

April 2015

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR



#### A MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Housing affordability is a growing concern throughout the United States and around the world. This is also a global issue of growing concern. A recent study by the McKinsey Global Institute estimates that 330 million urban households around the world live in substandard housing or are financially stretched by housing costs, and that within a decade at least 1.6 billion people worldwide will struggle to obtain decent, affordable housing. Here in the U.S., for the 11.5 million extremely low-income households in 2012 there were only 3.3 million rental units affordable and available to them.

Despite these staggering statistics, there are policies and actions that can help increase the supply of affordable housing and reduce the housing affordability gap globally and here in the U.S. On April 7, I joined HUD's

Office of Policy Development and Research, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity International and Enterprise Community Partners, for an evidence-based discussion on the challenges and opportunities for expanding housing affordability.

The event was one of many ways HUD is supporting preparations for next year's Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development.

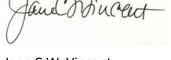
During this event, Secretary Julián Castro welcomed Vice President Joe Biden, pictured above left. "The heart and hearthstone, family and home, housing and opportunity are always going to be the core of who we are as a country," stated Vice President Joe Biden in his remarks. Vice President Biden, Secretary Castro and the Obama Administration are all equally committed to leveling the playing field for all Americans and increasing access to safe and affordable housing.

The program focused on understanding the evidence and the nature of

housing affordability challenges and explored how to seize the opportunity by moving from evidence to solutions. A number of themes emerged from the discussion, including: the importance of evidence and metrics to inform and drive policy; the imperative to develop and communicate a narrative about housing affordability that is inclusive and resonates; the need for housers to move beyond just housing to include health, transportation, education, etc.; the effectiveness of coordinating a suite of housing tools and not relying on a single "silver bullet" policy.

I encourage you to visit the event website to access <u>conference resources</u>—including the full video of the event—and to share your experiences, ideas, and best practices with the housing affordability opportunity in the <u>HUD USER forums</u>. An upcoming feature article in HUD's PD&R *The Edge* will continue the housing affordability conversation, delving further into the themes raised by the conference panelists.

I am looking forward to working with all involved in the planning for next year's Habitat III event, and to your input along the way.



Jane C.W. Vincent Region III Regional Administrator



#### **NEWS YOU CAN USE**

#### **HUD Leadership Announcements**

With a career spanning more than 25 years in field of mortgage finance, **Edward L. Golding and is currently serving as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for HUD's Office of Housing.** Most recently, he served as Senior Advisor on Housing

Finance to Secretary Castro and helped to craft the Administration's position on housing finance reform, including working on
the Johnson-Crapo Bill. A strong advocate of affordable housing, Golding helped develop a proposal to expand funding for the
Housing Trust Fund and worked with the Department of Justice to craft consumer relief as part of mortgage settlements with
the large lending institutions. Prior to his service at HUD, Mr. Golding was a Senior Fellow at the Urban Institute where he
played an instrumental role in launching the Housing Finance Policy Center, a leading research voice on housing finance
matters. He began his career at the Federal Home Loan Bank Board during the Savings and Loan Crisis and then joined
Freddie Mac, where he worked for 23 years. At Freddie Mac, Golding held a variety of senior positions from investor relations
to strategy and research serving as program executive for Freddie Mac's implementation of Making Home Affordable where
he implemented program changes that led to several hundred thousand additional successful loan modifications. Prior to
working in mortgage finance, Golding taught at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Florida. He earned an AB
in applied mathematics magna cum laude from Harvard University and a PhD in economics from Princeton University.

Harriet Tregoning has moved from her role as director of HUD's Office of Economic Resilience to lead the Office of Community Planning and Development as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary. In her former role, Ms. Tregoning has been HUD's leader in developing and carrying out the innovative National Disaster Resilience Competition, a billion dollar, public-private effort that encourages smart planning to shape strong communities. Prior to joining HUD, Ms. Tregoning led the District of Columbia's Office of Planning, Tregoning worked to make the District a walkable, bikeable, livable, globally competitive and sustainable city—re-writing the city's zoning code for the first time in 50 years, planning the revitalization of the poorest parts of the District, and collaborating with her transportation colleagues to bring the nation's largest bike-sharing program to the nation's capital. She was co-founder of the Governors' Institute on Community Design and served as both Maryland's Secretary of Planning and then as the first state-level Cabinet Secretary for Smart Growth. She also served as director of Development, Community and Environment at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Ms. Tregoning's academic training is in engineering and public policy. She was a Loeb Fellow at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design for 2003-2004.

#### **Grant, Funding & Award Announcements**

In an ongoing effort to end veteran homelessness, HUD and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) awarded \$65 million nationwide to help 9,000 homeless veterans find a permanent place to call home. More than \$5 million will help America's heroes in the Mid-Atlantic region. The rental assistance is provided through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program which combines rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by the VA. HUD-VASH is an important part of the Obama Administration's efforts to provide critical housing and services to veterans experiencing homelessness. This effort also includes HUD's Homeless Assistance Programs, as well as VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) and Grant and Per Diem (GPD) programs. Since 2008, more than 69,000 vouchers have been awarded and over 88,000 homeless veterans have been served through the HUD-VASH program. See the local impact of the housing assistance.

On April 14, HUD awarded more than \$36 million in grants to hundreds of national, regional and local organizations to help families and individuals with their housing needs and to prevent future foreclosures. HUD's housing counseling grants and the additional funding they help to leverage will assist more than 1.5 million households find housing, make more informed housing choices, or keep their current homes. National and regional agencies distribute much of HUD's housing counseling grant funding, including \$5.3 million awarded in the Mid-Atlantic region, to community-based organizations that assist lowand moderate-income families to improve their housing conditions. In addition, these larger organizations help improve the quality of housing counseling services and enhance coordination among counseling providers. Read a summary of each grant, organized by state. Recent research from the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and the Urban Institute continues to find substantial benefits to housing counseling for families who purchase their first homes and those struggling to prevent foreclosure. Read more about research evidence on the role housing counseling can play in reducing mortgage delinquency and foreclosure and helping first-time buyer's access and sustain homeownership.

On April 28, the Obama Administration announced eight new Promise Zones, as part of the President's initiative to partner with local leaders and build stronger ladders of opportunity in revitalizing urban, rural, and tribal communities. Though the recovery from the economic crisis has been strong, there are pockets of the country that have struggled for decades to build resilient middle-class economies. The Promise Zones initiative launched by the President last year, works in partnership with local leaders in high-poverty communities, leveraging private investment to create jobs, increase economic activity, improve educational opportunities and reduce violent crime. The eight new Promise Zones are located in Camden, Hartford, Indianapolis, Minneapolis, Sacramento, St. Louis, South Carolina Low Country, and the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Each of these communities put forward a plan demonstrating how they will partner with local business and civic leaders to make investments that reward hard work, create jobs, and expand access to middle class economic opportunity. Their work will build on the progress we are already seeing in the first five Promise Zones, announced in January 2014: Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Antonio, Southeastern Kentucky and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. In these communities, collaboration across business, government, and civic leadership is leading to concrete change.

**HUD revised several provisions in the National Housing Trust Fund (HTF) proposed rule and published an interim rule** on Jan. 30. The <u>National Housing Trust Fund Key Changes Between Proposed Rule and Interim Rule Chart</u> provides an overview of the key changes made to the HTF interim rule.

#### **Other Announcements**

On April 1, **HUD** kicked off Fair Housing Month 2015 with the launch of a new national media campaign that will help the public recognize various forms of housing discrimination and what they should do if they believe their housing rights have been violated. The new campaign, which consists of print and digital Public Service Announcements, is being launched as the nation celebrates the 47th anniversary of the passage of the 1968 <u>Fair Housing Act</u>, the landmark law that was passed one week after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Last year, HUD and its Fair Housing Assistance Program partner agencies received 8,468 complaints alleging discrimination based on one or more of the Act's seven protected classes. In addition to increasing awareness, the new campaign is designed to further HUD's fair housing enforcement efforts. The campaign is being conducted in partnership with the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) specifically focuses on the value of diverse communities in <u>English</u> and <u>Spanish</u>, the hurdles families can sometimes face when attempting to buy a home in <u>English</u> and <u>Spanish</u>, and the <u>types of discrimination veterans</u> often encounter. To view all the new announcements please visit <u>National Fair Housing Alliance</u>.

Twenty years ago, on April 19, 1995, the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City was bombed, killing 168 public servants. HUD lost 35 of our own on that terrible day—amazing and vital lives cut short by an act of terrorism. There are 50 HUD employees who survived along with employees from other agencies. Their commitment to work together to improve their community is as strong as ever and the strength they demonstrate stands as a testament to our nation's resilient character. On April 23, Secretary Julián Castro and Deputy Secretary Nani Coloretti led the Oklahoma City Memorial rededication ceremony in the Weaver building garden located on grounds of HUD Headquarters. In remembrance of the survivors, those that lost their lives and their families, HUD employees were asked to wear a blue ribbon.

Due to the discontinuation of the Section 221(d) (3) mortgage insurance program, alternate maximum per-unit subsidy limits must be used for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). Until a new rule can be published, HUD published CPD Notice 15-003: Interim Policy on Maximum Per-Unit Subsidy Limits for the HOME Program establishing an interim policy that Field Office staff and participating jurisdictions (PJs) must follow directing PJs to use the Section 234-Condominium Housing basic mortgage limits, for elevator-type projects, as an alternative to the Section 221(d)(3) limits in order to determine the maximum amount of HOME funds a PJ may invest on a per-unit basis in HOME-assisted housing projects. This interim policy remains in effect until the effective date of the new final rule provisions, amending the existing provisions of 24 CFR 92.250(a).

The Notice of Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Opportunity to Register and Other Important Information for Electronic Application Submission for the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition is posted to the HUD Exchange. In addition, FY 2015 CoC Program Registration forms are live in e-snaps. The FY 2015 CoC Program Registration process is only open for 20 days and will close on May 18, 2015.

Every year, **HUD** investigates complaints alleging violations of the Fair Housing Act because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, and familial status. HUD also investigates complaints alleging violations of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in any program or activity that receives federal financial assistance from HUD or in programs conducted by HUD. More information on fair housing rights can be found in the <u>Fair Housing Act</u> and on HUD's web page for <u>Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity</u>. HUD's website also provides information about Section 504 and about the Section 504 complaint process.

The **Federal Housing Administration (FHA) published consolidated HECM Due and Payable policies** for servicers in Mortgagee Letter 2015-10. This Mortgagee Letter consolidates and revises existing FHA policy for all HECMs that become Due and Payable on or after July 1, 2015. Publication of this Mortgagee Letter supports FHA's commitment to maintaining the HECM program's long-term viability by implementing program changes that reduce risk to the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund. This, in turn, maintains the program options for senior's long term.

Mortgagee Letter 2015-11, Loss Mitigation Guidance for HECMs in Default due to Unpaid Property Charges, communicates an expansion of permissible loss mitigation options that HECM servicers may provide to a HECM borrower when the borrower is in default due to unpaid property charges such as taxes or hazard insurance premiums. The policies in Mortgagee Letter 2015-11 work in tandem with those in Mortgagee Letter 2015-10. Both sets of policies support the goal of keeping HECM borrowers in their homes whenever possible, while protecting FHA's Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund if a default cannot be cured.

#### **Publications, Studies & Resources**

Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) across the country are significantly underfunded in managing the federal government's largest low-income housing assistance program which serves 2.1 million households nationwide. HUD recently published the Housing Choice Voucher Program Administrative Fee Study which concludes high-performing PHAs operating well-managed voucher programs are increasingly hard-pressed to meet the actual cost burden of this program. Congress directed HUD to gather comprehensive and detailed data on the administrative costs associated with operating the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program. The purpose of the study is to better understand how much it costs for a PHA to administer a high-performing and efficient HCV program and to use the findings to propose a new funding methodology.

The American Housing Survey (AHS) is a biennial survey sponsored by HUD that collects information about the housing stock in the United States. In the current edition of HUD's PD&R *The Edge*, Senior Economist Dav Vandenbroucke <u>details how AHS data can be used</u>, highlights how the AHS has changed over time, and discusses differences between the AHS and the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

HUD's *Evidence Matters* features a policy update, <u>The Research Basis for Disaster Resilience</u>, which notes that **detailed data on natural disasters have become more accessible than ever**, and although much of the data is only available for the last few

decades, research indicates that natural disasters are becoming more frequent and costly. As natural disaster data illustrate the need to emphasize disaster-resilient development, academics and planning experts are developing best practice guidelines for hazard mitigation strategies.

A video of the **recent PD&R** *Quarterly Housing Update* has been <u>posted online</u>. Presented by HUD's Kevin Kane, the webcast features a summary of national and regional housing market conditions in the fourth quarter of 2014. Immediately following is a panel discussion on Native American Housing: Obstacles and Opportunities.

#### What Do You Think?

EXTENDED to May 6 – Comments are due on Draft Implementing Guidelines as part of President Obama's Executive
 Order 13690: Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering
 <u>Stakeholder Input</u> requiring federal agencies to take the appropriate actions to reduce risk to federal investments,
 specifically to "update their flood-risk reduction standards." The Executive Order was released with Draft Implementing
 Guidelines and a document describing the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) in more detail.

### **HUD FEDERAL REGISTER RULES, NOTICES & FUNDING**

#### **Proposed Rule**

<u>Creating Economic Opportunities for Low- and Very Low-Income Persons and Eligible Businesses Through Strengthened</u> "Section 3" Requirements

Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013: Implementation in HUD Housing Programs

#### Rule

<u>Federal Awarding Agency Regulatory Implementation of Office of Management and Budget's Uniform Administrative</u> Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards; Correction of RIN Number

Federal Housing Administration (FHA): Removal of Section 235 Home Ownership Program Regulations

<u>HUD Approval of Requests for Transfers of Multifamily Housing Project-Based Rental Assistance, HUD-Held or Insured Debt, and Income-Based Use Restrictions</u>

#### **Notices**

Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) Program: Mortgagee Optional Election Assignment for Home Equity Conversion Mortgages (HECMs) With FHA Case Numbers Assigned Prior to August 4, 2014-Response to Comments

30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Family Self Sufficiency Program Demonstration

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Service Coordinators in Multifamily Housing

<u>60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Certification of Consistency With Sustainable Communities Planning and Implementation</u>

Federal Property Suitable as Facilities To Assist the Homeless

<u>30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Assessment of HUD-Funded or Designated Neighborhood Networks</u> Centers and Other Computer Labs Within Public Housing Authorities and Multifamily Housing Properties

30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Procedures for Appealing Rent Adjustments

<u>Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program-Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Inflation Factors for Public Housing Agency (PHA)</u>
Renewal Funding

Availability of HUD's Fiscal Year 2013 Service Contract Inventory

Order of Succession for the Office of Community Planning and Development

Order of Succession for the Office of Housing

Consolidated Delegations of Authority for the Office of Community Planning and Development

Consolidated Delegation of Authority for the Office of Housing-Federal Housing Administration (FHA)

Federal Property Suitable as Facilities to Assist the Homeless

30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: CDBG Urban County Qualification/Regualification Process

<u>30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Program</u>

<u>60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Voucher Management System (VMS)</u>

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Rent Reform Demonstration (Task Order 2)

Establishment of the Housing Counseling Federal Advisory Committee: Solicitation of Appointment Nominations

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Service Coordinators in Multifamily Housing

Advance Notice of Digital Opportunity Demonstration; Additional Contact Information

Federal Property Suitable as Facilities To Assist the Homeless

Delegation of Authority for the Office of Public and Indian Housing

Order of Succession for the Office of Public and Indian Housing

Mortgagee Review Board: Administrative Actions

Advance Notice of Digital Opportunity Demonstration

Federal Property Suitable as Facilities To Assist the Homeless

Additional Clarifying Guidance, Waivers, and Alternative Requirements for Grantees in Receipt of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Funds Under the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013

Implementation of the Privacy Act of 1974, as Amended; New System of Records, Rent Reform Demonstration

<u>Implementation of the Privacy Act of 1974, as Amended; New System of Records, the Housing Search Process for Racial and Ethnic Minorities Evaluation Data Files</u>

<u>30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Application for Energy Innovation Fund-Multifamily Pilot Program</u>
Notice of Regulatory Waiver Requests Granted for the Fourth Quarter of Calendar Year 2014

#### **Funding Awards**

Announcement of Funding Awards; Fair Housing Initiatives Program Fiscal Year 2014

#### **Funding Notices**

**DUE MAY 7** – Fiscal Year 2015 Supplemental Comprehensive Housing Counseling Grant Program

# AROUND THE REGION, DELAWARE



Maria L. Bynum, Field Office Director & Associate Editor (302) 573-6300, <a href="https://delaware">https://delaware</a>

#### **Perspectives on Discrimination and Segregation**

The Delaware Division of Human Relations held a Fair Housing Policy Conference entitled, "The Realities and Consequences of Housing Discrimination and Segregation: Education, Health Disparities and Economic Inequality." Presenters engaged stakeholders in discussions about residential segregation and health disparities, the nexus between housing segregation, segregated schools and economic inequality and the role of the Fair Housing Act in ending housing discrimination and residential segregation. A recurring observation throughout was that minorities are often under represented on school boards, county and city

councils, zoning boards and in the State legislature. It was recommended that African Americans be engaged, elect responsive individuals to offices and hold public officials accountable to reduce housing and school segregation and disparities among the health of minorities. HUD's Regional Director of the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) Melody Taylor-Blancher emphasized the need for citizens to know their rights under the Fair Housing Act and to exercise their voices to fight housing discrimination. FHEO administers and enforces <u>federal laws</u> and establishes policies that make sure all Americans have equal access to the housing of their choice. If you feel you have been the victim of discrimination, file a complaint <u>online</u> or call 1-800-669-9777. Pictured left to right at the event are HUD's Melody Taylor-Blancher, Dr. Bailus Walker, Dr. Leon Ware and Tara Ramchandani, the guest speakers.

#### **Tips for Preparing Grant Proposals**

A steady stream of people interested in applying for federal grants made the rounds at the Congressional Grants Fair at Delaware State University on Apr. 1. U.S. Senator Chris Coons and U.S. Congressman John Carney welcomed attendees to the fair. HUD, EPA, USDA and state and local agencies provided information to attendees about their grant programs. Grants.gov, the online resource to find and apply for federal grants was the topic of an hourlong workshop. Grants.gov's Ed Calimag shared four key tips for preparing grant proposals:

- Include a DUNS Number which can be obtained by accessing www.dunandbradstreet.com or by calling 1-866-705-5711.
- Start preparing the application early to ensure that adequate time is allotted to register and download applicable software and forms.
- Follow the instructions and application guidance carefully so that reviewers can find information in specific places according to the prescribed format.
- Carefully proofread the application and limit the use of abbreviations and acronyms.

All grant applications must be filed electronically. The <u>Grants.gov</u> website offers a webcast entitled, "Get Started with Grants.gov" that provides startup requirements and tips. Pictured at right, Delaware Field Office Director Maria Bynum assists an attendee at the event.



#### **Housing for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness**

Walter Bagley Hall in Dover is open and currently housing twelve formerly homeless veterans with the anticipation of housing their thirteenth veteran this week. The facility can accommodate 32 men and is accessible for those with disabilities. Residents share kitchen, laundry and bathroom facilities. Dover Interfaith Mission Chair Jeanine Kleimo conducted a tour of the residence for some of the Dover Rapid Results Boot Camp Team members in April. Two team members, pictured left to right, Delaware State Housing Authority Planner IV Kim Brockenbrough and the Delaware Veteran's Stand Down Executive Director Elizabeth Byers-Jiron, enjoyed the comfortable sitting area on the first floor. The boot camp team is working towards permanently housing 50 homeless veterans in Dover by the end of 2015. As part of that process, the team is interested in identifying current and

potential housing stock. Those interested in providing housing for veterans experiencing homelessness in Delaware, visit <a href="DelawareHousingSearch.org">DelawareHousingSearch.org</a> to sign up to list the property and check the "Veterans" box on the registration form or call 1-877-428-8844.

#### **Events & Announcements**

- DUE May 1 Delaware National Association of Housing Redevelopment Officials is offering a \$4,000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior, residing in affordable housing, who is planning to attend a two- or four-year college or university. Students entering college under Delaware's Seed Program are also eligible for the scholarship. Visit the <u>DE NAHRO website</u> or contact Paula Sims at (302) 738-0915 or email <u>paulasims1@yahoo.com</u>.
- May 9, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Interfaith Community Housing of Delaware's First-time Homebuyers Seminar at the Hampton Inn and Suites Wilmington Christiana - Blue Rock Room, 1008 Churchman's Road, Christiana, Del. For more information, please contact TuJuana Pierce at (302) 652-3991, ext. 0
- May 12, 9 a.m. Delaware State Housing Authority's Emergency Solutions Grants Program Pre-Application Orientation, Liberty Court Community Center at 1289 West Walker Road, Dover, Del. For more information and to register, please contact Alice Davis at (888) 363-8808 or email alice@destatehousing.com.
- May 19, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Summit to End Veteran Homelessness in New Castle County, Newark and Wilmington at the Multi-Purpose Room in the Gilliam Building, 67 Read's Way in New Castle, Del. To register, visit <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/journal.org/">https://doi.org/10.1007/journal.org/</a>
- May 31, 2:45 to 4 p.m. Milford Housing Development Corporation's Sunday Afternoon Self-Help Housing Program Orientation, Kent County Public Library at 497 South Red Haven Lane, Dover, Del. To register, please contact Brittany at (302) 422-8255 or at <a href="mailto:brouse@milfordhousing.com">brouse@milfordhousing.com</a>.



# **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**



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# "Many Communities-One Voice" Celebrated at the District of Columbia's Annual Fair Housing Month Symposium

On April 23, the DC Office of Human Rights, the DC Department of Housing and Community Development, the DC Office of Disability Rights, and the Equal Rights Center hosted the District's 14th Annual Fair Housing Month Symposium, entitled "Many Communities—One Voice." HUD's Office of

Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Assistant Secretary Gustavo Velasquez provided the keynote during the morning plenary session. The annual Fair Housing Month symposium brings together housing advocates and housing providers to foster an open dialogue on housing in the District, and how all parties can work collaboratively to end housing discrimination. This year's symposium celebrated the 25th anniversary of the passage of the American Disabilities Act (ADA) and the amendments to the Fair Housing Act adding disability provisions. Speakers included U.S. Dept. of Justice's Eve Hill, who is with Civil Rights Section specializing in the ADA, and Michael Allen, an attorney with Relman, Dane and Colfax who specializes in fair housing

and civil rights. HUD's FHEO Director Steven Paikin served as one of the panelists for discussion topics that included accessibility, source of income and LGBT protections. DC Field Office Assistant Regional Counsel Russell Conlan, pictured second from right, lent his expertise to a walking tour of the Shaw neighborhood, where the symposium occurred. District of Columbia Department of Housing and Community Development Director Polly Donaldson, HUD's Steven Paikin, District of Columbia Office of Human Rights Director Monica Palacio, Assistant Secretary Velasquez, District of Columbia Disabilities Council Director Matthew McCullough, Equal Rights Center Executive Director Melvina Ford and Director Turner pose for a photograph at the event.



#### Fairfax County Fair Housing Event Attracts More than 200

Nicole Rawlings, Housing Specialist with the Fairfax County Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs and Gloria Crawford, Chair of the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission, joined Director Marvin Turner and more than 200 fair housing advocates for the Fairfax County Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs Annual Fair Housing Month Symposium and Luncheon on Apr. 15. HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance Sara Pratt provided the luncheon keynote address. In her talk, Assistant Secretary Pratt said, "There is this little known provision, or at least it was little known until a year or two ago, this thing that says there is an obligation to affirmatively further fair housing—not just not to discriminate, but to address the underlying problems in our structures in our communities that are the legacies of long ago patterns and decisions that were discriminatory." HUD's FHEO Director Steven Paikin participated with Equal Rights Center team member in conducting a workshop regarding disability rights under the Fair Housing Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. To view a video clip from the day's event, visit Fairfax's YouTube channel.

#### **Events & Announcements**

• May 29, 1 to 5 p.m. Program and 5 to 6:30 p.m. Reception – HUD & Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND) 2nd Annual Regional Housing Symposium at the Arena Stage, 1101 6th St SW, Washington, DC. This half-day symposium is designed to provide members opportunities to engage in meaningful dialogue with HUD leadership on programs that directly impact the work of the region's affordable housing and community development industry. The symposium is free, but registration is required by visiting HAND.org.

# **MARYLAND**

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#### **Beautiful Views of Historic Elkton Offered at New Senior Residences**

The North Street Senior Residences officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by Home Partnership, Inc., Elkton Housing Authority and The Community Builders, Inc. The Residences are the dream of local stakeholders to retrofit a historic building that served as the county jail, into an affordable housing complex for senior citizens in downtown Elkton. The building has 53 apartment units and includes a



community room with a kitchen and fireplace, and a separate activity room with a pool table and a computer lab. One of the residents, Marion Whitaker, spoke eloquently to the partners gathered. "I'm a new senior, and I appreciate that you put a lot of thought into this center and now we have a decent place to live. The love of my life got me a penthouse on the third floor," Ms. Whitaker said as she pointed to her husband. Funding included HUD Community Development Block Grant program



funds, Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) and State Mortgage Revenue Bond proceeds. With the most ideal location in Cecil County, the Residences are located on a bus line for easy transportation and the convenience of having a variety of shops and restaurants within walking distance.

#### Women's History Month's "Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives"

The Baltimore Field Office, Maryland Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers celebrated Women's History Month on Apr. 1. With "Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives" as the theme, Jaylyn Elaine Simmons, mother of HUD's Bhek Simmons, and FHEO Branch Chief Carolyn Brown provided beautiful musical selections. Poet and writer Barbara Morrison provided

a powerful coming-of-age story dispelling some of the myths of those living in poverty in her keynote, "Innocent Confessions of a Welfare Mother. Growing up in a prosperous neighborhood, Ms. Morrison was taught that poverty was a product of laziness and public assistance programs only served to rewarded irresponsibility. When her marriage soured and she found herself an impoverished single mother, she was disowned by her parents and faced destitution for herself and her two small sons. Forced to accept the handout so disdained by her parents and their world, Ms. Morrison's award-winning work of her journey has been published in anthologies and magazines.

#### **Events & Announcements**

May 7, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. – Preservation Through Energy Efficiency Road Show Series at the Grand Historic Venue,
 225 North Charles Street in Baltimore, Md. Danielle England and Scott Falvey of the Maryland Department of Housing &

Community Development will join the <u>PTEE Road Show</u> to talk with multifamily affordable housing owners and developers about how this program can benefit your portfolio. Through <u>EmPOWER MD</u>, DHCD will award \$12.5 million in loans and grants to support multifamily developers and owners in identifying and implementing measures that can reduce your operating costs. To register, visit the National Housing &Rehabilitation Association events <u>website</u>.

 May 21 – SAVE THE DATE! HUD's Baltimore and National Capital Area Field Offices will host a special Change is in the Air: Smoke-Free Housing Symposium at the Anne Arundel County Medical Center, 2000 Medical Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401. For online registration, visit hud.gov/Maryland.



• May 28, 6 to 8 p.m. – SAVE THE DATE! Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc. 56th Annual Meeting and Reception, Temple Oheb Shalom, 7310 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21208. Details coming soon at <a href="https://www.bni-maryland.org">www.bni-maryland.org</a>.

# PENNSYLVANIA - EASTERN REGION



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Officials Break Ground for Reading's First LIHTC Community in Decades In spite of being one of the poorest cities in the nation, Reading has seen very little investment in affordable housing in the past decade—especially for families. That's about to change. The Homes at Riverside will be the first Low-Income Housing Tax Credit community in the North Riverside neighborhood. And, unlike many older cities in Pennsylvania and across the

nation, Reading is experiencing growth in its population. HUD is hoping that the Apr. 8 groundbreaking will signify that there's a change underway and there will be more affordable housing yet to come. The 46 new homes for low-income residents are equipped with geothermal heating and cooling and energy efficient appliances; features that will help residents save energy and energy costs. The new homes are in a neighborhood that is stable, walkable and safe with easy access to transportation, services, shopping and schools with Downtown Reading just a mere 10 blocks away. The new neighborhood, being built on a former Dana Corporation parking lot behind Northwest Middle School, will also feature on-site management and supportive services with units that are both accessible and VisitAble for those living with or have family members living with disabilities. HUD is proud to be one of Riverside's funding partners by providing HOME funds and Low-Income Tax Credits through the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency. Based in Hockessin, Delaware, the Delaware Valley Development Company plans to build the community with Wilmington, Delaware-based Architectural Alliance Inc. and Exeter Township, Berks County-based Ludgate Engineering also involved in the \$13 million project. City of Reading officials join HUD's Jane Vincent, pictured center, and the other principals for the official groundbreaking of the new Homes at Riverside.

#### **HUD Announces HUD-VASH funding in Coatesville**

HUD Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Jane C.W. Vincent announced \$530,226 in rental assistance to the Housing Authorities of Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties on April 20 at the Veterans Multi-Service Center in Coatesville, Pa. "Today's announcement—here at Operating Base Cecilia—is appropriate since Operating Base Cecilia was established to meet the needs of veteran families in the Chester, Montgomery and Delaware county areas," said Vincent. "And, will help many of the veterans who will receive today's HUD-VASH vouchers." The HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program



combines rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services from the VA. The Coatesville event was part of a national announcement of \$65 million to help end veteran homelessness. In Pennsylvania, \$1.5 million was awarded. Joining Vincent in making the announcement were Chester County Housing Authority Executive Director Dale Gravett, Delaware County Housing Authority Executive Director Lawrence Hartley, Montgomery County Housing Authority Executive Director Joel Johnson and Veterans Multi-Service Center Deputy Executive Director Maura Gillen. The funding's powerful impact shines through the success story of Vietnam War-era veteran Stephen Zurawsky, a former HUD-VASH voucher holder. Formerly homeless and living on the streets for 10 years, he now works at the Coatesville Veterans Affairs Medical Center, helping chronically homeless and mentally ill veterans get their lives back on track. "I have a nice life," said Zurawsky. See photos of the event.

#### **Philly Announces Plan to End Veteran Homelessness**

There will be no veterans sleeping on the streets of Philadelphia come Veterans Day. Mayor Michael A. Nutter made this announcement on April 16 at a press conference with federal, state and local partners. "The City is confident that we will end homelessness for veterans by November 11," said Marie Nahikian, Director of Philadelphia's Office of Supportive Housing. "We have built a strong partnership—we collaborate, share resources and are willing to leap over organizational barriers. I am proud to be a part of this amazing moment." Under the campaign called PhillyVetsHome2015, the goal of government agencies and private non-profit organizations is to achieve "functional zero" of homelessness among Philly's veterans on or before Veterans Day. According to the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, an end to homelessness means that every



community will have a systematic response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible or is otherwise a rare, brief and non-recurring experience. In Philadelphia, progress towards the goal includes housing 862 homeless veterans since August 2013 and providing 560 more veterans with resources to find and maintain a home. Pictured at left, Mayor Nutter joined the national Mayor's Challenge to End Veterans Homelessness last year.

At the press conference, formerly homeless Army veteran Delvin Brinson shared his journey to housing. In 2012, he went to the Veterans Multi-Service Center (VMC) seeking housing and job training. "I was homeless for a long time," said Brinson. "I was one of those people you could say was chronically homeless. I was

in and then out." He began computer coursework and eventually joined the VMC as a van driver. He now works as a Veteran Navigator, helping other veterans on the road to stability.

The established coalition of government agencies supporting Philly's goal includes HUD, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, City of Philadelphia Office of Supportive Housing, Philadelphia Housing Authority, and the City of Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health. Non-profit agencies supporting the effort include the Veterans Multi-Service Center, Project HOME, Impact Services Corporation, UESF, Neighborhood Housing Services (Fresh Start), Pathways to Housing PA, the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Mental Health Association, and the Homeless Advocacy Project. See photos of the announcement.



#### **Events/Announcements**

- May 28, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Housing Equality Center of Pennsylvania is hosting Zoned Out: Fair Housing Solutions Symposium at the GIANT Willow Grove Community Center, 315 York Road, Willow Grove, PA 19090. The fair housing program will explore group homes, affordable housing, Not-in-my-Backyard known as NIMBYism, age-restricted communities and other fair housing planning, zoning and land use topics. Designed for local government officials, solicitors, attorneys, planners and housing advocates, the symposium will include presentations, panel discussions and networking opportunities with HUD's Sara Pratt and Jane C.W. Vincent, expert attorneys and local agencies. This is a FREE event and lunch is included with registration. Visit equalhousing.org for more information and to register.
- June 26 In collaboration with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control will host an Asthma Summit in Philadelphia. The purpose of the summit is to advocate and gain support for a policy shift that would result in the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Innovation and private health insurance providers reimbursing the costs for environmental interventions to reduce or eliminate asthma triggers in the homes of children with asthma. Watch for more information in future issues of *Region III HUDLine News*.

# PENNSYLVANIA - WESTERN REGION

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#### You Can Make It Too!

Michael Warren's message will resonate with anyone who has had the fortitude to rise above obstacles, challenges and marked disadvantages from a very young age. Michael spent most of his early childhood in the foster care system. At age 8, Michael and his younger sister were adopted, but years later the adoption "failed." He then again, had to

spend time traveling from one temporary foster home to another. After "aging out" of the foster care system, he found himself facing homelessness. By then, Michael was pursuing a music education degree at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. Recognizing his circumstances, the university offered him emergency housing.

As he shared his story, Michael doesn't invite pity or even sympathy regarding his plight as a child and adolescent. "Things, and people, can and do turn around," he said as he spoke with the standing-room-only crowd at the ribbon-cutting ceremony at his new home in the Uptown Lofts Apartments on Feb. 26, just a few blocks from the university.

Mr. Warren is one of 24 graduates of foster care receiving assistance through ACTION-Housing, Inc.'s My Place Program based in the Uptown Lofts development. ACTION provides housing and intensive case management services to young people transitioning from foster care to adulthood in Allegheny County and who are either homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. For up to 24 months, the young adults receive housing in a one-bedroom apartment, are linked to education and employment opportunities and work with counselors to create a comprehensive life skills development plan. HUD provides funding for the My Place Program through its Continuum of Care grant administered by the Allegheny County Department of Human Services. The agency also supported the development of the Uptown Lofts through HOME funds administered by the Urban Redevelopment Authority of the City of Pittsburgh. The development collaboration included \$11 million in low-income tax credits purchased by BNY Mellon, three foundations, the Federal Home Loan Bank and the National Equity Fund.

#### **New Housing Options for Vulnerable Populations**

City of Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Director Jane Miller and other dignitaries and guests joined Mr. Warren, pictured at center, for the celebration of the first new construction in the city's Uptown neighborhood in decades. In addition to the 24 units for youth aging out of foster care, Uptown Lofts' two-building complex will provide 23 permanent affordable homes to individuals and families with low-incomes.

One of the buildings was built to Passive House Institute standards, so tightly insulated that its air exchange system saves 80 to 90 percent of the heating and cooling costs of conventional buildings. It is the largest multi-family affordable housing property to be certified by the Passive Housing Institute-U.S. The second was built to 2012 international energy code standards, enabling residents to save on their energy bills. The energy use will be compared over time to provide direction for future developments. ACTION-Housing is currently leasing Upton Lofts apartments to households that make a maximum of 60 percent of the median income. The rent is \$625 a month for one bedroom and \$745 for two bedrooms, utilities included and Section 8 vouchers are welcome.

Resident Michael Warren, who is looking forward to spreading hope to other youth transitioning from foster care as well as continuing to share his gift of music at this church and through mentoring activities, has a new adventure on the horizon. The gifted musician and vocalist—who sings in three languages—has been invited to be a guest performer at Bulgaria's National Music Festival this summer. Looks like Michael will have plenty to share when he returns to his new home at Uptown Lofts and Duquesne this fall.

Are you curious about how the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County are faring with the Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness? How about the results from the most recent 100 days of the Pittsburgh Rapid Results Boot Camp? PCTV-21's special segment highlighting the two local initiatives aired in late April and is now available to view online.

#### **Events & Announcements**

- May 1, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Homeless Children's Education Network Quarterly Meeting at the
   Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Liberty Room. Topics will include: Summer Melt &
   College-Bound Homeless Youth and Technology Roundtable: Engaging Youth & Families through Social Media, Apps and
   Other Virtual Support Networks. For questions, call (412) 562-0154 or <a href="mailto:lsaulle@homelessfund.org">lsaulle@homelessfund.org</a>. To register, visit
   homelessfund.org.
- May 5, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Where to Turn Resource Fair, David L. Lawrence Convention Center, 1000 Fort Duquesne Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. The event is free, but registration is required. For information, contact <a href="mailto:ehart@american-healthcare.net">ehart@american-healthcare.net</a> or (412) 563-8800.
- **June 10 to 12** Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency Statewide Housing Services Conference in Pittsburgh, Pa. Register at www.phfa.org/hsc.

# **VIRGINIA**

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#### Roanoke Receives Coveted \$3 Million Jobs-Plus Grant

WDBJ7's Joe Dashiell said it best in <a href="his evening report">his evening report</a>, "In a room full of dignitaries, Theo Boardley was the center of attention. A student in the culinary arts program of Virginia Western Community College, he works as a cook at Richfield Retirement Community. Thursday morning, he spoke about his efforts to improve his life, and the help he's received along the way. 'A lot of people think it's not possible, but it is possible,' Boardley told the audience. 'And it's possible because I took the first step. And they met me more than half of the way.'" When Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) Executive Director Glenda Edwards Goh was asked to identify a compelling "real people" story to help drive home the importance of the work HUD is doing to help public housing residents towards self-sufficiency, all involved had no idea the power of Theo's personal story.

"I know you all can picture this—we've got the Congressman and the Senator and the local officials and the TV cameras and the microphones, the standing room only crowd, the big check—yes, the big check—the \$3 million dollar check that's going to fund Roanoke's new Jobs-Plus Program



to provide employment and training services to the Authority's public housing residents," said Regional Administrator Jane C.W. Vincent as she spoke of the day's events



#### goodwillvalleys

Apr 03, 10:20am via Twitter Web Client

@HUDMidAtlantic Thanks for the RT and for all that you do to improve the lives of people and families in the Roanoke Valley and beyond!



#### WslsRachelLucas

P Apr 03, 1:07am via Twitter for iPhone

10.wsls.com/1Dsz1Uj Roanoke receives \$3 million grant from @HUDMidAtlantic



· Follow

@HUDMidAtlantic gave \$3M to #ROA for career dev! Theo is a success story from this culinary program w/ @SenEdwardsVA



in her keynote address to the Virginia Association of Housing and Community Development Officials on Apr. 29 in Virginia Beach. "So, great story? You bet. And, who do you think stole the show? Theo Boardley. Here's this young 31-year-old man with this beaming smile grinning from ear to ear telling us his story."

Talk about a star for the day. In his interviews he talked about how HUD's Family Self-Sufficiency program took him from homeless to being a productive member of his family and his community—in just two years. His children are getting A's in school. He has a vision to graduate, become a chef and own his own catering business. In one of the many tweets from the day pictured above, Theo Boardley stands proudly with Virginia State Senator John Edwards. At left, Theo joins Regional Administrator Jane C.W. Vincent for a photograph after the announcement.

#### Congratulations

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has allocated \$7.4 million in <a href="Homeland Security Grant Program">Homeland Security Grant Program</a> (HSGP) funds to Virginia for fiscal year 2015. These grants are provided to strengthen the commonwealth's ability to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies. In addition, the National Capital region will receive \$54 million for fiscal year 2015 as part of the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), a \$1 million increase from the previous fiscal year. UASI grants are provided for law enforcement and terrorism prevention and typically include training and exercises, updates to current planning and procedures, and lifecycle replacement of equipment.



The City of Richmond has been awarded a 2014 Environmental Protection Agency <u>Greening America's Capitals</u> grant to redesign a segment of Jefferson Avenue in the Union Hill and Church Hill neighborhoods. The redesigned community will feature improved storm water management, improved pedestrian and bicycle connections; and will encourage economic development. Greening America's Capitals is an EPA program that helps state capitals develop an implementable vision of environmentally friendly neighborhoods that incorporate innovative green infrastructure strategies. In collaboration with HUD and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), through the <u>Partnership for Sustainable Communities</u>, EPA provides design assistance to help support sustainable communities that protect the environment, economy, and public health and to inspire state leaders to expand this work elsewhere.

Pictured at right, Richmond hosted a meeting on Apr. 23 to kick-off the design process prior to a 2.5 day charrette, which is planned for May. The meeting included a walk-thru the target area to designate focus areas. Pictured left to right are EPA's Steve Donohue, Union Civic Association's Mary Field, City of Richmond's Mike Sawyer, Union Civic Association's Todd Waldo, Timmons' Thomas Ruff, Parker Rodriguez's Dennis Carmichael and Mila Antova.

#### **Events & Announcements**

- May 4 through 7 The <u>Virginia Association of Housing Counselors</u> 2015 Spring Conference will feature training, certification and educational workshops. For more information and to register, visit <u>virginiahousingcounselors.org</u>.
- May 25 through 31 AND August 7 through 9 Virginia Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holidays
- **DUE June 1** Workshop Proposals for the <u>2015 Virginia Volunteerism and Service Conference</u>, to be held in Roanoke September 30 and October 1. To learn more about <u>submitting a proposal</u>.
- July 15 Main Street Essentials Workshop in Lynchburg.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** Registration is now open for the Virginia Governor's Housing Conference, to be held in Hampton November 18 through 20. For more information and to register, visit the VGHC website.

# **WEST VIRGINIA**

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#### **Community Education Resource Council**

Five years ago, HUD's Senior Management Analyst Evie Williams developed the Community Education Resource Council (CERC) to provide educational opportunities to organizations that typically do not interact in their daily operations. What began as 12 members, the CERC has grown to over 300 individuals and organizations that meet each month for educational trainings. From Emergency Preparation in Multifamily Housing, Fire Prevention and Hazardous Situations, Mental Health resources, Alzheimer, Affordable Health Care, Nutrition and Food Banks, Senior Services, Medicaid and Medicare, Drugs in the Community to Bed Bugs, members find the educational information is valuable and on-point for their needs. In addition, there are opportunities for additional collaboration outside of the meeting format from the networks of support that are created. Through outreach the

CERC has become known as an added resource for the community. Held in Charleston, the CERC monthly meetings and trainings are free of charge; statewide participation allows for increase community knowledge. The Feb. 25 and Apr. 8 trainings provide educational information on bed bugs and their effects on housing, shelters, social services, public education and economic loss. Phillip Smith with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, pictured above, and Bruce Perrone with Legal Aid of West

Virginia conducted the trainings that attracted more than 100 participants from local housing authorities, multifamily properties, USDA properties, shelters, transitional housing, public school systems, family resource centers, mental comprehensive hospitals, health systems and representatives from the VA. The presentation included information on Bed Bug Overview - What and Why, Costs Associated with Bed Bugs, Treatments, Realistic Expectations, Proactive Response Plans, Early Detection, Media Response, Bed Bugs and WV Landlord-Tenant Law: No Easy Answers. CERC welcomes new members and training topic suggestions. For more information contact Evie Williams at <a href="mailto:Evie.Williams@hud.gov">Evie.Williams@hud.gov</a>

#### **Events & Announcements**

• May 9, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. – The Kanawha Valley Collective invites you to join in its Spring Community Outreach Event to engage and provide education to individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness on "their turf and their terms." Our goal is that all individuals experiencing homelessness can gain access to services including housing referrals and resources, mental health information, medical screenings, VA services and other programs/services (depending on exhibitor participation). The event will be at Davis Park in downtown Charleston. For more information, please contact David Bennett at dbennett@wvcovenanthouse.org

# 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.
- <u>Wells Fargo Homeownership</u> 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.
- Kresge Foundation is accepting applications for funding for its <u>Advancing the Effectiveness and Resilience of Multi-Service</u>
   Organizations grant program.
- Kresge Foundation is accepting applications for funding for its <u>Healthy Environments</u> grant program.
- <u>The Coca Cola Foundation</u> offers grants to support programs that focus on: water stewardship; healthy and active lifestyles that lead to physical activity and nutritional education programs; community recycling; and education.
- The Macy's Foundation provides grants to organizations that are focused on women's issues.

#### **Upcoming Deadlines**

- **DUE MAY 4** Pre-Applications for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program. TIGER 2015 discretionary grants will fund capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure and will be awarded on a competitive basis to projects that will have a significant impact on the nation, a region, or metropolitan area. The \$500 million grant program will focus on capital projects that generate economic development and improve access to reliable, safe and affordable transportation for disconnected both urban and rural, while emphasizing improved connection to employment, education, services and other opportunities, workforce development, or community revitalization. The Pre-Application deadline is May 4; Final Application deadline is June 5. For more information on the 2015 TIGER 2015 Grant program, please visit: Notice of Funding Availability, 2015 Webinar Series, How to Apply and the Fact Sheet. Prospective applicants are encouraged to look through Frequently Asked Questions, past webinars, and other guidance by exploring the links on the left side of the page. For more insight, visit <a href="https://www.dot.gov/tiger">https://www.dot.gov/tiger</a>.
- DUE May 14 Applications for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Market and the Local Food Promotion Programs to help create market opportunities and facilitate connections within local and regional food systems. The Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program provide a combined total of \$26.6 million divided equally between its two grant programs. The Farmers Market Promotion Program provides \$13.3 million to support projects for direct farmer-to-consumer marketing projects such as farmers markets, community-supported agriculture programs, roadside stands, and agritourism. The Local Food Promotion Program offers \$13.3 million in funds for projects that support intermediary supply chain activities for businesses that process, distribute, aggregate and store locally- or regionally-

produced food products. Applications are accepted through <u>www.Grants.gov</u>. For more details, visit the AMS Grant Programs website.

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service Technical Assistance (AMSTA) initiative shares knowledge through an in-person grant writing workshop in each US state, as well as additional tools and materials provided through the AMSTA website. Workshops will focus on effective grant-writing practices, with an emphasis on USDA's Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program. This is a partnership between USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to conduct workshops that will help potential grant applicants understand, develop, and submit their Federal grant applications for the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program. View a list of upcoming grant workshop dates and locations at the AMSTA website. More workshops will be added soon, and the State representatives listed on the website can be contacted for additional information about upcoming workshops. Some of the workshop sessions will be recorded and available for online viewing for those not able to attend in person.
- **DUE JUNE 3** Letter of Intent to Apply for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) funding opportunity for organizations and individuals to operate as Navigators in Federally-facilitated Marketplaces (FFMs), including State Partnership Marketplaces (SPMs). As they did have done over the past two years, and as they are doing now, Navigators will continue to assist consumers in various ways, including providing information about available coverage options through the Marketplace during open enrollment. This year applicants are encouraged to demonstrate a focus on rural, underserved, vulnerable, or special needs populations or communities, and a commitment to serve these populations or communities. HHS will award up to \$67,000,000 to recipients across all service areas of FFMs (including SPMs). Applications are due June 15 with an anticipated award date of Sept. 2. To see the FOA for the Cooperative Agreement to Support Navigators in Federally-facilitated and State Partnership Marketplaces go to Grants.gov and search for CFDA 93.332.
- **DUE JUNE 4** Applications for the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Office of Employment and Training Administration (ETA) YouthBuild, a community-based alternative education program that provides job training and educational opportunities for at-risk youth ages 16-24. Youth learn construction skills while constructing or rehabilitating affordable housing for low-income or homeless families in their own neighborhoods. YouthBuild includes significant support systems, such as a mentoring, follow-up education, employment, and personal counseling services; and participation in community service and civic engagement. There are over 220 DOL funded YouthBuild programs in 43 states serving over 6,000 youth per year. In Fiscal Year 2015, individual grants will range from \$700,000 to \$1.1 million and require an exact 25 percent match from applicants, using sources other than federal funding. For more information on YouthBuild, please visit the YouthBuild Information web page. The YouthBuild Funding Opportunity Announcement is available here.

# REGION III HUDLINE NEWS

We welcome your feedback and invite you to share your news with Lisa A. Wolfe at <a href="lisa.a.wolfe@hud.gov">lisa.a.wolfe@hud.gov</a>. 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 HUDLine News. We safeguard our lists and do not rent, sell or permit the use of our lists.