperous Commonwealth, and I am pleased that such positive progress has been made in reducing homelessness in Virginia," said Governor McDonnell. "A focus on this important effort, and shifting some resources from shelters to rapid re-housing, has led to more Virginians living in safe, stable homes. More Virginians today have a place to call home, and that is great news for them and for our entire Commonwealth. However, despite this tremendous progress, we still have much work to do, and that's why our efforts to further reduce homelessness across Virginia will only increase moving forward. Our work will not be done until all Virginians have a home." Early in his administration, Governor McDonnell issued [Executive Order 10](#), creating a housing policy framework, including policies to more effectively address the issue of homelessness. The resulting [Homeless Outcomes Advisory Committee Report and Recommendations](#) set the goal of reducing overall homelessness by 15 percent by 2013. The successful reduction of homelessness can be largely attributed to the shift in focusing resources to rapid re-housing, moving people into permanent housing more quickly while providing appropriate services through community resources. Read the full media release [here](#).

WEST VIRGINIA

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Government Officials Commend Collaboration and Shared Vision of Sustainable Practices in Groundbreaking for \$100 million in Community Revitalization Projects

American Public University System joined Charles Town and Ranson, WV officials to celebrate the groundbreaking of \$100 million in community revitalization projects on Dec. 2. APUS President & CEO Wallace E. Boston, Charles Town Mayor Peggy Smith and Ranson Mayor David Hamill hosted Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito, and other government and business leaders for the event, which previewed master development plans including a new APUS technology and multi-purpose center; a \$10 million improvement of North George Street in Charles Town and Fairfax Boulevard in Ranson into a “green corridor” roadway; a \$16 million mixed-use retail, commercial and residential Town Center at Powhatan Place in Ranson; the \$14 million Frank Entertainment CineBowl retail entertainment complex in Ranson and a \$4 million restoration of historic Charles Washington Hall into a public food market, café, visitors center, and arts and cultural space in Charles Town



The State of West Virginia has been a strong partner in these revitalization efforts, including through collaboration with APUS, support for a package of HUD financing at the Powhatan Place redevelopment, and through grant funding and project management for the Green Corridor roadway project. “West Virginia is ready to invest in business and community revitalization, and we welcome this partnership with our public and private sector allies,” said Governor Tomblin.

Other dignitaries attending the event included WV Secretary of Transportation Paul Maddox; US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Regional Administrator Jane Vincent; HUD Director of Sustainable Housing and Communities Salin Geevarghese; US Dept. of Transportation Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy Shoshana Lew; US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Assistant Administrator Mathy Stanislaus; EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Shawn Garvin; the state senators and delegates representing Jefferson County; and other private sector leaders.

In addition to its Administrative Center that opened in Fall 2012, and which straddles Charles Town and Ranson, APUS’s other noteworthy construction projects include the state’s largest solar array opened in Spring 2012 and its Academic Center which opened in late 2010. Today, it employs 600+ local staff and owns or leases more than 12 properties in the two communities constructed or refurbished to the LEED Silver Standard or higher.

Editorial: Governor takes much-needed step to tackle homelessness

Efforts to reduce homelessness have made some headway in recent years, thanks to new strategies initiated by various agencies. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, for example, has adopted and implemented a Housing First approach that first places an emphasis on placing homeless individuals in housing so they are better able to tackle the issues that lead to their homeless plight. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has recognized that veterans of the military services are more likely to face homelessness than those who didn’t serve their country. To help them, the Huntington VA Medical Center brought its services for homeless veterans under one roof at the Homeless Veterans Resource Center, 624 9th St., Huntington. The emphasis there also has been on placing veterans in permanent housing and providing them with services and support. Despite those efforts, too many West Virginians are still without a place to call home. Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin has recognized that, and he has moved to revive efforts aimed at reducing the numbers. Last week, Tomblin signed an executive order revamping the Interagency Council on Homelessness, which was created in 2007 by former Gov. Joe Manchin but has been dormant the past few years. The new council’s overall mission is lofty: putting an end to homelessness in the state. To read the complete opinion editorial published in *The Herald-Dispatch* on Dec. 3, [click here](#). Reprinted by permission of the *Herald-Dispatch*, Huntington, WV.

Affordable Care Seminar featured at Community Resource and Education Council Event

Uninsured people across West Virginia and the nation now have access to health insurance coverage through the Affordable Care Act. It is estimated that 18,000 Americans die prematurely because they lack insurance coverage. In West Virginia, that is approximately four preventable deaths a week due to being uninsured. This fall, HUD Senior Management Analyst Evie Williams led the Charleston Field Office’s Affordable Care Act (ACA) training at the Summit Center in Charleston, WV as part

of the Community Resource and Education Council that Ms. Williams developed four years ago to provide resources and education to a variety of agencies. More than 70 agencies participated in the one-day training. Presentations included the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, West Virginia AARP, West Virginia Offices of the Insurance Commissioner. Topics covered included the Medicaid expansion, eligibility requirements, enrollment, on-line services, IN-ROADS, senior items related to the ACA and how to obtain health insurance through the MarketPlace. To become a member of Community Resource and Education Council, please contact Evie Williams at Evie.Williams@hud.gov.

The **West Virginia Commission for National and Community Service sponsors a VISTA project that addresses issues facing West Virginia veterans and military families.** The Commission is seeking two VISTAs to place with Mountain Hospice and with In Touch and Concerned beginning in Feb. 2014. Mountain Hospice is based in Barbour County, WV and covers a seven-county region. The VISTA project will focus on establishing outreach to all veterans in the area, but especially those who are homeless or living in poverty. Veterans will receive information about VA benefits for end of life care through community education presentations. For more information or to apply, [click here](#). In Touch and Concerned is based in Morgantown, WV and provides services in a five-county region. The Transportation Program is the largest and most successful program In Touch and Concerned offers. It is the specific intent of this program to prevent the elderly and adult disabled veterans of this region from entering into poverty due to a lack of reliable, affordable transportation to medical, dental, and mental health appointments and other necessary outings into the community. To apply, [click here](#). Applications for both positions are **due Jan. 8, 2014**.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Ongoing Opportunities:

- The U.S. Department of Labor is accepting applications for "[Stand Down](#)" grants that will provide an estimated 10,000 homeless veterans with opportunities to reintegrate into society. The grants are being awarded under the department's [Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program](#).
- Applications are being accepted for the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration's (EDA) [Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program](#) grants to create regional economic development plans designed to stimulate and guide the economic development efforts of a community or region.
- [Wells Fargo Homeownership](#) grant program to help local nonprofit housing organizations create sustainable homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate-income people.
- The Surdna Foundation offers funding to nonprofit organizations that seek to help communities build wealth in a sustainable manner. Letters of Inquiry are accepted year around. For more information, click [here](#).
- Lowe's [Toolbox for Education](#) program is now accepting applications. Only the first 1,500 applications will be considered for this year's funding round.
- Kresge Foundation is accepting applications for funding for its [Advancing the Effectiveness and Resilience of Multi-Service Organizations](#) grant program.
- Kresge Foundation is accepting applications for funding for its [Healthy Environments](#) grant program.

Upcoming deadlines:

- **Jan. 8, 2014** – Applications are due for the Corporation for National and Community Service FY 2014 [AmeriCorps](#) Grants.
- **Jan. 15** – Applications are due for the American Association of University Women [Community Action Grants](#).
- **Jan. 15** – Applications are due for the US Department of health and Human Services, Administration for Children and families [Transitional Living Program and Maternity Group Homes](#) grants.
- **Jan. 31** – Final date for applications for Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) [Building Entrepreneurial Economies \(BEE\)](#) grants.

REGION III HUDLINE NEWS

We welcome your feedback and invite you to share your news with Lisa A. Wolfe at lisa.a.wolfe@hud.gov. If you know anyone who would like to receive *Region III HUDLine News*, please feel free to share. To subscribe to the *Region III HUDLine News*, visit REGION-III-NEWS-L@hudlist.hud.gov. We safeguard our lists and do not rent, sell, or permit the use of our lists by others, at any time or reason.