



REGION III HUDLINE NEWS

February 2015

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A MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

A budget reflects a nation's priorities and values. In early February, President Obama released his Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, which would lay the foundation for a future where opportunity is available to more Americans. His plan would reverse harmful sequestration cuts and instead invest in an economy that rewards hard work, makes paychecks go further and allows every person to participate in the prosperity of a growing nation.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is central to this work. We are the Department of Opportunity because, every day, we help people from all walks of life lift themselves up and better their lives. The proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget (FY2016 or Budget) would provide HUD with additional resources to advance our mission. It proposes increasing HUD's funding level to \$49.3 billion—nearly \$4 billion more than Fiscal Year 2015's enacted level. From expanding access to affordable housing, to helping more responsible Americans become homeowners, to supporting local leaders as they revitalize their communities; this Budget would provide us with additional tools to move our economy and nation forward.

Helping Families Secure Quality Housing

HUD's FY2016 Budget maintains a core commitment to provide opportunity for families receiving rental assistance and those households seeking homeownership. **This includes funding all existing rental assistance vouchers serving 2.4 million low-income households and restoring 67,000 vouchers lost in 2013 due to sequestration.**

The Budget helps families and individuals secure quality housing by ensuring that quality, attainable housing—for ownership and rent—is available and affordable to individuals and families across a range of incomes. We want to make it easier for people who are ready for the responsibilities of homeownership by increasing access to credit. When it comes to rental housing, our nation is in the midst of a severe and growing affordability challenge. To meet this challenge, HUD must continue to seek innovative ways to both preserve and create affordable rental housing. The FY2016 Budget provides opportunities for families and individuals to secure quality housing in a number of current programs as well as a few new ones.



The request would provide **\$177 million for Housing for Persons with Disabilities**, including \$150 million to fully fund renewals for 1,800 housing properties with more than 21,000 units; and would provide an additional \$25 million for new Section 811 Project Rental Assistance awards that will support about 700 new units. Providing affordable housing for individuals with disabilities is a priority of the agency and was the topic of a recent hearing held by the Philadelphia City Council Committee on the Disabled and Special Needs. I joined former HUD Special Advisor Estelle Richman, pictured at left with me, to provide testimony on behalf of HUD's funding and support for individuals with disabilities.

HUD has proposed 37,000 new **Need-Based vouchers** for Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) based on an allocation method that captures relative need. **Vouchers for Victims of Domestic and Dating Violence** would provide approximately 4,900 vouchers to help victims

currently living in assisted housing with emergency relocation. A new **Family Unification Program** would provide about 2,600 vouchers to allow youth aging out of foster care to use a voucher for five years after aging out, an increase from 18 months.

Ending Homelessness

The budget supports ending homelessness by continuing to work closely with our federal, state, and local partners. We've made tremendous progress in recent years, including a 21 percent drop in chronic homelessness and a 33 percent drop in veteran homelessness. To achieve the goal of ending homelessness, we've got to build on what we know works and by strengthening interagency collaboration and investing in proven approaches such as Housing First. I had the pleasure of celebrating our success in housing veterans when I joined Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe and his team to announce that



they had housed 462 veterans in their first 100 Day Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness. I'm pictured in the center along with Virginia Field Office Director Carrie Schmidt to my right and the others involved in that great effort as we gathered at the Virginia War Memorial on Feb. 5. You'll find more about that day in the Virginia section of *HUDLine News*.

HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants are our nation's largest Federal investment in combating homelessness. **This Budget moves us towards achieving the ambitious goals set by the President in *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness***; ending homelessness among veterans by 2015, ending chronic homelessness by 2017 and ending child, family and youth homelessness by 2020.

We know that interventions such as permanent supportive housing save taxpayers money. In fact, we can't afford not to end chronic homelessness. Research shows that just one person experiencing chronic homeless can cost communities between \$30,000 to \$50,000 per year in things like avoidable emergency room visits and incarceration.

With the funding for 15,000 rapid re-housing interventions requested in FY2016, we can **stay the course to ending family homelessness by 2020**. Our request also includes funding for 25,500 new permanent supportive housing beds for people experiencing chronic homelessness, which will help achieve the goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2017

And, as part of our tenant-based rental assistance efforts, we're proposing to extend tenant-based vouchers to **families** at risk of homelessness, including **veterans** regardless of discharge status. These vouchers are modeled on VASH successes—awarded competitively to PHAs with great need and partners PHAs with local Continuum of Care to identify families.

Strengthening All Communities in this Century of Cities

To provide opportunity for all, we're working with individuals and families to help them prepare for the growth they are experiencing in their communities. The Census Bureau projects that the U.S. population will grow by 80 million people by 2050, and estimates are that at least 80 percent of that growth (over 60 million people) will come in urban areas. Our place-based efforts that empower local communities should be at the forefront of this work.

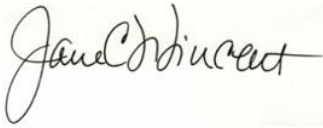
The Budget will expand opportunity in high poverty areas by investing \$250 million to transform neighborhoods through the **Choice Neighborhoods Program**. HUD is also proposing to expand the authority it offers to select PHAs through **Moving to Work** to provide PHAs greater flexibility to make local decisions about how to operate their housing programs and test innovative ways to improve self-sufficiency, mobility, academic performance and other outcomes for HUD-assisted tenants.

HUD is proposing to eliminate the current cap under its **Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD)** program and provide \$50 million to help local public housing agencies to finance the recapitalization of more than 180,000 units of public housing and stimulate private investment. The Budget includes a request of \$100 million for Jobs-Plus, an \$85 million increase from FY 2015, that provides intensive, employment-focused programs targeting every able-bodied, working-age welfare recipient at a public housing development. To further encourage self-sufficiency among HUD-assisted households, the Budget seeks \$85 million for the **Family Self-Sufficiency Program** to fund approximately 1,600 Family Self-Sufficiency Program Coordinators who will serve approximately 80,000 families to boost savings, earnings, and employment rates among program participants.

This Budget works to level the playing field for Americans from all walks of life by continuing our fair housing efforts, to help ensure that every American has the chance to pursue housing opportunities free from discrimination. **And, addresses climate change and natural disasters** by continuing our work within the President's Climate Action Plan and strengthening communities' ability to be economically resilient in the face of a changing climate and natural disasters.

The Budget reflects our core vision as the Department of Opportunity, and **invests in building a stronger HUD** by improving the way we do business and more effectively deliver on our mission of creating opportunity for all. We continue to do this through measuring outcomes, increasing transparency, enhancing accountability and engaging in interagency collaboration.

As you know, there are many steps in the budgeting process before we get to Oct. 1, 2015, when the next fiscal year begins. But, this is an important first step. To learn more about the specifics of HUD's proposal, I encourage you to [visit hud.gov](http://visit.hud.gov).



Jane C.W. Vincent, Region III Regional Administrator



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Grant Announcements

HUD awarded nearly **\$1.8 billion to public housing authorities in all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, to make major large-scale improvements to their public housing units.** [The grants](#) are provided through HUD's [Capital Fund Program](#), which offers annual funding to approximately 3,100 public housing authorities to build, repair, renovate and/or modernize the public housing in their communities. Public housing authorities in the Mid-Atlantic region will receive \$197 million in funding to address significant repairs and large-scale improvements, ranging from roof replacements to energy-efficient upgrades of old plumbing and electrical systems. For more than 75 years, the federal government has been investing billions of dollars in developing and maintaining public and multifamily housing—including providing critical support through the Capital Fund grants. Still, the nation continues to lose approximately 10,000 public housing units each year, primarily due to disrepair. In 2011, HUD released [Capital Needs in the Public Housing Program](#), a study that estimated the capital needs in the public housing stock in the U.S. The study found the nation's 1.1 million public housing units are facing an estimated \$25.6 billion in large-scale repairs.

On Feb. 10, **HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development announced the FY 2015 formula allocations for CDBG, HOME, ESG and HOPWA grantees.** The allocation amounts are posted on [HUD's website](#). CPD-14-015, [Guidance on submitting Consolidated Plans and Annual Action Plans for Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2015](#), instructs grantees to submit their FY 2015 Consolidated Plans or Action Plans once HUD announces the FY 2015 allocation amounts. This Notice gives grantees 60 days after the announcement of allocations to incorporate the actual allocation amounts and submit their Consolidated Plan/Action Plan. Grantees should contact their field office if they have additional questions about the timing and content of their FY 2015 Consolidated Plan/Action Plan submission.

In an effort to help public housing residents find job opportunities, **HUD awarded nearly \$36 million in [Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency – Service Coordinators Program](#) (ROSS-SC) grants to public housing authorities and non-profit organizations across the nation to hire or retain service coordinators to help residents achieve economic and housing independence.** The funding will also link the elderly and people with disabilities with supportive services that allow them to maintain independent living and age-in-place. The purpose of HUD's ROSS-SC program is to encourage local, innovative strategies that link public housing assistance with public and private resources to enable participating families to increase earned income; reduce or eliminate the need for welfare assistance; and make progress toward achieving economic independence and housing self-sufficiency. In the Mid-Atlantic region, nearly \$3.9 million in grants were awarded to nonprofits in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

In response to comments received on the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) Notice of Funding Availability's (NOFA) 60-day Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) Notice, **HUD has added a new form to clarify the Most Impacted and Distressed Unmet Recovery Need (MID-URN) threshold requirement.** The MID-URN Checklist Form is included in the [30-Day PRA Notice](#). [View the MID-URN Checklist Form](#). NDRC applicants will be required to complete a checklist for each target area for grant expenditure in their application and submit it in addition to the most impacted and distressed threshold response narrative. On March 5, HUD will host a webinar to walk through the checklist and answer questions about the MID-URN requirement prior to the NDRC Phase 1 Submission Deadline.

Other Announcements

HUD issued guidance to better serve Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Americans seeking to obtain a home loan and transgender individuals seeking access to homeless shelters. These two sets of guidance will help clarify the [Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity Rule](#) (Equal Access Rule), which was published in 2012. The Equal Access Rule ensures that housing across HUD programs is open to all eligible individuals regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status. HUD's guidance on [program eligibility for HUD assisted and insured housing programs](#) includes an equal access provision making clear that housing that is financed or insured by HUD must be made available without regard to actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. It also prohibits owners and operators of HUD-funded housing, or housing who's financing was insured by HUD, from inquiring about an applicant's sexual orientation or gender identity or denying housing on that basis. HUD also issued guidance on how to best [serve transgender persons in single-sex shelter facilities](#). The guidance will help address the fact that almost 40 percent of homeless youth are LGBT, and the majority of them report harassment, difficulty, or even sexual assault when trying to access homeless shelters.

The [Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation](#) at Harvard University's [Kennedy School of Government](#) announced [its 2015 Bright Ideas honorees](#), recognizing 124 innovative ideas across all levels of government. **HUD garnered two of the prestigious awards** including one for the joint Departments of Veteran Affairs and Housing and Urban Development Department Homelessness Analytics Initiative which provides access to national, state and local services and information directed at helping the homeless as well as the White House Council's Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative, which embeds teams of federal experts directly in city halls across the country to help local officials identify flexible, coordinated uses for federal resources.

HUD continues to receive important questions from communities regarding the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program through the HUD Exchange Ask A Question (AAQ) portal. This week, a new set of seven Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for ESG has been posted. These and other ESG FAQs can be found by visiting the [ESG FAQs page](#) on the HUD Exchange. Topics addressed in this set include: [Paying for "overhead costs" and fringe benefits with ESG funds](#); [Using CSBG funds as match for ESG Program funds](#) and [Documenting eligibility for ESG in emergency shelters](#) and more.

Publications, Studies & Resources

HUD released the Executive Summary of "Worst Case Housing Needs: 2015 Report to Congress." The study found that the number of very poor families struggling to pay their monthly rent and who may also be living in substandard housing declined between 2011 and 2013, but persists at high levels. **HUD reports that in 2013, 7.7 million very low-income unassisted families paid more** than half their monthly income for rent, lived in severely substandard housing, or both. This study is part of a long-term series of reports measuring the scale of critical housing problems facing very low-income un-assisted renters. Based on data from HUD's most recent American Housing Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of these "Worst Case Housing Needs" declined from the previous record high in 2011 (8.5 million households) yet remains nearly 50 percent higher than in 2003. HUD will issue a final report on these worst case needs this spring. The executive summary as well as the full publication can be accessed on [huduser.org](#).

HUD'S Office of Policy Development & Research's **U.S. Housing Market Conditions (USHMC) website contains national, regional, state, metropolitan, and local data and analysis in one location.** [Featured USHMC charts](#) highlight trends in the rental vacancy rate.

The recently released [2014 Choice Neighborhoods Grantee Conference Report](#) **highlights key successes and lessons from Choice Neighborhoods grantees and is a practical tool for local leaders who seek to revitalize struggling neighborhoods.** In the report, grantees and experts provide concrete details about what was critical to their success and the steps they took to secure these key elements. Several grantee stories featured in the report have also been showcased in a new [HUD blog post](#).

The [Promise Neighborhoods Training and Technical Assistance Center](#) is now live. **The site is designed for Promise Neighborhoods grantees and any community that is interested in improving cradle-to-career education results for its children.** The site offers a toolbox, including evidence-based solutions to reach education goals; best practices in data use, partnerships, finance, and other capacity-building topics; and webinars.

What Do You Think?

- **Mar. 9** – [Comments](#) are due on regulatory [updates](#) that would put recent statutory changes into effect and align program requirements for Housing Choice Vouchers (tenant- and project-based) and public housing, Section 202, Section 811 and other multifamily housing programs are also affected, as well as HOME, the Continuum of Care program and HOPWA.
- **Mar. 16** – [Comments](#) are due on HUD's proposed changes for project-based Section 8 and Section 202 programs. [One proposed rule](#) would amend HUD's regulations for Management and Occupancy Reviews (MORs) at project-based Section 8 properties, and reduce payments HUD makes to owners for vacant project-based Section 8 or Section 202 units. [Another](#) would reduce the frequency of MORs.
- **Apr. 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 Stakeholder Input](#) 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. Listening sessions, including a March 11 event in Hampton Roads, Va., will be held in locations across the country.

HUD FEDERAL REGISTER RULES, NOTICES & FUNDING

Proposed Rules

[Federal Housing Administration \(FHA\): Standardizing Method of Payment for FHA Insurance Claims](#)

[Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program: Payment of Fees To Cover Credit Subsidy Costs](#)

[Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program: Announcement of Proposed Fee To Cover Credit Subsidy Costs and Solicitation of Comment](#)

Rules

[HUD's Qualified Mortgage Rule: Annual Threshold Adjustments to the Points and Fees Limit](#)

[Removal of Obsolete Section 8 Rental Assistance Certificate Program Regulations](#)

[Housing Trust Fund](#)

Notices

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

[Rental Assistance Demonstration \(RAD\)-Alternative Requirements or Waivers: Waiving and Specifying Alternative Requirements for the 20 Percent Portfolio Cap on Project-Basing and Certain Tenant Protection and Participation Provisions for the San Francisco Housing Authority's RAD Projects](#)

[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Section 3 Business Self-Certification Application](#)

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

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

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Comment Request; Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Program](#)

[Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program-Annual Adjustment Factors, Fiscal Year 2015](#)

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Comment Request; CDBG Urban County Qualification/Requalification Processes](#)

[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-Solicitation of Comment](#)

[Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988-Computer Matching Program Between the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\), Office of Inspector General \(OIG\) and the Office of Personnel Management \(OPM\)](#)

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Family Unification Program](#)

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

[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: New Construction Subterranean Termite Protection for New Homes](#)

[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Manufactured Housing Dispute Resolution](#)

[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: 2015 American Housing Survey](#)

[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Ginnie Mae Mortgage-Backed Securities Guide 5500.3, Revision 1 \(Forms and Electronic Data Submissions\)](#)

[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Revision of Transformation Initiative: Sustainable Construction in Indian Country Small Grant Program](#)

[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Housing Search Process for Racial/Ethnic Minorities](#)

[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Community Challenge Planning Grant Program](#)

[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: National Disaster Resilience Competition \(NDRC\) Phase 1 and Phase 2 Application and Community Development Block Grant National Disaster Resilience \(CDBG-NDR\) Pre- and Post-Award Planning and Reporting ...](#)

[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Application for Fee or Roster Personnel \(Appraisers and Inspectors\) Designation and Appraisal Reports](#)

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

[Mortgage and Loan Insurance Programs Under the National Housing Act-Debenture Interest Rates](#)

[Rental Assistance Demonstration \(RAD\)-Updated Application Review and Commitments To Enter Into Housing Assistance Payment Contracts \(CHAPs\) Issuance Process for First Component RAD Transactions](#)

For the complete listing, visit the [Federal Register](#).

Funding Notices

EXTENDED Mar. 27 – [National Disaster Resilience Competition](#)

AROUND THE REGION, DELAWARE

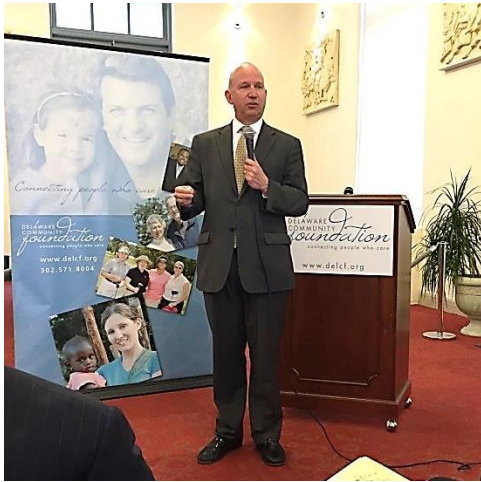
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Housing and Community Development Funding Information

Sussex County agencies and residents gathered at the Warren L. & Charles C. Allen, Jr. CHEER Community Center in Georgetown on Feb. 20 to learn about federal, state and local funding sources to finance affordable housing and community development. The Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA) hosted the event so that attendees could see the breadth of options. With the information, they can make decisions about leveraging resources, collaborating with other organizations to apply for funding and/or tapping technical assistance to develop affordable housing, infrastructure

improvements and community and economic development. Pictured at right, HUD's Nadab Bynum, Director of Community Planning and Development, gave an overview of the uses of the [Community Development Block Grant](#) funds that flow through DSHA to Sussex County and its communities. The program provides grants based on a formula to address a range of unique community needs. DSHA's Cindy Deakyne, pictured left in turn, explained how the funds are distributed and its monitoring responsibilities. Sussex County Community Development and Housing Director Brad Whaley, pictured in center, outlined how his office uses the input from the [First State Community Action Agency](#) and community residents to help identify and prioritize the housing needs of rural communities. Other financing sources discussed included affordable housing creation through the [Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh](#) and [DSHA's Housing Development Fund](#) along with community development financing through [USDA Rural Development](#) and the [NCALL Loan Fund](#).





Developing a Vision for Delaware's Future

The Delaware Community Foundation (DCF) announced it is developing a data-based community profile for Delaware. The plan is to work with community leaders to build a statewide, data-driven civic agenda. The statistical information and the accompanying narrative, both statewide and by county, will illustrate various social, economic and environmental issues. The data and analyses will help decision makers and community members identify their community's relative weaknesses and strengths, set priorities and evaluate program-related outcomes, track progress in key areas over time, compare regional trends to state and national benchmarks and foster community dialogue about top issues and challenges. "I think the only way we are going to advance as a State, for decades to come and for generations to come, is if we have the courage to look in the mirror and say that we have work to do," said Delaware Governor Jack Markell. "This effort will be particularly helpful in bringing stakeholders together focused on the

same issues." The publicly accessible database is expected to launch this year. By the end of the year, DCF will issue an analysis of the data, outlining the insights provided and the trends revealed. The report will be updated annually and the online data will be updated more frequently to allow for continual monitoring of the community's evolving needs.

Governor Markell Announces Recipients of Funding From the Strong Neighborhoods Housing Fund

On Feb. 12, Governor Jack Markell joined Delaware State Housing Authority Director Anas Ben Addi and Attorney General Matt Denn, along with HUD's Jane Vincent and Maria Bynum and other officials pictured at right, to announce the recipients of \$2.7 million from the Strong Neighborhoods Housing Fund—a revolving fund will support community development, address crime strategies and transform neighborhoods that are experiencing blight or other forms of stress. The funding was made available to organizations through a competitive application process in targeted Delaware areas. The following applications were chosen for funding: Central Delaware Habitat for Humanity, \$672,191; Interfaith Community Housing of Delaware, Inc., \$742,809; New Castle County Department of Community Services, \$500,000; and the Wilmington Housing Partnership, \$840,000. The funds will be used for the acquisition, renovation and sale of vacant, abandoned and foreclosed properties throughout the First State. Some of the funds received from the JPMorgan Chase Mortgage Settlement last year were allocated by the General Assembly to DSHA as part of its Fiscal Year 2015 appropriation to establish the Strong Neighborhoods Housing Fund. To learn more about the Strong Neighborhoods Housing Fund, [click here](#) or call DSHA's Public Information Office at (888) 363-8808.



The following applications were chosen for funding: Central Delaware Habitat for Humanity, \$672,191; Interfaith Community Housing of Delaware, Inc., \$742,809; New Castle County Department of Community Services, \$500,000; and the Wilmington Housing Partnership, \$840,000. The funds will be used for the acquisition, renovation and sale of vacant, abandoned and foreclosed properties throughout the First State. Some of the funds received from the JPMorgan Chase Mortgage Settlement last year were allocated by the General Assembly to DSHA as part of its Fiscal Year 2015 appropriation to establish the Strong Neighborhoods Housing Fund. To learn more about the Strong Neighborhoods Housing Fund, [click here](#) or call DSHA's Public Information Office at (888) 363-8808.

Events & Announcements

- **Mar. 17, 5:30 p.m.** – Liberty Court Community Building, 1289 W. Walker Road, Dover, Del., OR
- **Mar. 19, 5:30 p.m.** – Burton Village Community Building, 37511 Burton Village Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, Del. **Delaware State Housing Authority will conduct two Public Hearings concerning their submission of HUD's Moving to Work Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2016.** This Plan outlines the activities of the Moving to Work Program as well as the sources and uses of funding that DSHA will implement during the 16th year of the Moving to Work Demonstration. After the comment period ends on Apr. 3, the plan will be finalized and submitted to HUD for final approval. Written comments, questions, or requests for additional information, please contact DSHA's Christopher Whaley by calling (302) 739-7419.
- **Mar. 21, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.** – **Delaware State Housing Authority and Delaware Financial Literacy Institute/The Money School 5th Annual Homebuyer Fair** at the Chase Center on the Riverfront, Wilmington, De. Visit www.destatehousing.com/NewsAndEvents/money_school.php or call (877) 307-6858.
- **DUE Apr. 30, 3 p.m.** – Applications for submissions for the **2015 Low Income Housing Tax Credit Qualified Allocation Plan.** For more information, visit the [Delaware State Housing Authority website](#).
- **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 [DE NAHRO website](#) or contact Paula Sims at (302) 738-0915 or email paulasims1@yahoo.com.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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Six Families “Welcomed Home” During Kate’s Place Ribbon-Cutting

Six formerly homeless families were “welcomed home” on Feb. 23 as the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness, Shelter House, Inc. and HUD officially celebrated the opening of the new Kate’s Place residences. Kate’s Place is a supported affordable housing option for Fairfax County families who have experienced frequent and prolonged homelessness, who have no other



housing options, and who would benefit from supportive services to stabilize their housing. Some of these services, such as job search assistance, computer literacy, and after school tutoring programs can be provided at the shelter immediately adjacent to Kate’s Place. The actual facility consists of six housing units. Two are fully handicap accessible, two -bedroom units and the remaining four are three-bedroom units. All are designed with a family living environment in mind. The \$2.1 million development was funded through the federal HOME Investment Partnership Program and the local Fairfax County Housing Trust Fund. To learn about the ribbon cutting and the partnerships to create and oversee Kate’s Place, visit fairfaxcounty.gov. Director Marvin Turner, pictured above at far left, joins the other dignitaries in cutting the ribbon and also takes a moment to congratulate Fairfax County’s Office to Prevent and End Homelessness Director Dean Klein, pictured at left, at the event. Ribbon cutting photograph courtesy of Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance.

HUD Provides Insight to American Legion Leadership at Annual Conference

More than 50 of The American Legion’s leadership from across the country participated in a roundtable discussion focused on issues that transitioning service members and veterans face during the Legion’s annual conference in Washington, DC on Feb. 23. Joining Department of Labor’s Timothy Green, Joint Base Andrews’ Rickey Hopkins and U.S. Army Reserves’ Major Charles Fowler in a panel discussion about challenges of service members as they exit the military, HUD’s Christine Jenkins helped the attending commissioners gain a better understanding of the HUD-VASH Program, housing initiatives/benefits for veterans and relevant contact information regarding housing issues in their respective states.

“HUD participation was needed and well received,” said organizer Mark Walker who serves as Deputy Director of the National Veterans Employment & Education Division for The American Legion and organized the event. “I received comments from commission members that they didn’t know that HUD had such a presence in local communities.

“As you know, veterans have unique challenges—physical and mental disabilities, partial education, no network or civilian experience—consequently, these roundtables are vital to finding ways to better assist these men and women as they transition,” he added. In addition to the roundtable discussion, HUD’s Belinda Fadlelmola joined Ms. Jenkins to field questions and concerns as well as to provide useful information to the attendees.

Columbia Hills Apartments Approved By the Arlington County Board

The Arlington County Board unanimously voted to approve Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing’s (APAH) Use Permit to develop The Columbia Hills Apartments on Feb. 24—putting APAH one step closer to its goal of building 229 new, affordable homes in the revitalizing Columbia Pike corridor. [Columbia Hills’ features](#) include a new, eight-story concrete building atop underground parking, a community room for resident programs, a new playground, 13 accessible units of which 10 units are designated for permanent supportive housing. No residents will be displaced during construction. If successful in their application for an allocation of Low Income Housing Tax Credit and state bond financing, APAH will start construction on Columbia Hills in spring 2016 and open in 2018. For more information, [visit apah.org](http://apah.org). Rendering courtesy of KGD Architecture.



MARYLAND

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DHCD Secretary-designate Introduced at Maryland Housing Day

Maryland Housing Day is an annual event sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Coalition to remind lawmakers of the importance of affordable housing—not only to the working families, senior citizens and special needs persons, but to the state's economy. Held in Annapolis, the event offered stakeholders one of their first opportunities to meet Maryland's Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Secretary-designate Kenneth C. Holt, pictured at right. Holt, a former legislator and business owner with 25 years high-level experience in the financial markets, said community activism was a significant part of his formative development. He told those assembled at the Feb. 12 event that he will look to find innovative ways “to accomplish more with what we have. But the merit of our programs and initiatives eventually will result in more funds.” Photograph and story courtesy of the DHCD website.



Addressing Equity in the Revitalization of Legacy Cities

Older industrial cities that have experienced significant job and population losses may have assets, or legacies, that make regeneration and revitalization possible. Legacy cities such as Baltimore and Cincinnati are in the midst of such an economic and population revival. Existing infrastructure, public transportation networks, and historic charm are all assets that can enable legacy cities to thrive. Admittedly, growth often occurs unevenly; while downtown areas thrive, surrounding neighborhoods decline. City

residents are unable to access a city's jobs, leading to an imbalance between jobs and housing. Recent research has focused on addressing these issues and promoting equity in revitalization efforts. Adaption to new economic trends has been slower in legacy cities compared with other cities such as Boston and Washington, D.C. A report focused on revitalization in legacy cities released by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Regenerating America's Legacy Cities, notes that although these cities have many assets and opportunities, several factors prevent robust revitalization. These factors include high rates of poverty and unemployment among residents and widespread vacancy, abandonment, and underutilization of land. Legacy cities have significantly higher rates of poverty and lower levels of educational attainment than do other cities. Legacy cities also have high unemployment rates. The challenges and opportunities for fostering inclusive revitalization in legacy cities were discussed at the 2015 New Partners for Smart Growth conference, entitled “Regenerating Legacy Cities: Creating Opportunity, Fostering Inclusion” held on Jan. 29 through 31 in Baltimore. For more on the story, visit HUD's PD&R Edge online magazine.

DHCD Launches Initiative to Increase Access to Fresh and Healthy Foods in Maryland's "Food Deserts"

Maryland is joining the growing movement to expand access to fresh fruits and vegetables in under-served communities known as food deserts. Food deserts are communities that do not have easy access to affordable healthy foods, typically because those communities do not have a local supermarket or grocery store. They can be in urban, suburban or rural communities.

Maryland's Fresh Food Financing Initiative provides flexible financing for the start-up, rehabilitation or expansion of businesses and nonprofits in designated food desert or sustainable communities with an emphasis on using Maryland farmers. The goal is to invest in lending partners that will in turn support the development of food-related enterprises within designated Food Deserts and Sustainable Communities. Applications are now available for local governments seeking to designate a neighborhood as a food desert, as well as for community development financial institutions seeking to become intermediaries that will originate and administer loans. For more information, contact DHCD's Business Lending Programs Director Michael Haloskey by calling (410) 514-7237 or email Michael.haloskey@maryland.gov.

The **Baltimore CASH Campaign** strives to provide working families access to the tools and services they need to maximize their earning dollars. Free services are provided to low- to moderate-income taxpayers. Trained and certified volunteers prepare and e-file taxes for free and even help set up direct deposits for faster refunds. For more information, visit www.baltimorecashcampaign.org.

Baltimore County's Northwest Gateways Named As One of Five New Sustainable Communities

On Feb. 11, DHCD announced the addition of five new Sustainable Communities, bringing the statewide total to 82. With at least one designated Sustainable Community in each of Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City, the program seeks to strengthen reinvestment and revitalization in the state's older communities through state, local and private sector partnerships. Baltimore County's Northwest Gateways area is the seventh Sustainable Community in Baltimore County. The redevelopment targets the Liberty and Reisterstown Road corridors and includes various commercial revitalization nodes, the Fieldstone and Sudbrook Park historic districts and the Old Court and Millford Mill Metro Stations. That redevelopment includes the Greens at Liberty, a new construction senior rental project supported with HUD's HOME program and Tax Credit Assistance Program (TCAP) funding. Key revitalization strategies include renovating or redeveloping deteriorating commercial buildings and strip shopping centers, improving aesthetic appeal of streetscape, upgrading curbs, sidewalks, alleys and other infrastructure, offering no or low-interest loans to low-moderate income home owners for energy efficiency upgrades and working with the State Highway Administration to improve pedestrian, bike and transit access. The towns of Myersville in Frederick County, Betterton in Kent County, Millington in Kent and Queen Anne's Counties and Oxford in Talbot County were the remaining designated communities. To learn more, visit the [DHCD website](#).

Events & Announcements

- **May 21 – SAVE THE DATE! HUD's Baltimore and National Capital Area Field Offices will host a special Smoke-Free Housing Symposium** at the Anne Arundel County Medical Center, 2000 Medical Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401. Details to follow in the March 2015 edition of Region III HUDLine News.

PENNSYLVANIA – EASTERN REGION

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Chester County Housing Authority Launches Community Partnership to House 100 Veterans in 100 Days

The Chester County Housing Authority in southeastern Pennsylvania has launched a new campaign for finding at least 100 veterans suitable homes in the next 100 days. The Authority announced Feb. 23 that it would partner with a diverse group of community agencies, including

departments at the county and federal level, to work toward ending homelessness in the county. "We want veterans in the community to know that we feel privileged to be able to help them meet their housing needs," said Chester County Housing Authority Executive Director Dale Gravett. "Multiple organizations comprise the team working on this initiative, but we all are united in working toward the common goal of ending veteran homelessness."

Eric Ramoth in HUD's Philadelphia Office of Field Policy and Management (FPM) attended the county's campaign kickoff to learn more about the goal of finding homes for 100 veterans by June 3. At the meeting, housing targets were established for the various organizations, along with the development of a core implementation and oversight committee. "It was great to see firsthand the wonderful work that's being done to support the national goal of ending veteran homelessness," said Ramoth, a senior management analyst in FPM. "We are eager to support the county's efforts and look forward to partnering with them on this initiative."

Last year, a similar campaign was successful in helping 100 veterans find permanent homes. The latest initiative is a key strategy in reaching the goals outlined in Chester County's 10-year plan to prevent and end homelessness. Pictured above (left to right), Veterans Multi-Service Center (VMC) Deputy Executive Director Maura "Mo" Gillen joins Director Gravett, VA HUD-VASH Coordinator Kelly Tuturice, VMC Income Stabilization Specialist Geoff Hurnyak and Chester County Program Coordinator David Weathington for a final conversation after the campaign meeting.





New Senior Housing Property Opens in West Philadelphia

HUD's Multifamily Housing team joined Presbytery Homes and Services for the Aging on February 19 for the grand opening of its property—Wynnefield Place Apartments in West Philadelphia. The new 48-unit senior housing property, which is one hundred percent occupied, received \$7.7 million in HUD Capital Advance program funds and \$807,600 in rental subsidies. HUD Production Project Manager Cheryl Mazurkiewicz spoke briefly at the grand opening: "I thank and congratulate the owners, Presbytery Homes and Services for the Aging, for their commitment and insight into the needs of the elderly. Presbytery Homes is one of the Department's strongest partners." HUD Multifamily Housing employees Wesley Neal, Construction Analyst, and Cheryl Mazurkiewicz, Production Project

Manager, pose for a photo at the grand opening of Wynnefield Place Apartments.

PENNSYLVANIA—WESTERN REGION

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Making Amends and Doing Good

Surprising Community Partners Offer Assistance

Recently H.A.N.D.S. (Housing and Neighborhood Development Service), a local nonprofit affordable housing developer, found the need to fill a funding gap for the rehabilitation of Goodrich House for Veterans in Erie, Pa. This affordable housing development, pictured at right and funded in part by dollars through City of Erie's HOME funds, the Federal Home Loan Bank Affordable Housing Program and Erie County Act 137, will provide six apartments for homeless and at-risk veterans and will be adjacent to Freedom Square Apartments, which will provide 25 apartments for veterans. Because of this funding gap, Executive Director Chuck Scalise had to do something he was not accustomed to doing—he had to ask friends and neighbors in Erie County for help. And the help he did receive came from an unlikely funding partner. The group's name is ANIVO, which stands for the Albion New Inmate Visionary Organization. This volunteer organization of men incarcerated at the State Correctional Institution at Albion recently hosted a grant awards ceremony. H.A.N.D.S. was not the only group to receive a check that day. Other beneficiaries included Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Albion Food Pantry and the Erie Multicultural Center. During the check presentation, the officers of the organization, all inmates, explained why each charity was selected. The presenters commended H.A.N.D.S. for taking the initiative to work with veterans. They shared their concern that the hungry should be fed and the homeless housed. All they asked in return was for those receiving the contributions to spread the word that many of the men at SCI-Albion have hearts and minds and that they want to do good and to give back to the community—a message of hope and of the value of "second chances."



Make It a Home Always!

Landlords Stand Ready to Deliver Housing to the Homeless in Erie

Sometimes the right people come together to do the right thing at the right time—that is certainly true in Erie, Pa. "Make It a Home Always" is a HUD funded program of the Mental Health Association of Northwestern PA. Seemingly, it works with the most difficult residents to place including those who have been incarcerated, who have been diagnosed with mental illness and who are currently homeless and seeking an apartment in the private housing market. But, that is not the case in Erie. Debra Geotz, a private landlord, states she is honored to be involved in this tenant-landlord relationship. The question posed to Clifton, McNair III a Housing Case Manager, was this: "What makes this program so successful?" In part the answer lies with the work done by Clifton, over time, with each and every one of the ten landlords involved in this program. Relationships are cultivated and fostered with landlords through monthly contact. Landlords are paid at the end of month for the next month; landlords are given 24-hour access to the housing case manager, and have access to a landlord repair fund, if needed, for damages done by tenants—not just wear and tear. There is a genuine relationship between the

agency, tenant and landlord. Communication lines are always open and maintained seamlessly. Lastly, social service referral and linkage is navigated by the housing case manager and the tenant together. The two-year goal is to re-integrate all tenants into self-sufficiency, and that is exactly what is happening through these extraordinary efforts. Pictured in the living room of his apartment (left) is Terrel Perry, a client of Mental Health Association of NW PA, with his landlord Debra Geotz.

Events & Announcements

- **Mar. 19, 11:30 a.m./Noon – 3 p.m. Lunch & Presentation** – APPRISE/Allegheny Link 2015 Lunch and Learn Series, 1 Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh PA 15222. The **Current Status of Medicaid Benefits in Pennsylvania presentation** will provide an update on Medicaid benefits available in the Commonwealth. Attendees will learn about the changes in eligibility, accessibility, and continuation of Medicaid benefits for Pennsylvania residents, and how it coordinates with the Medicare system in providing health care coverage as well as what else might be on the horizon for Healthy PA. To register, please contact andrea.bustos@alleghenycounty.us.
- **Mar. 20, 6:30 to 9 p.m. or Mar. 22 and 22, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.** – Erie County Community Emergency Response Team is looking for Volunteers to be ready when Emergencies or Disasters Strike. Free Training in Disaster Medical Operations, Light Search & Rescue, Family Disaster Preparedness at 2880 Flower Road in Summit Township. For more information visit CERT@eriecountygov.org.
- **Apr. 16, 3:30 to 5 p.m.** – HUD's Pittsburgh Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Director Michael Jansen will host a **presentation on the Fair Housing Act** at the Gannon University Waldron Campus Center, Room 219 in Erie, Pa. The public is welcome. For more information or to email questions in advance, please contact Cindy Haines by calling (412) 644-5855 or email cynthia.l.haines@hud.gov.

VIRGINIA



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Governor McAuliffe Announces Virginia's Significant Progress in Ending Veteran Homelessness

At a Feb. 5 event at the Virginia War Memorial, state and federal leaders convened to recognize community partners from Roanoke, Richmond, the Peninsula, and South Hampton Roads who participated in a 100 Day Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness in Virginia. Governor Terry McAuliffe praised the work that has been

done to date, and noted how throughout the 100 Day Challenge, each community made profound changes to their homelessness response systems to maximize resources and connect veterans to housing faster. As a result, at the end of the 100 Day Challenge, 462 veterans have a home of their own or are in the process of accessing permanent housing. This is a significant accomplishment considering that 620 homeless veterans were counted in the statewide Point-in-Time count in January 2014. HUD's Regional Administrator Jane C.W. Vincent also spoke about the significance of Virginia's accomplishments, and encouraged the communities to keep the effort going so that veteran homelessness will be ended this year. "This is an exciting day in Virginia. Not only have we ended the housing crisis of over 400 of Virginia's most vulnerable veterans, we've built stronger systems that can help pave the way to meet the Governor's goal to end veteran homelessness in Virginia by the end of 2015," said John Harvey, Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, pictured. The 100 Day Challenge was the result of the collective work of the localities, the Governor's Coordinating Council on Homelessness, HUD, Department of Veterans Services, Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness and the National League of Cities. For more on the story, visit virginia.gov.

FRHA Uses HUD's RAD to Make Needed Repairs and Upgrades Possible

The Franklin Redevelopment and Housing Authority is a small public housing agency located in Franklin, Va. about three hours south of Washington, DC. According to the FRHA's Executive Director Philip Page, Jr., the housing authority's public housing stock was at a "tipping point" with all 150 units in need of significant repair. The FRHA had two options, either continue using capital funds for a few more years to maintain the properties at their current state, or completely renovate the portfolio, giving the units another lease on life. Fortunately, HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) provided a path forward by allowing FRHA to use tax credit equity, as well as conventional financing and debt, to generate enough capital to place their entire public housing portfolio on a stable funding platform. To learn more, check out HUD's [RAD Spotlight](#).

NRHA Helps Norfolk Veteran transition From Homeless to Homeowner

Frankie McCattry, a disabled veteran, served in the Navy for nearly 12 years. An administrative officer who served in the Persian Gulf in 1997 on the USS California, a guided missile cruiser, he was named sailor of the quarter seven times before getting out of the Navy. But after his return to the states, he failed to continue the success he experienced in the service. He divorced and found himself unemployed. He lost his housing and for a time, lived in his car with his two children, Elizabeth, 15, and Elisha, 13. But in 2011, the tide began to turn. McCattry met with the Virginia Department of Veterans Affairs and received a HUD-VASH voucher for rental assistance in a private market rental unit. He enrolled in the Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NRHA) Family Self Sufficiency and HomeNet Homeownership programs. There, he received employment counseling, built his savings, improved his credit rating and began homeownership counseling. He obtained secure, stable employment and increased his household income significantly. After a nearly 12-month counseling process, McCattry utilized his HUD-VASH voucher to close on a newly constructed home in Norfolk's Central Brambleton area. Instead of using the voucher subsidy to help with rent, the homeownership option allows first-time homebuyers to use the voucher subsidy to meet a portion of the monthly mortgage expense. "This journey to homeownership has been a blessing and a dream come true," expressed McCattry. "The VA and NRHA guided me through the entire process. I made a promise to my children that we would have a place to call home, and with the help of these organizations, we did just that." Pictured left to right, City of Norfolk Mayor Paul Fraim, NRHA CEO Shurl Montgomery, NRHA Chair Commissioner Barbara Hamm Lee, Elizabeth McCattry, Frankie McCattry, HUD's Bonita Booker and Department of Veteran Services Director Matthew Leslie. For the complete story, visit [NRHA's website](#).



Congratulations

Governor Terry McAuliffe has announced a **\$200,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Local Innovation funding award for Nelson County**. The Local Innovation Fund provides financial assistance to localities that are implementing small scale, innovative community development projects. According to the [announcement](#), Nelson County will construct approximately eight miles of fiber along the Route 151 corridor to facilitate an increase in broadband availability and improve connectivity to businesses.

[Housing Virginia](#) has released the findings of a [first-of-its-kind study](#) that demonstrates the impact of energy efficient construction requirements in affordable rental housing. The new report, which follows a year-long study conducted by [Virginia Tech's Center for Housing Research](#) shows that **the average resident of an energy efficient apartment saves \$54 per month on their electricity bill, which amounts to \$648 annually**.

Housing Virginia has also launched a **new toolbox: [Best Practices in Affordable Housing](#)**, featuring a number of successful affordable housing projects in Virginia.

The [Federal Alliance for Safe Homes \(FLASH\)](#)® and FEMA supported Virginia Department of Emergency Management's (VDEM) public outreach efforts by creating a [new video](#) for homeowners with **information on how well-built homes can withstand both earthquakes and high-winds**.

Events & Announcements

- **DUE Mar. 6** – Applications are due for reservations of Low Income Housing Tax Credits under the 2015 nine percent competitive pool. For more information, visit the [Virginia Housing Development Authorities' website](#).
- **Mar. 21, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.** – Southside Community Development and Housing Corp. and Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) are partnering to offer a **Homeownership Education Class in Spanish**. Think you are ready to take your first step in buying your home? Take VHDA's Homeownership Education Class—it's free and it is an excellent way to learn all the necessary steps to buy a home, from beginning to end. To register for the session to be held at 1624 Hull Street, Richmond, VA 23224, call (844) 642-5273.
- **Apr. 22** – Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project's "Water is Life" Conference. For more information or to register, contact swats@sercap.org.
- **May 4 through 7** – The [Virginia Association of Housing Counselors](#) 2015 Spring Conference will feature training, certification and educational workshops. For more information and to register, visit virginiahousingcounselors.org.



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News From the Community Education Resource Council

On Jan. 21 and 28, Lt. Chad Napier, Bureau Chief of Investigation, Charleston Police Department conducted a "Drugs in the Community" training session for the Community Education Resource Council (CERC). Lt. Napier, who received national recognition for his work in controlling illegal drugs by taking home the 2012 National High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Award, led the 89 participants through the various drug trends in the State of West Virginia. The interactive training session enabled the attendees to view the illegal substances to become better aware. To join a future CERC training sessions, please contact HUD Senior Management Analyst Evie C. Williams by email evie.williams@hud.gov.

2015 West Virginia AmeriCorps Formula Funding Announcement

Volunteer West Virginia issues this call for new, renewal and continuing applicants that are interested in applying for AmeriCorps Formula funding. Every day, volunteers and national service members provide the "people power" to help meet compelling community needs. Could you benefit from this kind of "people power" to accomplish your organization's goals? Are you looking for a way to reward your volunteers with an education award? Does your organization address Healthy Futures, Education, Disaster Services, Community Investment, and Veterans and Military Families? Volunteer West Virginia, the State's Commission for National and Community Service, invites you to review the following [Notice of Funding Available](#). For more information contact: Volunteer WV, 701 Central Avenue, Charleston, WV 25301 or call (304) 558-0111.

Events & Announcements

- **Mar. 23 & 24** – Mission WV, Inc. and the THINK Program are excited to announce that [registration is open](#) for the 2nd Annual THINK Conference for **Responsible Reality: Breaking the Cycle of Teen Pregnancy in West Virginia** in Charleston, W. Va. Teen pregnancy education and prevention is an important issue in West Virginia. Teens becoming parents is part of a cycle that impacts the future of not only the mother-to-be but also the fathers, parents, and the community. The results are often long-term emotional, physical, and socio-economic. The 2nd Annual THINK Conference will bring together educators, community leaders, nurses, and school personnel throughout the state to share critical information about our successful initiatives and sustainability of our efforts in order to help our youth and unify individuals with a passion for adolescents as advocates for achieving the goal of "breaking the cycle." Sessions will include information and discussions about teen dating violence, media influences in the world today, 5 Love Languages, healthy relationships, and much, much more! For more information, please contact THINK Director Torri Childs, Mission WV, Inc., 168 Midland Trail, Ste. 1 Hurricane, WV 25526 or call (304) 562-0723.
- **Mar. 26 & 27, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** – **West Virginia Alliance for Sustainable Families' Financially Fit in the Mountain State project** is providing train-the-trainer workshops in to provide the tools and strategies necessary to improve budgeting skills, lower debt and improve credit scores. There is no cost for this workshop. Interested participants must contact Jennifer Thacker at (304)342-6972 or email: jthacker@te-associates.com to register. Mar. 26 workshop for Morgan, Berkeley and Jefferson counties will be held at the Mountaineer Room at the West Virginia University Health Sciences Center, 2500 Foundation Way, Martinsburg, WV 25401. Mar. 27 workshop for Pendleton, Grant, Hardy, Mineral and Hampshire counties will be held at the Bank of Romney Community Center, 95 East Main Street, Romney, WV 26757.
- **Apr. 15, 16 & 17** – **2015 Spring Continuing Education Conference for Social Workers**, Charleston (W. Va.) Civic Center. For additional info call (304) 345-6279, email Mail@NASWWV.org or visit www.NASWWV.org.
- **Apr. 21 through 23** – **SAVE THE DATE West Virginia Association of Housing Agencies Spring Workshop** at the Blennerhassett Hotel in Parkersburg, W.Va. For more information, email WVAHA.

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.
- [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](#).
- 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.
- [The Coca Cola Foundation](#) 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 Mar. 6** – The Environmental Protection Agency's [Environmental Education Grants Program](#) will award three grants of approximately \$192,000 each to organizations whose work designs, demonstrates, and/or disseminates environmental education practices, methods or techniques.
- **DUE Mar. 17, 5 p.m. EDT** – The 2015 [Social Innovation Fund](#) grant competition will provide approximately \$40 million to eligible grantmaking institutions seeking to grow innovative, evidence-based solutions to challenges facing low-income communities nationwide in our focus areas of healthy futures, youth development and economic opportunity. In addition, approximately \$11 million will be available for the continuation of existing grants. Successful applicants will be notified in July 2015. [View the funding announcement and applicant resources](#).
- **DUE Apr. 1** – U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker announced that the round two designation competition of the '[Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership](#)' (IMCP) is [now open](#). IMCP, an Administration-wide initiative coordinated by the U.S. Commerce Department, is designed to accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing in communities nationwide. Specifically, the program aligns federal economic development investments behind long-term economic development strategies that help communities attract and expand private investment in the manufacturing sector and increase international trade and exports. Manufacturing Communities will receive preference for a range of future Federal economic development funding and technical assistance offered by IMCP participating agencies. Some Manufacturing Communities may receive financial assistance awards from IMCP participating agencies to assist in cultivating an environment for businesses to create well-paying manufacturing jobs in regions across the country.
- **DUE Apr. 24** – The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will award up to \$17.7 million in [Community Economic Development grants](#) to Community Development Corporations to enhance job creation and business development for low-income individuals.
- **DUE Apr. 24** – The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is awarding up to \$9.5 million in grants to [Community Development Corporations for community-based efforts](#) to improve the economic and physical health of people in areas designated as food deserts.
- **DUE Apr. 30** – The U.S. Department of Labor will fund \$100 million in grants to expand registered apprenticeship programs in high-skilled, high-growth industries like healthcare, biotechnology, information technology and advanced manufacturing. [Registered Apprenticeships](#) have long been known as one of the best training models for skilled trades ("earn while you learn"), yet the model remains underutilized in the United States. This unprecedented investment will help to transform apprenticeships for the 21st century and serves as a catalyst to increase the use of apprenticeship to meet employer needs in these sectors. Approximately 25 grants from \$2.5 million to \$5 million each will be awarded using funds collected from employers who use H-1B visas to hire foreign workers. The Funding Opportunity Announcement, which includes information on eligibility and how to apply, is available at <http://www.grants.gov>. Prospective applicants are encouraged to view additional online resources at <http://www.dol.gov/apprenticeship/>.

REGION III HUDLINE NEWS

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