



REGION III HUDLINE NEWS

March/April 2014



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A MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR



Looking Back: The Legacy of the Recovery Act

Five years ago, our country was experiencing the worst recession since the Great Depression. Many lost their jobs and dollars in household wealth was wiped out. In the face of these challenges, President Obama understood that strong medicine was needed and just a month after taking office, working with Congress, the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act became the law of the land.**

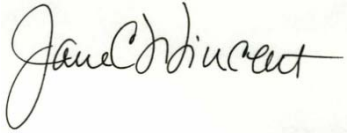
Today, the impact of the Recovery Act is visible all across our nation through improved roads and bridges, a recovering housing market, and the six million jobs the law helped to create or retain. Less visible, but no less felt, are the **1.3 million families who did not fall into homelessness** through the Recovery Act's investment into prevention and rapid rehousing. The law also made substantial energy-saving improvements to the nation's housing stock cutting billions of dollars in utility costs for local governments and taxpayers alike.

In addition, five years ago, local communities, like those throughout Region III, were reeling from large numbers of foreclosures and facing the likelihood these vacant and abandoned homes would become blights on their neighborhoods. To prevent a broader collapse, the Recovery Act's **Neighborhood Stabilization Program helped to stop the bleeding** in the hardest-hit areas and contributed to the turnaround in the housing market that we're experiencing today.

Like the rest of the country, Philadelphia was hit hard by the recession. While home foreclosures did not reach to the levels felt in other cities, the foreclosure rate did increase by nearly 300 percent. This rapid increase in foreclosures, coupled with the high rates of poverty, made Philadelphia a community in desperate need of economic recovery and growth. Combined, the Recovery Act provided more than \$800 million in critically needed investments throughout the City, including \$44 million to tackle the impact of these foreclosures on Philly neighborhoods. In April of 2009, HUD awarded two grants totaling \$1.7 million to remove lead, mold, insects, and other hazards in low-income housing in Philadelphia. HUD also awarded \$4.5 million through the Recovery Act to area contractors to perform weatherization services which not only made homes more energy efficient but created jobs in the process. These are just some of the examples of the Recovery Act at work in Philadelphia.

Public action will never replace the private marketplace when it comes to creating jobs or stimulating economic growth. But when private capital retreated in the face of the recession, it was the Recovery Act that spared us from crippling job losses, staggering homelessness and spiraling home price declines. Five years after the Recovery Act was signed into law, our economy has grown for 11 straight quarters, businesses have added millions of new jobs and we are on firmer footing to build a stronger, more sustainable economy in the years ahead.

Throughout this edition of HUDLines, we'll be "Looking Back" at many of the ways ARRA helped individuals and their families get back on their feet throughout Region III. We hope you'll enjoy reliving these stories as much as we do.



Jane C.W. Vincent, Region III Regional Administrator

NEWS YOU CAN USE

On March 4, U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [Secretary Shaun Donovan unveiled HUD's fiscal year 2015 budget proposal](#). This year, the President's Budget provides a roadmap for accelerating economic growth, expanding opportunity for all Americans, and ensuring fiscal responsibility. The Budget adheres to the 2015 spending levels agreed to in the Bipartisan Budget Act and shows the choices the President would make at those levels. "This year's budget presents a unique opportunity for HUD to work within the frame of the Bipartisan Budget agreement while continuing to build ladders of opportunity for all Americans" said Donovan. "This funding will continue to help strengthen and stabilize our nation's housing market while putting our economy back on the right track and helping those in most need." For more information, [click here](#).

DUE June 16 – HUD published a Notice in the Federal Register, requesting public comment on the **proposed selection process and criteria for the second round of the Promise Zone Initiative**. The Promise Zone Initiative is part of President Obama's plan to partner with and invest in communities to create jobs, increase economic security, expand educational opportunities, increase access to quality, affordable housing and improve public safety. On January 8, the President announced the first five Promise Zones in San Antonio, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Southeastern Kentucky, and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

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 the nation's 1.1 million public housing units. [View funding by public housing authority here](#). The grants are provided through HUD's [Capital Fund Program](#), which provides annual funding to approximately 3,100 public housing authorities to build, repair, renovate and/or modernize the public housing in their communities. These housing authorities use the funding to do large-scale improvements such as replacing roofs or making energy-efficient upgrades to replace old plumbing and electrical systems. To learn more, [click here](#).

HUD has announced the **Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Adjustment Factors for Section 8**. [Annual adjustment factors](#) are used to calculate rent changes when Section 8 contracts are renewed. [Contact information](#) varies by program.

The **HOME Program's Monthly reports** are now posted on the OneCPD Resource Exchange from the [HOME Program Resource Page](#) under "HOME Reports."

The **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about HUD's HOME Program** have been updated. [HUD's HOME FAQs](#) cover program requirements, Community Housing Development Organizations, homeownership, rental housing and more.

HUD has **updated the [National Stabilization Program \(NSP\) National Objectives Chart](#)** to reflect the changes found in the Dec. 27, 2012 Closeout Notice. The chart provides a quick reference for NSP grantees and other affiliates to navigate the most common eligible activities and national objectives. It takes viewers through each of the five eligible uses and describes what actions qualify as an eligible activity and what steps must be taken to meet a national objective.

Virtually all of **HUD's competitive funding programs require that applications be submitted through Grants.gov**. And there are certain things that need to get done to make sure Grants.gov will let you and your application through its electronic doorway. Have you, for example, got a DUNS number? Are you current with the Central Contract Registry? Have you completed all the steps required to submit? For a checklist, visit the [website](#).

[HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research](#) has developed the [Guide to Energy-Efficient and Healthy Homes](#) to help both homeowners and renters benefit from **home improvements that promote energy efficiency and improve indoor air quality**.

To help prevent thousands of people with disabilities from experiencing homelessness or unnecessary institutionalization, **HUD announced the availability of approximately \$120 million in funding for state housing agencies to provide long term project-based rental assistance to extremely low-income persons with disabilities**, many of whom are transitioning out of institutional settings or are at high risk of homelessness. Read HUD's [Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\)](#). HUD's support of these state

agencies is made possible through the [Section 811 Project Rental Assistance \(PRA\)](#) program which enables persons with disabilities who earn less than 30 percent of their area's median income to live in integrated mainstream settings.

Home and community-based services for seniors are stressed in a new report published by the Center for Housing Policy at the National Housing Conference. [Aging in Every Place: Supportive Service Programs for High and Low Density Communities](#) notes such services are a cost-effective way to help older adults maintain their quality of life as they age in their homes.

Resources are available for community integration of people with disabilities. The [Community Integration Center](#) at the Technical Assistance Collaborative provides an online library and also offers technical assistance to government agencies and others. Contact Kevin Martone, CICTAC, 617-266-5657, ext. 122, or send email through the organization's [website](#).

[HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research](#) has developed the [Guide to Energy-Efficient and Healthy Homes](#) to help both homeowners and renters benefit from **home improvements that promote energy efficiency and improve indoor air quality.**

On April 15, the [National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty](#) released [From Wrongs to Rights: The Case for Homeless Bills of Rights Legislation](#). It **describes the need for homeless bills of rights legislation**, examines models of laws enacted and proposed in some states, and offers guidance on how to enact them.

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Council Chair and HUD **Secretary Shaun Donovan hosted a recent White House event to honor the service of USICH Executive Director Barbara Poppe.** Incoming USICH Executive Director Laura Zeilinger emceed the program. In thanking Ms. Poppe for her service, Secretary Donovan said, "Barbara has been a fearless and lifelong advocate for people experiencing homelessness. She has made us all stand up and be accountable for ensuring that no one in our country has to sleep on the street."

A recent report from the **U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), highlights USICH's successful approach to collaboration among groups in the Federal government.** In [Managing for Results: Implementation Approaches Used to Enhance Collaboration in Interagency Groups](#), the GAO selected four interagency groups that met its key practices for enhancing and sustaining collaboration to learn about the approaches they used and found to be successful. Read the full report [here](#).

The [March 2014 Housing Scorecard of the Obama Administration's Housing Scorecard—a comprehensive report on the nation's housing market](#)—shows continued progress in many key indicators as foreclosure starts continued their downward trend and house prices were stable. Newly initiated foreclosures were down 9 percent from January and 27 percent from one year ago, reaching their lowest level since December 2005. As of January 2014, the FHFA purchase-only house price index was 7.4 percent higher than a year earlier, indicating that prices are on par with those in mid-2005.

To meet the increasing demands for our service, the **Social Security Administration will make changes to how the agency provides some services to customers.** To protect the integrity of the Social Security number and prevent fraud, SSA will discontinue providing Social Security number printouts effective August 1, 2014. If you need proof of your Social Security number and you do not have your Social Security card, you will need to request a replacement Social Security card by completing the Application for a Social Security Card (Form SS-5) and providing the required documentation. Also, effective October 1, 2014, Social Security will stop providing benefit verification letters in field offices. You will still be able to get an instant letter online with a personal Social Security account or call toll-free: 1-800-772-1213 to request a letter by mail. Visit www.socialsecurity.gov to learn about the many convenient online services available.

On Feb. 12, 2014, the **Council on Financial Assistance Reform (COFAR) released the first set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** in support of 2 C.F.R 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. Over two hundred thoughtful questions and comments have been received from grantors, grantees, and grant management and oversight professionals throughout the country. Additional FAQ releases will coincide with Federal agency submission of implementing regulations. If you have additional questions or comments please send them to cofar@omb.eop.gov. To view the FAQs, [click here](#).

Is the United States facing, as many believe, an equality of opportunity crisis? Depends, say researchers from Harvard University and the University of California at Berkeley, on where you live. See their paper, ***Where is the Land of Opportunity? - The Geography of Intergenerational Mobility in the United States***, at the [website](#).

[Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project \(SERCAP\)](#) has 1% loans available through its **Individual Well Loan Program.** Loans are available for purchase of new water well or repairs to an existing well in the Region III states where SERCAP serves including Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. For more information, contact Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project at 540-345-1184, ext. 139 or 866-928-3731.

Winter storms have been causing power outages across the region this year. Since the length of an outage can vary from a few hours to several days, the **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends that residents need to plan to get by without utilities for at least three days.** Use FEMA's [Going Off Grid: Utility Outages](#), a free online activity module to reference simple steps to get prepared for an outage. This module also provides a food safety reference chart so you can know when to save food or when to discard it.

DUE May 30 – The National Affordable Housing Management Association (NAHMA) Educational Foundation is offering scholarships to all high school seniors, high school graduates, and adults holding a high school diploma or GED living at an Affordable Housing Management Association (AHMA) member property. Grant recipients will be selected based on academic performance (2.5 GPA for high school seniors and 2.3 GPA for college students), character, and/or potential in a future area of study. The total number of scholarships and funding for 2014 will be determined during the selection process with anticipated awards beginning at \$1,000 for the upcoming 2014-2015 academic year. This year, all applications must be submitted online to the Foundation. Winners will receive notification by June 30, 2-14. For more information and an application, [click here](#). For more information, contact Dr. Bruce W. Johnson by calling 215-262-4230 or email bwjec@comcast.net.

DUE June 9 – Comments are due on [proposed regulations](#) for **Appraisal Management Companies (AMCs)**. These are entities that serve as intermediaries for, and provide certain services to, appraisers and lenders. To be eligible to provide services for federally related transactions, AMCs and appraisers that are lender subsidiaries will have to meet federal and state standards and register in a national database. Contact Robert L. Parson, OCC, 202-649-6423.

DUE June 13 – The Economic Development Administration (EDA) of the U.S. Dept. of Commerce has issued an Announcement of Federal Funding Opportunity for its Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs, for the remainder of its Fiscal Year 2014 funding cycles. EDA supports development in economically distressed areas of the United States by fostering job creation and attracting private investment. Specifically, under the Economic Development Assistance (EDAP) programs Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) announcement, EDA will make construction, non-construction, and revolving loan fund investments under the Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs. Grants made under these programs will leverage regional assets to support the implementation of regional economic development strategies designed to create jobs, leverage private capital, encourage economic development, and strengthen America's ability to compete in the global marketplace. Through the EDAP FFO, EDA solicits applications from rural and urban communities to develop initiatives that advance new ideas and creative approaches to address rapidly evolving economic conditions. For more information and to apply, visit grants.gov.

Donating blood is a simple thing to do, but it can make a big difference in the lives of others. Since the beginning of January, winter storms and freezing temperatures have resulted in more than 450 blood drive cancellations and nearly 14,000 uncollected blood and platelet donations. **Your donation to the American Red Cross can help ensure blood is available for patients close to home or in other areas affected by the weather.** The need for blood is constant and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need for patients in our community. Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every two to three seconds and most of us will need blood in our lifetime. To find a blood donation site in your community, [click here](#).

HUD FEDERAL REGISTER RULES, NOTICES & FUNDING

Notices

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Multifamily Housing Mortgage and Housing Assistance Restructuring Program \(Mark to Market\)](#)

[Adoption of Updated Standard ASTM E 1527-13 Standard Practice for Environmental Assessments: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process](#)

[Promise Zones Initiative: Proposed Second Round Selection Process Solicitation of Comment](#)

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

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: HUD Housing Counseling Program-Application for Approval as a Housing Counseling Agency](#)

[Final Fair Market Rents for the Housing Choice Voucher Program and Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy Program Fiscal Year 2014; Update](#)

[Announcement of Funding Awards; Fair Housing Initiatives Program Fiscal Year 2013](#)

[Federal Housing Administration \(FHA\): Handling Prepayments: Eliminating Post-Payment Interest Charges](#)
[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Rent Reform Demonstration \(Task Order 1\)](#)
[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Pre-Purchase Homeownership Counseling Demonstration and Impact Evaluation](#)
[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Recertification of Family Income & Composition Section 235\(b\) & Statistical Report Section 235\(b\), \(i\) and \(j\)](#)
[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Policies and Procedures for the Conversion of Efficiencies Units to One Bedroom Units](#)
[Implementation of the Privacy Act of 1974, as Amended; Republication To Delete and Update Privacy Act System of Records Notifications](#)
[Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program-Annual Adjustment Factors, Fiscal Year 2014](#)

Funding Notices

[Notice of HUD's Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2014 Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\) Policy Requirements and General Section to HUD's FY 2014 NOFAs for Discretionary Programs](#)

DUE May 5 [Notice of HUD's Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2013 Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\) for Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Program](#)

DUE May 5 [Notice of HUD's Funding Availability for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 Housing Counseling Training Grant Program](#)

AROUND THE REGION, DELAWARE



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

Terry Apartments' Class of 2014 Bridges the Digital Divide

Launched in 1995 by HUD's Office of Multifamily Housing Programs, Neighborhood Networks (NN) was one of the first federal initiatives to promote self-sufficiency and to help provide computer access to HUD FHA-insured and assisted housing communities. The community-based initiative encourages property owners and managers to establish multiservice community learning centers that bring digital opportunity and lifelong learning to residents living in multifamily-insured and/or assisted housing. In 1999, after having success at Montgomery Townhouses in Philadelphia,

Interstate Realty opened a second computer center at Terry Apartments in Wilmington, DE. The free classes help to bridge the digital divide for seniors by providing the necessary skills for the students to stay in touch with family, friends and even take control of managing their personal finances. The areas covered are, basic internet use, and the MS Office suite of programs along with some advance training. Better Tomorrows, a nonprofit 501c-3 organization, continues to provide the program and other supportive services at Terry including a special April 11 graduation ceremony for the Class of 2014, including residents MeSheryl Miller, Patricia Conway, Rita Doles, Jane Lester and MeSheryl Miller, pictured in the front row. Philadelphia Multifamily Hub Branch Chief Randy Scheetz, Social Services Coordinator Janet Williams, NN Computer Facilitator Liynaa Burrell, Terry Apartments Site Manager George Wanner, and Director of Technology and Staff Development Annie Foster, pictured left to right, each provided inspirational remarks to the graduates and attendees.

More than 350 Attend Delaware's 4th Annual Homebuyer Fair

The Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA), in partnership with The Money School and the Delaware Federation of Housing Counselors, held its 4th Annual Homebuyer Fair on April 5 in Wilmington. Designed to provide prospective homebuyers with the opportunity to learn about the steps in purchasing a home, the day-long event attracted more than 350 attendees. Mini seminars were held through the Delaware Federation of Housing Counseling Agencies on topics such as budgeting and personal finance, financial and tax planning, strategies for finding and negotiating on a property, DSHA's Homeownership Programs, and preparing for loan closing. U.S. Senator Chris Coons, U.S. Congressman John



Carney, and Delaware State Representative Stephanie Bolden attended the event. DSHA's Gary Heckler (left) and Anas Ben Addi (right) assist Sunday Breakfast Mission's Obie Osbourne and George Buckner (l-r) as they load surplus lunches from the event to distribute to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Looking Back: a Neighborhood Stabilization Program Success Story

Owned by U.S. Bank, the home located at 21 Windburne Drive in New Castle had been vacant for two years. Local County Councilman George Smiley told the County there had been repeated complaint calls received by his office about the blighted house. In 2010, Kevin Smith, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County, approached New Castle County about needing to find a property for a Habitat family—a mom with five children. When Heather McKinney applied for the Habitat home, her five children, including one with special needs, were living in different homes. Faced with the challenge of finding a property in a NSP eligible community that was large enough and would fit the needs of the family, Smith and the County's NSP team toured 21 Windburne. What was so special for New Castle County was with NSP funding and some additional funding from CDBG-R, all one-time funding sources, the County in partnership with Habitat was able to bring the family back together under one roof and to make the home more accessible for Ms. McKinney's son, Ishmael. Accessibility improvements included raising the flooring of the existing family room to provide a fully wheelchair accessible bedroom, equipping a first floor bathroom with a roll-in shower and adding a wrap-around deck with a wheelchair ramp. In addition, the home was updated with Energy Star improvements to provide low-cost maintenance and long-term affordability for the family.



Looking Back: Third Generation Homeowner in Edgemoor Gardens

Michelle Lamonica was born and raised in Edgemoor Gardens and following the purchase of her home at 37 South Pennewell Drive in 2012, became the third generation of her family to own a home there; her mother lives next door. New Castle County bought the three-bedroom/1.5-bathroom single-family townhome for \$39,900 through its federally funded Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Using the 2008 Edgemoor Gardens "Blueprint Communities" plan as a guide, the county partnered with Interfaith Community Housing of Delaware and the Edgemoor Revitalization Cooperative to buy and rehabilitate 10 homes in

Edgemoor Gardens. The County used federal funds to buy and renovate vacant houses in communities hardest hit by foreclosures. The house was gutted and completely rehabilitated; renovations included "green" energy-efficient features such as a tankless water heater and Energy Star-rated HVAC systems, appliances and doors and windows. Exterior improvements included a new roof and driveway. Lamonica purchased the house for \$72,000, fair-market value for that area. The County purchased five other homes on Pennewell Drive; along with four other houses in the neighborhood. County officials and nonprofit partners joined Michelle Lamonica to celebrate the purchase of her home in June 2012. Photo courtesy of wdde.org. For more information on the county's housing programs go to www.nccde.org/housing or call 302-395-5660.

Events & Announcements

- **May 6, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.** – Delaware Housing Coalition, Day for Housing in Delaware 2014, Fraizer's Restaurant, 9 East Lookerman Street, Dover, DE. For more information, please visit www.housingforall.org.
- **May 7, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.** – Diamond State Community Land Trust, Land Trust Model Orientation Session, Treadway Towers, 9 East Lookerman Street, Suite 205, Dover, DE. For more information, please visit www.diamondstateclt.org or call 800-282-0477, ext. 304.
- **May 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** – First State Community Action Agency, Inc., First Time Home Buyers Seminar, 655 South Bay Road, Dover, DE 19901. To register, please call 302-674-1355.
- **May 10, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** – Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council, Inc. (DCRAC), Financial Fitness Seminar, 601 North Church Street, Wilmington, DE. For more information, please contact DCRAC at 877-825-0750.

For more events, visit <http://destatehousing.com/DirectorsOffice/events.php>.



Marvin W. Turner, Field Office Director
202-275-9200, hud.gov/districtofcolumbia

Metropolitan Region Symposium Held at HUD Headquarters

Nearly 200 joined HUD's District of Columbia Field Office and the Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND) as they hosted their first joint meeting—HUD Updates Specific to the Metropolitan Region Symposium on March 26. The half-day symposium served as a great opportunity to engage in a meaningful dialogue with HUD's leadership on programs that directly impact the work of HAND members. Topics included: HUD's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Brief, Multifamily Housing development pipeline, Asset

Management preservation, updates on HOME, CDBG, RAD and Choice Neighborhoods, disparate impact and more. HUD's Sara Pratt, Bernard Fulton, Harriet Tregoning and Marvin Turner, pictured here, joined HAND President Mike Scheurer and Executive Director Heather Raspberry and many others to lead the symposium which included a networking reception. To view or download photos of the event, [click here](#).

On April 5, more than 80 individuals attended the **Sustaining Homeownership & Empowering First Time Homebuyers Event** presented by the Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the Literacy Institute for Financial Enrichment in conjunction with HUD, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and the Central Gateway Community Development Corporation. Sessions included: "New Rules" for Mortgage Financing, First Time Homebuyer Programs, Avoiding Housing-Related Scams, Fair Housing for Renters and Homeowners, Reverse Mortgages for Seniors, Financial Makeovers, Tips for Rebuilding Your Credit & Finances and Foreclosure Prevention Resources. DC Field Office Director Marvin Turner addressed the crowd and Senior Management Analyst Belinda Fadlemola served as a panelist and presented, "The New Qualified Mortgage."

District of Columbia Housing Authority Executive Director Adrienne Todman was joined by Mayor Vincent C. Gray, Council member Tommy Wells, **HUD District of Columbia Field Office Director Marvin Turner and other officials to break ground on the latest addition to the Southeast community, the Lofts at Capitol Quarter.** The \$42 million L Street building will contain 156 market-rate and 39 affordable rental units. New residents will enjoy amenities such as a roof top deck and pool, internal courtyards, an exercise room, and a computer room. Construction is expected to be completed by late 2015. The Lofts at Capitol Quarter also represent an innovative public-private partnership. The agency was able to leverage the value of the land to finance the affordable units. In addition, DCHA and its joint venture partners were able to craft a unique and complex legal and financial structure which allowed blending market-rate units and affordable units that were able to benefit from an equity investment through the Low Income Tax Credit program. The project is being financed through a mix of District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency debt purchased by Citi Community Capital, Low Income Housing Tax Credit public housing subsidies, and a short-term loan made by Industrial Bank. Pictured are current and former residents of Capitol Quarter as they break ground. For the complete story, [click here](#).



Events & Announcements

- **June 14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** – The Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development will host the **2014 Housing Fair, entitled "Prince George's County: A Great Place to Live!"** at the Sports and Learning Complex, 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD. Housing Fair attendees will have an opportunity to meet mortgage lenders, realtors, rental property managers, housing counselors, banks, non-profit organizations and various government agencies. The Fair will also hold workshops on financial literacy, avoiding housing scams, first-time home buyer programs, managing your money and will host major mortgage bank servicers to discuss options with homebuyers trying to avoid foreclosure. The Housing Fair will feature its 3rd House Lottery and the winner of the Lottery will be drawn and announced by County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. The **House Lottery application deadline is June 6, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.** To learn more, [click here](#).

MARYLAND

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

Creating Equal Ladders of Opportunity in Baltimore

On March 19, Secretary Shaun Donovan traveled to Baltimore, MD to tour the renovated housing units in the Barclay neighborhood and to announce HUD's initial award of Rental Assistance Demonstration, or RAD, to the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC). Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Ray Skinner and HABC Commissioner Paul Graziano joined the Secretary for the tour which illustrated what can happen when public-private partnerships come together to create quality, affordable housing. Many units in that neighborhood had not been renovated in over 40 years. "To see the updated models is a true testament to why we need to invest more money in updating our nation's housing stock," Donovan noted in his [blog](#). Under RAD, HABC will be able to convert more than 4,000 units of its housing inventory to the Section 8 platform harnessing new resources, including debt and equity financing, to preserve and recapitalize public housing. Based on the extent of need in Baltimore and a successful initial application, Baltimore and HABC are receiving one of the largest awards in the country and will be able to tackle well over a third of the \$800 million in needed repairs over the next two to four years. Without the authority, it would take HABC more than 60 years to raise the same amount of repair funds. To view more photos of the tour, [click here](#).



On April 25, the Maryland Civil Rights Commission, University of Maryland, School of Law and Baltimore Field Office hosted their annual Fair Housing Conference entitled **Revitalization & Gentrification: Forces for Diversity or Division**. Baltimore Field Office Director Carol Payne delivered opening remarks along with Secretary Skinner and moderated the panel *Impacts of Neighborhood Change*. Antero Pietila, author of *Not in My Neighborhood* and Professor Larry Gibson, University of Maryland School of Law and author of *Young Thurgood Marshall*, delivered a joint plenary.

SUN Foreclosure Initiative Provides Relief for Marylanders

A new program is offering relief to some Maryland families facing foreclosure that offers a reduced, more affordable mortgage to struggling homeowners. Boston Community Capital, a Massachusetts nonprofit community development financial institution is seeking to help Maryland homeowners facing foreclosure. Under the Stabilizing Urban Neighborhoods Initiative (SUN), homes in foreclosure are purchased at fair market prices and then sold back to the homeowners who receive a reduced, more affordable 30-year fixed-rate mortgage. Homeowners must prove that hardships, such as job loss or illness, caused their mortgage problems and that they have the ability to repay the loan. Homeowners can get more information from nonprofit housing counselors throughout Maryland which is the first state outside of Massachusetts to offer the program.



Baltimore City's "Vacants to Value" at Work in Upton

The Mayor of Baltimore and its Housing Commissioner joined community leaders and residents in the Upton to demolish six vacant properties in the 500 block of Wilson St. The removal of this blight will make the community safer and support the businesses on historic Pennsylvania Avenue. The Pennsylvania Avenue Merchants Association, whose businesses back up to this block of Wilson Street, brought their concerns to Baltimore Housing. The agency worked closely with business owners to determine the best course of action that would help residents feel safe. Launched in November 2010, the "Vacants to Value" initiative seeks to encourage reinvestment in neighborhoods impacted by blighted properties by strengthening code

enforcement, promoting rehabilitation, streamlining the sale of vacant city property, and by providing new, targeted incentives for homebuyers and developers who invest in vacant properties. For more information about "Vacants to Value," visit www.vacantstovalue.org.

Annapolis Contributes \$92,000+ of Recovery Act Funds to City PHA

The City of Annapolis received an additional \$92,218 in additional Community Development Block Grant funds which were authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). The use of the funds required an amendment to the City's Housing and Community Development Action Plan. As a result of the revision, the City of Annapolis was able to award the recovery act funds to the Housing Authority of Annapolis to rehabilitate Annapolis Gardens and Bowman Court public housing developments. The properties consist of one and two story duplexes and townhouse style apartments situated on ten acres of land and contain 150 public housing rental units. The rehabilitation includes energy efficient windows and appliances, water saving devices, new kitchens, improved landscaping, small playgrounds and tot lots, traffic calming features, exterior lighting, new siding, washer and dryer hook-ups in 100 units; new flooring, bathroom fixtures and kitchen cabinets throughout; and expanded community center, new leasing office and updated laundry facilities. The redevelopment of both public housing developments is a part of the broader revitalization strategy being undertaken by the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis to privatize their communities. The location of the project, in the City of Annapolis, is close to commercial services and employment and retail centers with public transit connections nearby. The project is also near community services and health care facilities, a necessary convenience for residence who occupy them.

Nearly twenty percent of working households in Maryland spend more than half their monthly income on housing costs, leaving too little for other necessities such as food, transportation and child care and crippling their ability to build wealth, a new study reports. [Housing Landscape 2014: The Housing Affordability Challenges of America's Working Households](#) found that the percentage of severely cost-burdened households in the state dropped 1.5 percent between 2009 and 2015. The authors of the report attribute the decline - at least on the national level - to modest increases in household incomes and declining owner costs. Housing Landscape summarizes the affordable housing challenges of low- and moderate-income working households. In 2012, 22.1 percent of the nation's working households were severely cost burdened, including 25.4 percent of working renters and 18.6 percent of working homeowners.

Arbutus Permanent Supportive Housing Program provides 13 efficiency apartment units for women experiencing chronic homelessness with an emphasis on creating lasting solutions to long-term homelessness. The program uses a therapeutic model that strives to integrate residents into the local community, focus on strengths, respect personal autonomy, improve employments projects and address underlying causes of chronic homelessness. The Arbutus program opened in 2011 after renovating its former Eleanor D. Corner House Emergency Shelter building on Southwestern Boulevard. The renovation was made possible by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds administered by Baltimore County's Office of Community Conservation. Designed to meet stringent green standards for energy efficiency and maintenance, the new facility is now home to Baltimore County's first permanent housing program for 13 chronically homeless individuals.



State's Legacy Program Is A Big Success

The renovation of an historic opera house in Havre de Grace and improvements to an 18th century inn in Princess Anne are among the projects receiving grants through the Community Legacy program, Maryland's initiative to stimulate reinvestment and strengthen traditional main streets in towns and cities throughout the state. Click [here](#) to read the release. Lt. Governor Anthony Brown joined Secretary Raymond Skinner of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and Baltimore officials to announce \$5.5 million in awards to 64 projects. The announcement was made at the Tire Shop, a former light industrial building in central Baltimore City. The Central Baltimore Partnership will receive \$100,000 through the Community Legacy program to fill the final gap to retrofit the building into a mixed-use building that includes a nonprofit theater and for-profit restaurant. Remington is an area that is targeted for renewal and both public and private investment, including the renovation and re-purpose of buildings and homes and improved access to transportation. Since 2007, the O'Malley-Brown administration has funded 440 such projects through the Community Legacy program, with total awards of more than \$41 million, creating or preserving an estimated 1,300 permanent jobs and 3,000 temporary jobs mostly in construction-related fields and putting more than \$222 million into the state's economy. See the [complete list](#) of FY 2014 Community Legacy awardees.

A \$750,000 three-year state grant will enable the Baltimore City Health Department to expand efforts at **reducing childhood obesity by launching a Baltimarket Healthy Stores**. The Stores will reach 12,100 people during the three-year period by supporting 18 corner stores in successfully stocking healthier items, organizing 75 youth as Neighborhood Food Advocates to assist with corner store transformations, and by conducting nutrition education and environmental interventions.



Richard Ott, Deputy Regional Administrator
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“It’s a pleasure to be a part of today’s celebration, standing again with our Philadelphia partners as we create another source for affordable housing—a newly constructed, beautiful building for 55 formerly homeless and low-income people, including young adults,” stated Regional Administrator Jane C.W. Vincent during her remarks at the grand opening of Jon Bon Jovi (JB) Soul Homes, a new affordable housing development in Philadelphia. “I applaud the work of all the organizations and our local partners that led to today’s grand opening, especially Project H.O.M.E., People for People, Inc., the JBJ Soul Foundation, the Middletons, Mrs. J. Maxwell Moran, and the Philadelphia Housing Authority.” The JBJ Soul Homes complex achieves many

of HUD’s goals by creating a more sustainable community and provides access to retail is energy efficient and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certified. The four-story mixed-use development will include retail on the first floor, and residences and offices on the three floors above. “The JBJ Soul Homes is a perfect example of HUD’s efforts to meet the need for quality affordable rental homes while utilizing housing as a platform for improving quality of life. Through the City of Philadelphia’s Office of Supportive Housing, we helped support this exciting project, providing \$1.5 million in Continuum of Care program funds. And today, we take pride in representing Secretary Donovan’s personal commitment in implementing the Obama Administration’s Opening Doors federal strategic plan—to not simply reduce homelessness—but to end it,” she added. For more photos of the April 22 event, [click here](#).

FHA Commissioner Looking Forward & Looking Back Through Tour of Philadelphia’s Promise Zone

Federal Housing Administration Commissioner Carol Galante and Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter toured the Mantua neighborhood on March 7, which is one of the first five communities to be designated a Promise Zone. Regional Administrator Jane Vincent, Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell and Eva Gladstein of the Mayor’s Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity also toured the area. On the tour, officials viewed how HUD’s initial investments through the Choice Neighborhoods are bearing fruit. Promise Zones are an even deeper commitment in those communities. “As Secretary Donovan says, the Promise Zones effort represents ‘a partnership for progress,’” Commissioner Galante said in her remarks. “Partnerships that create jobs, boost public safety, improve public education and stimulate better housing opportunities. Tour highlights included Mt. Vernon Manor, a 125-unit low-income garden apartment complex built in the late 1970s with the assistance of federal subsidies. By the 2000s, Mt. Vernon Manor was severely distressed. With the assistance of Diamond & Associates, the **Mt. Vernon board obtained a HUD Choice Planning Grant in 2011**. With the plan in place, they were able to renovate 75 units in 2012 and 2013 with funding from the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and Low Income Housing Tax Credits. Mt. Vernon plans to renovate the remaining 50 units in 2015 using Low Income Housing Tax Credits and funds from the City of Philadelphia. An additional housing stop included Mantua Square, a new low rise public housing development comprising 101 units of walk-up apartments and duplexes built on the former site of Mantua Hall, an 18-story public housing high-rise that the Philadelphia Housing Authority demolished in 2008. **Mantua Square cost \$28.1 million to build, including approximately \$10 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act’s Capital Fund Recovery Competition**. In addition to the residences, Mantua Square has more than 7,400 square feet of commercial space, including the temporary space for the Dornsife Center, Drexel University’s urban extension center in Mantua that will provide health promotion, free legal services, free tax services, financial education, resume writing and job skills, GED® testing preparation, home maintenance and home energy efficiency services for local residents. The tour also included the Philadelphia Zoo’s proposed train station, planned Mantua Greenway and the Urban Peace Garden, a new Green Resource Center run by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society that supports neighbors and other urban farmers in growing fresh, healthy food and creating a more beautiful city landscape.



Preservation Through Energy Efficiency Road Show Kickoff is an Eye-Opener for Attendees

More than 120 enthusiastic energy- and cost-concerned representatives of a variety of affordable housing companies packed a conference room adjacent to Philadelphia's 30th Street Station on April 3 for a frank and incisive daylong look at the true financial benefits that can be reaped from energy and water efficiency. National Housing & Rehabilitation Association's inaugural Preservation Through Energy Efficiency Road Show dug deeply into case studies from presenters who have already benefitted from creative approaches to utility cost control, sources of available funding for retrofits and the huge possibilities for a more efficient future even in what Michael Bodaken of the D.C. based National Housing Trust referred to as a "resource flat environment." The program kicked off with a session devoted to "Putting It All in Context: What You Spend, What You Get," in which case studies by representatives of Winn Development, Boston, MA; ACTION-Housing, Pittsburgh, PA, and the National Housing Trust in Washington, DC presented their recent experiences. Another panel on "Learning Local Programs & Resources: Utility Programs and Other Local Partnerships" highlighted local support from regional utilities including Philadelphia Gas Works, PSE&G Services and PECO. The Philadelphia Road show was co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency. For the complete story, [click here](#).

Events & Announcements

- **June 4, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** –The Fair Housing Council of Suburban Philadelphia is sponsoring a FREE three-hour course on the seven design and construction requirements for new multifamily housing under the Fair Housing Act. The course will cover design and construction requirements as required by the Fair Housing Act, Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code's scoping requirements for multifamily residential occupancies, and technical requirements for multifamily dwelling units. American Institute of Architects (AIA) members will receive 3 AIA/CES Learning Units. The training will take place at the Lehigh Valley Holiday Inn Conference Center, 7736 Adrienne Drive, Breinigsville, PA. Visit www.fhcsp.com for more information and to register to attend the training.
- **June 18 through 20** – 2014 Pennsylvania Housing and Finance Agency (PHFA) Housing Services Conference entitled "WATTS UP: Energize Lives, Recharge Spirits, Generate Community," Hilton Scranton and Conference Center, 100 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

PENNSYLVANIA – WESTERN REGION

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University of Pittsburgh: A "University of the Community"

HUD USER publishes examples of anchor institutions' best practices in communities and regions across the country. The most recent example details [University of Pittsburgh's Community Outreach Partnership Center's \(COPC\)](#) targeted investments in social programming and residential capacity building in Pittsburgh's Oakland neighborhood. As a focal point for university sponsored activities in Pittsburgh's neighborhoods, the COPC collaborated with community groups to address challenges relating to education, health and wellness, workforce development, and housing. The positive outcomes achieved by Pitt's COPC led to the formation of the Neighborhood Partnership Program, an effort to continue investments in activities that spur redevelopment in the neighborhoods surrounding the university. In recent years, community outreach and collaboration have become institutionalized in Pitt's academic and administrative structure. Several of Pitt's departments now consider regular engagement with community groups a priority, leading Pitt to consider itself a "university of the community." Pictured here, University of Pittsburgh students join Hazelwood community members in front of a playground mural they had just completed. Visit HUD USER's [Best Practices Resource](#) page to learn more about the University of Pittsburgh's work in the Oakland neighborhood and to view other promising examples of how communities and regions across the nation are supporting neighborhood revitalization.



Homeless Veteran's Summit Unites Partners

The Federal Government continues to tenaciously work towards ending Veterans homelessness by 2015. In collaboration with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Veterans Administration (VA) and HUD have worked together, along with other federal agencies and partners, to develop strategic plans and projected outcomes to measure our progress towards meeting this goal. On March 17, over 50 federal, state, and local advocates gathered at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare

System, Heinz Division to discuss funding streams and resources for veterans experiencing homelessness, barriers to service, and possible collaboration and coordination opportunities. Discussion ensued around creating an aggressive action plan with specific, sequenced milestones to advance our mission of ending homelessness amongst veterans by 2015. This summit set the foundation for what will follow: CHALENG Meetings, STAND Downs, Boot Camp, and more. All activities are driven to advance one goal, ending homelessness amongst our nation's heroes. Together we can do it. Pictured left to right at the event are: Stephanie Gibbs, Katie Szmkiewicz, Cindy Haines, Marlon Ferguson, Sean Taladay and Steve Rorison.



Empowered and Inspired!

Celebrating Women of Character, Courage and Commitment

On March 24, the Pittsburgh Field Office hosted "A Woman's Journey to Success" in observation of Women's History Month. Members of the Federal Executive Board, HUD, Department of Labor and the Military Entrance Processing Station listened intently as guest speaker, Beth Caldwell, enumerated the qualities of smart leadership from a women's perspective. Ms. Caldwell, a motivational speaker and published author of six tomes on self-empowerment, listed the twelve simple strategies to help women shift from ineffective boss to brilliant leader. Attendees were encouraged to meet

challenges, obstacles and hurdles head on, while simultaneously finding pathways to rise above them. Beth Caldwell is best known for founding two organizations, Pittsburgh Professional Women and the Leadership Academy for Women, as well as her column in the *Pittsburgh Business Times*. Beth's spirit of generosity and self-disclosure encouraged attendees to advance in their careers through demonstrations of character, courage and commitment. Pictured left to right Elissa Shelton, Cindy Haines, Beth Caldwell and Cyndi Evans.

HUD Pittsburgh Field Office Director Jane Miller facilitated a "Mini-Briefing" for Pittsburgh's Small Business Administration (SBA) federal partners. During the February session, HUD staff described their individual program areas, and then SBA staff outlined their program goals and objectives. Areas of federal involvement between the two partners were then reviewed to determine potential co-impact opportunities, particularly in the work to assist veterans who are experiencing homelessness. A follow-up meeting will focus on staging Stand Downs, Point-in-Time counts, CHALLENGE meetings, HUD-VASH utilization, and other alignment opportunities. Pictured right to left are SBA's Stephen Drozda, Mark Protch and Kevin White and HUD's Jane Miller, Gary Possage, Pam Coll and Jacqueline Molinaro-Thompson.



Events & Announcements

- **May 13, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** – Pittsburgh's 7th Annual Where to Turn Resource Fair: Be the Change You Want to See, David L. Lawrence Convention Center. The free exhibitor fair and speakers will provide information about community resources. Visit www.american-healthcare.net
- **May 27, 4 p.m.** – Allegheny County Department of Human Services 2014-15 Human Services Block Grant Plan Public Hearings, Human Services Building, One Smithfield Street, Downtown, and
- **June 9, 9 a.m.** – Human Services Center, 519 Penn Avenue in Turtle Creek. Visit: www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/meetings/community.aspx www.alleghenycounty.us/DHS/DPW-BlockGrant.aspx.



Carrie S. Schmidt, Field Office Director
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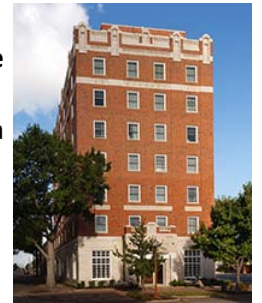
Norfolk Redevelopment & Housing Authority is Making a Big “Splash”

[Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority](#) (NRHA) is making a big “splash” with an innovative approach to helping low-income young people improve their safety skills and their academic performance—and it seems to be going “swimmingly!” The program gives students from Tidewater Park Elementary School, located within Norfolk’s [Choice Neighborhoods](#) planning area, free swimming lessons before school at the

Southside Aquatics Center in Norfolk. NRHA started the program in partnership with Norfolk Public Schools and the City of Norfolk, and are finding that the children aren’t only becoming better swimmers; Administrators at Tidewater Park Elementary say they are also becoming better students. L’Tanya Simmons, Deputy Superintendent for Norfolk Public Schools, reports that the students are making better grades in school as a result of this experience. NRHA also hopes to keep these children from becoming a sad statistic. Studies show that African-American children are three times more than likely to drown than white students, mainly because they haven’t had an opportunity to learn to swim. NRHA started the swimming program last year, and in the coming months, they hope to add an after school swim program for Tidewater Park Elementary. Click [here](#) for the complete story and [here](#) to see a television report about the program.

Congratulations!

The **Warwick SRO (Single Room Occupancy) Housing Development** has been recognized as one of the nation’s best affordable housing communities by the [National Affordable Housing Management Association \(NAHMA\)](#). Developed by [Community Housing Partners \(CHP\)](#) in mid-1990, The Warwick is a treasured Newport News’ historic landmark. NAHMA is honoring the Warwick and three other rental communities in the nation with its Communities of Quality® (COQ) Award for excellence in the management of their physical, financial and social conditions. Read more about this story [here](#). The 2013 COQ awards were presented at NAHMA’s annual winter meeting, March 9-11, 2014, in Washington, D.C. For details on the NAHMA meeting, click [here](#).



[Virginia Main Street \(VMS\)](#) recently awarded **Downtown Improvement Grants (DIGs) to Blackstone and Lynchburg**, which will help these designated Main Street communities tackle special, one-time Main Street-related projects. The awarded projects have specific economic restructuring outcomes and involve multiple community partners.

Three Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) in Virginia have been selected for the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program and issued Commitment to Enter into a Housing Assistance Payments Contracts (CHAPs). [Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority](#) will convert five public housing developments totaling 563 units to Project Based Rental Assistance (PBRA). [Franklin Redevelopment and Housing Authority](#) will convert two public housing developments, Berkley Court and Pretlow Gardens/Old Towne Terrace with 150 units to PBRA. [Staunton Redevelopment and Housing Authority](#) will convert one public housing development, Farrier Court, with 150 units to a Project Based Voucher program. All three PHAs are proposing complete conversion of their public housing portfolio through the RAD program. RAD Transaction Managers have conducted kick-off meetings, and are beginning work on completing their RAD milestones.

Central Virginia’s [project:HOMES](#) was **profiled in the national magazine U.S. Builders Review**. The article highlights project:HOMES’ success in new home construction, weatherization and their new Blitz project to build more wheelchair ramps. You can find the story on page 77 of the Winter 2014 edition [here at this link](#).

The **City of Harrisonburg has been named one of the top 10 finalists** for a [Great American Main Street Award](#). Awards will be announced at the [opening plenary of the 2014 National Main Streets Conference in Detroit on May 18](#).

On April 10, **Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe announced the seven winners** of the [2014 Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards](#). These awards recognize individuals and organizations for their extraordinary volunteer efforts that make an impact on the lives of citizens throughout the Commonwealth. “Building a better Virginia isn’t just about what elected officials do here in Richmond—it’s about the work that devoted volunteers are doing every day in their own neighborhoods and communities,” said Governor McAuliffe. “Each of these awardees has given of their time to make life

better in their corner of the Commonwealth. It is my honor to celebrate these exceptional groups and individuals, who should be an example for all of us of what Virginians can achieve when we work together for the common good.”

Events & Announcements

- **May 3** – ¿Que Pasa? Festival of Virginia, hosted by the [Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce](#), will be held at the Richmond Canal Walk. For more information, click [here](#).
- **May 7** – Housing Virginia, in partnership with the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, For Kids, Hampton Roads Housing Consortium, Hampton Roads REALTORS Association, and Tidewater Builders Association, will hold a presentation on a study on Hampton Roads Workforce Housing. For more information or to register, click [here](#).
- **May 20** – The HUD Richmond Multifamily Program Center will be hosting a workshop for Management Agents, owners of FHA-insured and HUD-subsidized properties and other interested stakeholders in Virginia. For more information, contact [Judi Bryant](#) at 804-822-4843, [Sharon Downs](#) at 804-822-4896, or [Carolyn Roberts](#) at 804-822-4863.
- **May 25 through 31** – Virginia’s annual hurricane preparedness sales tax holiday. For more information, click [here](#).

WEST VIRGINIA



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Huntington West Virginia Housing Authority Opens New Public Housing Property

In April 2009, the Huntington Housing Authority purchased a vacant 104-year-old three-story apartment building located in the City’s historic South Side. Purchase and renovation of the six apartments, five two-

bedroom and one four-bedroom, was made possible by a generous donation by J&R Investments, a grant from the West Virginia Affordable Trust and the Housing Authority’s HUD Capital Funds. The project is part of the Authority’s on-going and long range plans to de-concentrate its public housing stock and to locate affordable housing in neighborhoods around the City. The renovated building received a new roof, new gutters, downspouts and fascia; a rebuilt front façade and signage; all new Energy Star windows, sills, interior exterior doors; Energy Star-rated HVAC systems, hot water tanks. The plumbing and electrical were upgraded to meet current building codes. All new kitchen cabinets, countertops, and Energy Star appliances were installed in each apartment. Bathrooms and kitchens were updated with water saving fixtures. Where feasible, care was taken to refinish the hardwood floors and original bathroom tile walls and flooring patterns. A residential sprinkler and updated fire alarm system was installed throughout the building. On January 31, 2014, the renovated building was formerly dedicated and named the J. Edgar Shaffer building in honor of a long-serving commissioner of the Huntington West Virginia Housing Authority. The Shaffer Building now offers a new and unique housing opportunity for low-income working families seeking to move into a mixed-income neighborhood.

Huntington One of Eight Cities Selected to Tackle Blight and Vacancy

Delegations from eight cities, including Huntington, WV, attended the 2014 Community Progress Leadership Institute (CPLI), a training program focused on equipping leaders with the skills to address large inventories of blighted and vacant properties for the benefit of their communities. CPLI, a program of the national Center for Community Progress, was held at Harvard Law School on March 18 through 21. Delegations from Wilmington, DE; Springfield, MA; Battle Creek and Detroit, MI; Jackson, MS; Oklahoma City, OK; and Milwaukee, WI joined the Huntington team and were chosen through an invitation-only, competitive application process. The selected cities range in population from 50,000 to over half a million and have citywide vacancy rates of 10-29%, while also facing high rates of foreclosure, tax delinquency and other property challenges. The cities were selected for CPLI because they also demonstrate strong leadership and a commitment to developing new solutions for blight. Community Progress Leadership Institute sessions addressed how to prevent blight and vacancy and how



to return vacant buildings and land to productive use. Some of the technical tools that will be explored are market analysis, reuse planning, delinquent tax enforcement reform, strategic code enforcement and land banking. In addition, Cambridge Leadership Associates led sessions on effective leadership. This is the third time Community Progress has brought together a Community Progress Leadership Institute class since 2010. Past graduates of CPLI have worked with legislators and other stakeholders to draft, advocate for, and pass state and local laws; improved local code enforcement operations; held statewide leadership institutes; and developed new systems that enable cross-agency coordination on blight remediation.

A new veteran support group in Buckhannon is open to all veterans and their caregivers by the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance West Virginia (DBSA WV). DBSA is the leading national organization of peers helping peers with 12 chapters and two veterans support groups throughout the state providing vital support to our nation's veterans. Mood disorders engulf 24% of our population and the Mountain State is no exception. "We've been there, we can help," is the motto for DBSA. For more information, please contact Diana Thompson by calling 304-372-1947 or dianathompson222@hotmail.com. To find out more about DBSA WV, visit www.dbsawv.org.

The **Greater Wheeling Coalition for the Homeless was awarded the Audrey Nelson Community Development Achievement Award** in recognition for their exemplary uses of Community Development Block Grants, HOME and other community development funds, and particularly those programs that address the needs of neighborhoods and families. The National Community Development Association (NCDCA) recognized the agency for its outstanding achievement in utilizing HOME funds, for their permanent supportive housing program, The Gertrude Flats. The program competed nationally for one of ten awards. For local media coverage on the Coalition's special recognition, [click here](#). Audrey Nelson was the first Deputy Executive Secretary of NCDCA. She grew up in an inner city Chicago neighborhood which was a target area for the local Model Cities Program. Her intense commitment to her neighborhood, her local program efforts, and her drive to serve low-income people was cut short by death from cancer at the age of 29.

Every third Friday of each month is a Financial Fitness Friday at The Thai Housie in Pullman Square, Huntington, WV. The Financial Stability Partnership (FSP™) of the River Cities is a United Way of the River Cities initiative that helps the community budget and save money. FSP™ provides families access to investing and budgeting tools and strategies that save money, reduce debt and help build wealth. Every third Friday of the month, FSP offers Financial Fitness Fridays to give area residents a chance to receive free support to create a budget, learn to save and get organized. Through activities and discussion, participants will learn to budget, save and make the most of their paychecks. To register, email rachel.houston@unitedwayrivercities.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.
- [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:

- **May 2** – Applications are due for U.S. Department of Labor [Women in Apprenticeship and Non-Traditional Occupations Grant](#).

- **May 2** - Applications are due for U.S. Department of Labor [Face Forward 2 - Intermediary and Community Grants](#).
- **May 6** – Applications are due for [Citizens Institute for Rural Design](#) proposals for the Rural Communities Facing Design Challenges initiative.
- **May 7** – Applications are due for the next round of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families [Assets for Independence Program](#).
- **May 12** – Applications are due for U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families [Homeless Youth Street Outreach Program](#).
- **May 13** – Applications are due for U.S. Department of Labor [Urban Homeless Veterans Re-Integration Program](#).
- **May 27** – Applications are due for U.S. Department of Agriculture [HoU.S.ehold Water Well System Grants](#) for nonprofits to establish lending programs for homeowners.
- **May 27** – Applications are due for U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs [Transportation for Veterans in Highly Rural Areas Grant](#).
- **June 19** – Applications are due for U.S. Department of Labor [H-1B Ready to Work Partnership Grants](#).
- **Aug. 15** – Applications are due for [The Home Depot Foundation Community Impact Grant](#) program.

REGION III HUDLINE NEWS

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

“Growth” and “opportunity” are two things that should know no boundaries. Our nation’s growing inequality, however, speaks to the challenge this statement presents. How can funders, practitioners, municipal leaders, and policymakers work together to ensure that economic growth extends to and across all communities?

Please **join Regional Administrator Jane C.W. Vincent as she welcomes attendees** to the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia’s 2014 [Reinventing Older Communities conference, Bridging Growth & Opportunity](#). This biennial national conference will be held Monday, May 12, to Wednesday, May 14 at the [Loews Philadelphia Hotel](#). The event draws more than 450 professionals from across the country and includes plenary discussions, neighborhood tours, breakout sessions, and keynote addresses. The focus of this year’s conference is how communities can promote economic growth in ways that benefit all residents. The conference includes plenty of networking opportunities, too. Check out the [full agenda](#) to see speaker and session specifics, and [register](#) soon to reserve your spot! We hope to see you there!

Reinventing Older Communities

Bridging **GROWTH**
& **OPPORTUNITY**



May 12–14, 2014, Loews Philadelphia Hotel

www.philadelphiafed.org/ROC2014