



REGION III HUDLINE NEWS



March 2015

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A MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR



Each April, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) uses Fair Housing Month to mark the passage of the 1968 Fair Housing Act, the landmark law passed shortly after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. which prohibits housing discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability and family status.

During the month, throughout Region III and the country, HUD will cast a spotlight on the persistent problem that exists in this country, as individuals and families continue to face both blatant and subtle forms of housing discrimination.

April is an opportunity for each one of us to recommit to the principle that fair housing is an essential part of everything we do, every grant we make, every building we build and every community we work with.

Each year, HUD and communities and organizations across the country recognize Fair Housing Month by hosting an array of activities that enhance the public's awareness of their fair housing rights and promote the nation's commitment to end housing discrimination. You'll see events throughout the Mid-Atlantic listed in our "Around the Region" reports in each one of our states and the District of Columbia.

In addition to the legal protections provided under the Fair Housing Act prohibiting housing discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, and family status, approximately 20 states, the District of Columbia, and more than 150 cities, towns and counties across the nation also prohibit discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals and families.

In 2012, HUD published new regulations to ensure that the Department's core housing programs are open to all eligible persons, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. In addition, 12 states and the District of Columbia, as well as several counties and municipalities protect persons against housing discrimination based on their source of income.

"Fair Housing is Your Right: Use It!"

On April 1, HUD Secretary Julián Castro will kick off Fair Housing Month 2015 with the launch of new national media campaign highlighting some of the most current housing discrimination issues. Joining him will be Vanita Gupta, Acting Assistant Attorney General at the U.S. Department of Justice and a national civil rights leader.

HUD's new media campaign, "Fair Housing is Your Right: Use It!" is in partnership with the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) and includes a series of print and digital Public Service Announcements in various languages, webinars, training presentations, brochures, online videos and social media outreach. The goal of the campaign is to inform the public of their fair housing rights and how to file a fair housing complaint with HUD.

Last year, HUD and its Fair Housing Assistance Program partner agencies received 8,850 complaints alleging discrimination based on one of the seven protected classes in the Fair Housing Act. These complaints have resulted in almost \$33 million in compensation for victims and victims' funds. We would be happy to share these materials with you to help us continue to "spread the word" as to provide concise actionable steps to those encountering discrimination in housing.

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

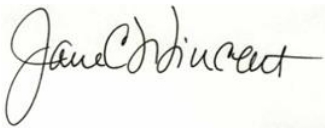
I am excited to tell you that on Mar. 19, HUD Secretary Julian Castro announced the publication of a [proposed Section 3 rule](#). It's been 21 years since the publication of an interim Section 3 rule, and many of HUD's Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity staff worked extraordinarily hard, over many years, to make this possible. The proposed rule brings new changes to strengthen a federal program called "Section 3" that directs jobs and training to low-income workers and connects businesses that hire them with HUD-funded contracting opportunities. The initiative would increase opportunities for businesses that hire local public housing residents for HUD-funded projects.

In addition to changes to Section 3 requirements, Secretary Castro also announced the launch of a [National Section 3 Business Registry](#). The registry is a searchable online database that local housing authorities, government agencies, and contractors can use to find firms that are self-certified as employing at least 30 percent public housing residents or low-income workers. In 2012, HUD launched a five-city pilot Section 3 Business Registry that included Washington, DC to help local public agencies better connect local businesses that hire low-income residents and workers with the contracting and economic development opportunities created by HUD-funded housing and development projects, something that is required under Section 3 guidelines. Nearly 1,000 businesses have signed up for the registry nationally. In addition, the proposed rule would recognize new HUD programs established since 1994 that are required to meet low-income and public housing resident hiring goals.

In his announcement, the Secretary said, "Across the board, Section 3 has been a platform upon which folks can better their lives. It's provided generations of Americans with the chance to gain experience, build up their resume, secure a professional reference, and build a career. These efforts have transformed lives across the nation and sparked economic activity in areas often overlooked."

The Secretary also noted that this rule gives folks the opportunity to obtain a job and help strengthen their own community. It gives local businesses—large and small—the opportunity to access resources for expanded efforts. It gives HUD-funded programs the opportunity to use local businesses and individuals to leverage increased support to their communities. And it's about giving communities the opportunity to work together, grow together and to prosper together. Through May 26, the proposed rule is open for public comment via the Federal Register. You will find the links in the "HUD Federal Register Rules, Notices & Funding" section of *HUDLine News*.

Fair Housing Month is an opportunity for all of us to reflect on just how far we've come to make our housing more equitable and how far we still have to go to end housing discrimination. Fair housing is about giving people the opportunity to pursue their dreams and whenever this opportunity is denied, not only do families lose, our entire nation loses.



Jane C.W. Vincent
Region III Regional Administrator



NEWS YOU CAN USE

HUD Leadership Announcements

Lourdes M. Castro Ramirez has joined HUD as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, leading the Office of Public & Indian Housing. Prior to joining HUD, Castro Ramirez was tapped to be the President and CEO for the San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA). Managing an operating budget of \$186 million, with real estate assets valued at more than \$500 million, Castro Ramirez successfully directed a team of 525 employees to provide housing assistance to over 65,000 children, adults and senior citizens. Under her leadership, SAHA became known for its innovations in education, workforce development, affordable housing preservation and neighborhood revitalization. For additional details, visit hud.gov.

Grant, Funding & Award Announcements

To help prevent thousands of individuals with disabilities from being unnecessarily institutionalized or possibly falling into homelessness, HUD awarded \$150 million in rental assistance to 25 State Housing Agencies. In turn, the state agencies will provide permanent affordable rental housing and needed supportive services to nearly 4,600 households who are extremely low-income persons with disabilities, many of whom hoping to transition out of institutional settings back to the community. HUD's support of state housing 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, affordable housing. In Region III, the District of Columbia, Maryland and Pennsylvania received nearly \$21 million in grants to assist 410 households. The announcement reinforces the guiding principles of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the landmark 1999 Supreme Court ruling in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, helping states and local governments to provide services in the most integrated settings appropriate to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities.

HUD, in partnership with the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), announces the first annual Secretary's Awards for Healthy Homes. These awards will recognize excellence in healthy housing innovation and achievement in three categories: Public Housing/ Multifamily Supported Housing, Public Policy, and Cross Program Coordination among Health, Environment and Housing. The activities or policies nominated must show measurable benefits in the health of residents and be available to low and/or moderate income families. Applications are due Apr. 30, 2015. Visit hud.gov for the [application](#).

HUD recently issued a Notice of Funding Availability for cooperative agreements for [four new research projects](#), which will **evaluate the Moving to Work and Jobs Plus initiatives, the Small Area Fair Market Rent Demonstration, and the Resident Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency Program.** In the latest edition of HUD Office of Policy, Development and Research's (PD&R) *The Edge* online magazine, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development Todd Richardson provides details on each of the research projects, including eligibility criteria for applicants, and he describes how cooperative agreements will help HUD continue to produce high-quality data and research reports.

The Environmental Protection Agency has selected 20 communities in 16 states to receive **Brownfields Area-Wide Planning (AWP) grants to catalyze the reuse of brownfield sites and strengthen local economies.** As an important part of the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, these grants help communities overcome the sometimes daunting financial and environmental burdens of redeveloping these sites through a community-wide approach to revitalization. In Region III, [Temple University in Philadelphia, Pa.](#) and the [City of Huntington, W.Va.](#) received grant awards. For more information about the grant recipients and the AWP program, visit [EPA's website](#).

Other Announcements

Secretary Julián Castro announced a new proposed rule to increase protections for domestic violence survivors. The rule would implement the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA 2013), which expands HUD's authority to protect survivors of domestic and dating violence, stalking and sexual assault residing in housing assisted by HUD. By proposing this rule, HUD is taking a positive step to ensure that survivors of abuse will not live in fear of losing their home simply because of their status as a survivor. To view Secretary Castro's video message on the proposed rule, visit [HUD's YouTube page](#).

On Apr. 7, HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research, Habitat for Humanity International and Enterprise Community Partners are hosting an evidence-based discussion on the challenges and opportunities for expanding housing affordability. The discussion will focus on existing barriers, as well as policies and actions that can help increase the supply of affordable housing and reduce the housing affordability gap globally. [Register today](#) to participate in person or through live webcast in this thought-provoking, interactive dialogue on one of the most pressing issues currently facing communities.

Sales of new single-family houses in February 2015 were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 539,000, according to estimates released jointly on Mar. 24 by HUD and the Census Bureau. This is 7.8 percent ($\pm 15.2\%$)* above the revised January rate of 500,000 and is 24.8 percent ($\pm 20.4\%$)* above the Feb. 2014 estimate of 432,000. The seasonally adjusted estimate of new houses for sale at the end of February was 210,000. This represents a supply of 4.7 months at the current sales rate. For more information on new home sales, visit census.gov.

HUD's income limits, which are released each fiscal year, are used to determine whether families are eligible for HUD's rental assistance programs. In this online article, PD&R's Economic Market Analysis Division Director Peter Kahn [discusses how income limits are calculated](#), how they are used and by whom, and how Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 income limits differ from those of previous years.

Continuums of Care (CoCs) may begin entering their 2015 Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time (PIT) count data into HUD's [Homelessness Data Exchange \(HDX\)](#) web portal on Apr. 1. CoCs must submit their 2015 HIC and PIT count data by Apr. 30 at 12 a.m. (midnight) EDT. HUD has created a new website on the [HUD Exchange](#) called the [Point-in-Time Count Implementation Tools](#) page, where it post tools to assist communities to effectively plan and implement their PIT counts. For more information about the HIC and PIT, visit the [PIT and HIC Guides, Tools, and Webinars page](#). If you have questions regarding this listserv or the resources listed, please submit your questions to the [HUD Exchange Ask A Question \(AAQ\)](#) portal.

Space is still available for the upcoming Building HOME classes in April! These are the last round of Building HOME class deliveries scheduled at this time. Designed to provide an overview of HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program and a comprehensive introduction of the 2013 HOME Final Rule, participants will become familiar with all program activities, including homeowner and homebuyer, rental housing, tenant-based rental assistance and Community Housing and Development Organization (CHDO) activities. Sessions are available in [New York](#) and [Syracuse](#), N.Y. on Apr. 7 through 9..

HUD Community Planning and Development 2015 HOME Rent and Income Limits will be issued together in the near future. PJs must continue to use the [2014 HOME Rent Limits](#) and [2014 Income Limits](#) until HUD issues the 2015 HOME Rent and Income Limits. Note the [CPD Income Calculator](#) currently uses the FY 2014 HOME Income Limits. HUD will send a mailing list message when the 2015 HOME Income Limits are updated in the Income Calculator.

HUD has issued new [HOME Homeownership Value Limits](#) ("95% limits") for 2015 that are effective Apr. 13, 2015. In 24 CFR 92.254(a)(2)(iii) of the Final Rule published on July 24, 2013 and effective Aug. 23, 2013, HUD established new homeownership value limits for HOME PJs.

HUD has posted [HOPWA Performance Profiles](#) for the first quarter of the Federal Fiscal Year 2014 – 2015. Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA) performance profiles are generated for all agencies receiving HOPWA formula or competitive grants. Performance Profiles are available at the national level and by individual grantee and provide a grant summary, a beneficiary summary, outcomes data, and output data for activity types including housing assistance, housing development, supportive services, housing information services, and administration and management services.

The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) published [Mortgagee Letter 2015-09, Home Equity Conversion Mortgage \(HECM\) Program—Life Expectancy Set-Aside Growth Rate and Clarification](#) to Section 3.98 of HECM Financial Assessment and Property Charge Guide. The requirements defined in today's Mortgagee Letter are effective for all HECM case numbers assigned on or after Apr.27. Mortgagees can download a copy of the revised Worksheet from the [Single Family Housing Model Documents](#).

The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) published [Mortgagee Letter 2015-08, Electronic Appraisal Delivery \(EAD\) Portal for FHA-Insured Single Family Mortgages](#). The EAD portal will make it easier to do business with FHA by offering process and technology efficiencies that streamline appraisal data transmission, promote quality up-front appraisal data, and reduce post-endorsement appraisal data corrections. The EAD portal will allow transmissions to FHA of only those appraisals that comply with FHA's [Single Family Housing Appraisal Report and Data Delivery Guide](#).

The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) published [Mortgagee Letter 2015-07, Trial Payment Plans Associated with HUD's Loss Mitigation Loan Modification Options for Forward Mortgages](#). This Mortgagee Letter communicates requirements for plan duration, required signatures, and reporting related to Trial Payment Plan (TPP) Agreements and conditions under which FHA deems a TPP to have failed. Mortgagees must implement the requirements in this Mortgagee Letter for all TPPs offered to borrowers on or after June 1.

Publications, Studies & Resources

The **4th Quarter Regional Summary of economic and housing market conditions in the Mid-Atlantic Region** has been published and is available [online](#). The narrative provides an overview of economic and housing market trends within the region and contains an analysis of the year over year change in several key variables: nonfarm payrolls by sector, the unemployment rate, home sales, home prices, foreclosure data, vacancy rates, rents, and building permit activity.

HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance (SNAPs) and Office of HIV/AIDS Housing (OHH) announced the availability of a recently **recorded webinar focused on strategies to increase healthcare insurance enrollment for people who are homeless**. Originally presented on Feb. 24, the webinar provides information on how to increase enrollment in Medicaid and other health insurance options for people who are homeless and those living with HIV/AIDS. To view the webinar, visit [Strategies to Increase Health Insurance Enrollment for People Who Are Homeless Webinar course page](#).

HUD's Office of Economic Resiliency has launched its [Sustainable Communities Initiative Resource Library](#), which showcases the hard work and successes of our innovative Sustainable Communities Initiatives (SCI) grantees. Among the resources is a new HUD report, [Green Infrastructure and the Sustainable Communities Initiative](#) showcasing the climate and economic resilience benefits of green infrastructure in 30 grantee communities. The SCI Resource Library will house the planning documents, toolkits, model codes, case studies and reports that have come out of this initiative.

PD&R'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 quarterly and annual trends in Residential Fixed Investment and its contribution to Gross Domestic Product.

On Apr. 1 at 2 p.m., HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development is presenting, via **webinar, guidance on code enforcement activities for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program**. The topics to be discussed include eligible and ineligible costs, national objective compliance, fair housing considerations, and record keeping requirements. [To register, visit the HUD Exchange website](#). View [CPD Notice 14-016](#) on the use of CDBG funds for code enforcement activities.

HUD has released the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Annual Performance Report (APR) for renewal and planning grants funded in fiscal year (FY) 2013. HUD anticipates releasing the CoC Program APR for new grants funded in FY 2013 in the coming weeks. HUD has updated the following guidebooks to assist recipients to understand HUD's requirements for these CoC Program APRs: [APR Guidebook for CoC Grant-Funded Programs](#), [APR Guidebook for HMIS Dedicated Projects](#), [CoC Planning APR Guidebook](#) (new resource). To understand how to access a CoC Program APR, HUD encourages recipients to review the [brief video on how to access an APR](#) it published late last year.

What Do You Think?

- **EXTENDED to May 6** – Comments are due on Draft Implementing Guidelines as part of President Obama's Executive Order 13690: [Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering 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.

HUD FEDERAL REGISTER RULES, NOTICES & FUNDING

Proposed Rule

[Creating Economic Opportunities for Low and Very Low Income Persons: Eligible Businesses through Strengthened Section 3 Requirements](#)

Notices

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

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Home Equity Conversion Mortgage \(HECM\) Counseling Standardization and Roster](#)

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Single Family Premium Collection Subsystem-Periodic \(SFPCS\)](#)

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Public Housing Agency Executive Compensation Information](#)

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

[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Standardized Form for Collecting Information Regarding Race and Ethnic Data](#)

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Multifamily Financial Management Template](#)

[Notice of Intent To Conduct a Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\) and Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS \(HOPWA\) Project Demonstration](#)

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

[Jobs-Plus Pilot Initiative](#)

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan & Annual Performance Report](#)

[Privacy Act; Notice of Amended System of Records-Single Family Housing Enterprise Data Warehouse](#)

[Applicability of Davis-Bacon Labor Requirements to Projects Selected as Existing Housing Under the Section 8 Project-Based Voucher Program-Guidance](#)

[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Inspector Candidate Assessment Questionnaire](#)

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

[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Re-entry Assistance Program](#)

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection; Production of Material or Provision of Testimony by HUD in Response to Demands in Legal Proceedings Among Private Litigants](#)

[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Application for Resident Opportunity & Self Sufficiency \(ROSS\) Grant Forms](#)

[Announcement of Availability of Notice on Required Actions for Multifamily Housing Projects Receiving Failing Scores From HUD's Real Estate Assessment Center \(REAC\)](#)

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

Funding Notices

DUE APR. 30 – [Research and Evaluation, Demonstrations, and Data Analysis and Utilization](#)

AROUND THE REGION, DELAWARE

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Salesianum Students Fundraise to House Homeless Vets

Approximately 1,500 students from ten Wilmington-area high schools donned their dancing shoes to raise funds to help the Delaware Center for Homeless Veterans (DCHV) purchase a facility to house veterans experiencing homelessness. They danced the night away from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. on Mar. 21 and 22 in the Birkenheuer Gymnasium at Salesianum School in Wilmington. Students stayed awake by playing musical chairs, running three-legged races, competing in pie eating contests and racing each other through an inflatable obstacle course. This was the finale to a month-long campaign by Salesianum students to raise the \$200,000 DCHV needed to expand into a new building to house 15 additional homeless vets. When the sun rose on Mar. 22, the students had raised more than \$145,000—with money still coming in—towards their \$200,000 goal. “When we first met with Dave Mosley, director of the Delaware Center for Homeless Veterans, we wanted to find a way to get involved, not just from a fundraising standpoint, but by working with



them and having a better understanding of their lives and needs,” said Joey Bader, Salesianum Student Council President. “The moment that Mr. Mosley mentioned that they needed a larger facility and had found a home, we knew instantly that this was going to be our goal.” Each year the students at the all-boys high school spend the month of March raising monies for a cause. At a school pep rally, Mosely expressed his gratitude to the students for choosing DCHV as this year’s beneficiary. The DCHV is a transitional living facility with a focus on reintegration of the veterans into the workforce and creating a plan for a stable living environment. For more photographs courtesy of Salesianum’s Yifan Lu, visit hud.gov/Delaware.



Permanently Housing Dover's Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

Dover's Rapid Results Veterans Boot Camp brought representatives from federal, state and local governments along with a host of homeless providers, two homeless veterans, and veterans' service organizations together on Mar. 2 at the Dover Public Library. Dover Mayor Robin Christiansen and Regional Administrator Jane C.W. Vincent launched the one-day, rapid results boot camp which is designed to give communities the impetus and the tools to take ownership of ending veteran homelessness by the end of 2015. Team building exercises involving

spaghetti, marshmallows and tennis balls, mapping exercises on the processes for housing homeless veterans, and brainstorming sessions to identify how many homeless veterans there are in Dover consumed the day. When all was said and done, the group agreed it needed to find permanent homes for 50 veterans to put an end to service members sleeping on the streets, under bridges, and in shelters in the Capital City by year's end. It also decided to permanently house 22 homeless veterans in 100 days and to do as many "100 day cycles" as needed until all 50 veterans had permanent homes. Volunteers were asked to sign the initial 100-day campaign contract; Dover Mayor Robin Christiansen, pictured right, was the first to endorse it committing to weekly team meetings until June 10 to fulfil the mandate. Bill Farley, who initially chaired the Dover Citizens Group to End Veteran Homelessness in Dover, was unanimously voted to lead the team along with co-chairs Jeanine Kleimo, Chair of the Dover Interfaith Mission, and Liz Byers-Jiron, Executive Director of the Delaware Veteran's Stand Down. HUD salutes the team, the leaders, and Mayor Christiansen, for their pledge to find permanent homes for all homeless veterans in Dover by Dec. 31, 2015.



Southbridge Businesses Honor their Historic Roots

Three Southbridge businesses proudly display the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway emblems in their storefronts. The Small Business Administration (SBA) provided the markers so that tourists, traveling the Delaware route Tubman used to help escaped slaves get to the free state of Pennsylvania, may patronize the small businesses along the route. Historians say Tubman and several escaped slaves hid near Southbridge when patrollers blocked the route across the Christina River. The SBA hosted a walking tour of the businesses it has supported in recent months on Harriet Tubman Day on Mar. 10. They included The Harvest Christian Retail Store, Ms. Bonnie's Savor the Flavvors Seefood Restaurant and Sepia

Cleaners Pre-Paid Dry Cleaning. "We all have a stake in homegrown Delaware business' success," said John Banks, SBA Delaware Deputy District Director. "Small businesses like the ones along the 'Tubman Byway' in Southbridge tie communities together. They are what make home really home." In honor of Tubman, the Delaware Department of Transportation, SBA and community groups announced the launch of the Delaware Byway Committee. The goal of the committee is to develop business opportunities, create jobs and to promote statewide economic growth by partnering Delaware's scenic and historic byways with the small businesses lining those routes. The Committee has its first meeting in April and will explore the use of special coupons, grant offerings and placing Underground Railroad artifacts in local businesses to attract shoppers. Pictured above right, Ms. Bonnie White poses with SBA Deputy Director John Banks inside her restaurant.

In observation of Fair Housing Month in April, the Delaware Division of Human Relations is hosting a series of 'Community Conversation Mini-Conferences' to educate residents on federal and state fair housing laws, Delaware's protected classes, and how their Fair Housing rights are protected. The theme for the series is "Promoting Fair Housing Through Meaningful Conversations." These community conversations are designed to encourage dialogue and participation and demonstrate our commitment to creating strong, resilient and inclusive communities throughout the state.

The dates and locations are:

- **April 8, 4 to 8 p.m.**, Kent County at Delaware Technical & Community College, Dover, Del.
- **April 15, 4 to 8 p.m.**, Sussex County at the Laurel Town Hall, Laurel, Del.
- **April 22, 4 to 8 p.m.**, New Castle County at Rose Hill Community Center, New Castle, Del.
- **April 28, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, Policy Leadership Conference, location TBD.

Each free fair housing mini-conference will include a presentation on fair housing, an opportunity for community discussion and conversation. Refreshments are included. We anticipate that the dialogue will be meaningful, thoughtful and honest. The State Human Relations Commission and the Division of Human Relations enforce the state and federal fair housing laws in Delaware. For more information and to register, visit the [Fair Housing Month webpage](#).

Events & Announcements

- **April 6, 11:15 a.m. to Noon** – Housing Opportunities of Northern Delaware, Inc.’s 32nd Proclamation Signing Ceremony, “Each One Teach One Your Fair Housing Rights” in the New Castle County Government Center, 87 Reads Way, 2nd Floor, NCC Executive Office, New Castle, DE 19720. Please RSVP by email admin@hond.org or call 302-429-0794.
- **April 17, 8:30 a.m. to Noon** – Housing Opportunities of Northern Delaware, Inc.’s 19th Fair Housing Law Forum, Community Service Building, Room 109, 100 W. 10th Street, Wilmington, DE 19801. Please RSVP by April 10 by email admin@hond.org or call 302-429-0794.
- **April 24, Noon to 2 p.m.** – Housing Opportunities of Northern Delaware, Inc.’s 28th Annual Fair Housing Observance & Awards Luncheon at the Doubletree by Hilton Downtown Wilmington located at 8th and King Streets in Wilmington Delaware 19801. Please RSVP by April 6 by email admin@hond.org or call 302-429-0794.
- **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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D.C. Housing Authority Breaks Ground at Capitol Gateway Marketplace

On Mar. 24, the District of Columbia Housing Authority broke ground on the mixed-use phase of the Capitol Gateway Marketplace, bringing more affordable housing, retail, and job opportunities to the District. The \$220 million mixed-use, transit-oriented town center (\$120 million for the Capitol Gateway Marketplace phase alone) will feature a LEED-certified apartment complex located above 20,000 square

feet of retail space, and a 130,000 square-foot Super Walmart which will include a full-service grocery store with fresh produce and general merchandise. “One of my top priorities as mayor is to build a pathway to the middle class,” said Mayor Muriel Bowser in her remarks. “Part of that effort is providing residents with affordable, high-quality housing. But that is only half of the equation. Residents also need jobs and retail options in their own neighborhoods. Capitol Gateway Marketplace will help make that goal a reality.” Capitol Gateway Marketplace, located on the 5800 and 5900 blocks of East Capitol Street, N.E., will include 312 unit mixed-use building with affordable rental units. The overall development will include studios, one-, and two-bedroom apartments. The entire Capitol Gateway project is the result of a \$30.8 million HOPE VI grant awarded to DCHA in 2000 from HUD to redevelop East Capitol Dwellings, Capitol View Plaza, and Capitol View Plaza II. To date, a total of 379 units have been redeveloped: a 151-unit mid-rise senior building; 142 townhouse and single-family detached homeownership units; and 86 low-rise rental units. The mixed-use phase of development is expected to be complete in two years. Above pictured second from right, Director Turner joined (left to right) DCHA Executive Director Adrienne Todman, Ward 7 Council member Yvette Alexander, Mayor Muriel Bowser and A&R Development President Marjorie Rodgers Cheshire for a photograph after the official groundbreaking, shown right. For the complete story, visit dchousing.org.



Mayor Muriel Bowser Partners with Montgomery and Prince George's County Execs to Tackle Homelessness

On Mar. 17, District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser, Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, and Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker III joined forces at the Regional Summit on Homelessness. The event was organized by area leadership as a call to action to funders, developers, banks, employers, landlords, service providers, schools, institutes of higher learning, and community members to join in the work to end homelessness. The Summit was held at Community Vision at Progress Place, a facility in Montgomery County, Maryland, that provides services for persons experiencing homelessness, and commenced with remarks from the leaders of each of the three jurisdictions. "We all know that we are going to have to be proactive to solve this issue. Our response cannot be limited to sheltering people today. If we are ever going to get ahead of this issue, we must go further to truly address the root causes of housing instability," said Mayor Bowser. "Every one of us standing in this room plays a critical role. And for that reason, we are eager to be kicking off this long overdue regional collaboration between the District, Montgomery County, Prince George's County—and all of you," she continued. The three leaders, Leggett, Bowser and Baker, (pictured left to right) each signed Charters confirming their commitment to working together to eliminate homelessness in the Metropolitan area; establish a high level regional coordinating council on homelessness to develop and implement an actionable plan to permanently end homelessness in the region, particularly chronic homelessness; and set timeframes. For the complete story, visit the dc.gov website.



Annual Northern Virginia Housing Event Draws Crowd

Nearly 900 people attended the Northern Virginia Housing Expo (NoVA Expo) on Mar. 21 at Herndon High School in Herndon, Virginia. HUD's Belinda Fadlilmola was among the 70 exhibitors at the free event that showcased rental and first-time homeownership opportunities in the region. The NoVA Expo featured dozens of free workshops and exhibits designed to educate attendees about location and housing options, financing, preparation to buy or rent, understanding the current housing market, maximizing their credit scores, free one-on-one credit counseling and more. The annual event is hosted by Affordable Housing Opportunity Means Everyone (AHOME), a non-profit organization, in cooperation with Virginia Housing Development Authority and the counties of Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William and Loudoun, the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church, and the town of Herndon. For details and information

distributed at the event, visit the NoVA Expo's new website at <http://www.novahousingexpo.org>.



Events & Announcements

- **April 1, 2 to 3 p.m.** – Fair Housing Month Opening Program. The 47th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, will highlight the ongoing commitment of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity staff in the Brooke Mondale Auditorium at HUD Headquarters in Washington, DC.
- **April 15, 10 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.** – Fairfax County Office of Human Rights & Equity Programs 2015 Fair Housing Month Forum and Luncheon, Waterford at Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax, VA 22033. HUD's Sara Pratt will serve as the keynote speaker for the event that includes Fair Housing Training by The Equal Rights Center. To learn more about the event and registration, visit fairfaxcounty.gov.
- **Apr. 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** – The Equal Rights Center (ERC) will co-host the annual District of Columbia Fair Housing Symposium with the District of Columbia Office of Human Rights, D.C. Dept. of Housing and Community Development and the District of Columbia Developmental Disabilities Council at Mr. Vernon Place United Methodist Church, 900 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001. HUD's Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Assistant Secretary Gustavo Velasquez will join District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser to keynote the event. Panel discussions on source of income discrimination, discrimination against individuals with disabilities and discrimination against the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community will be featured. For more information and to register, visit equalrightscenter.org.

MARYLAND

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Renovation of Historic Bolton Hill Building to Provide New Affordable Housing in Baltimore

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Kenneth C. Holt joined Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and other officials at the groundbreaking ceremony for the historic Marlborough Apartments. Built in 1907, the rehabilitation of the 11-story building will provide much-needed affordable housing for 224 hardworking families. The Marlborough has served as a 100 percent Section 8 property reserved for elderly and disabled residents. In order to preserve the building, Cambridge Housing Partners secured allocations of tax-exempt bonds and 4 percent Low Income Housing Tax Credits to allow for the Housing Preservation Inc., a non-profit organization, to have the ability to acquire and rebuild the 107-year-old landmark building.



Baltimore Field Office Celebrates Black History Month with “A Century of Black Life, History & Culture”

In partnership with the City of Baltimore’s Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Baltimore Field Office celebrated Black History Month on Feb. 25. With the theme of “A Century of Black Life, History & Culture,” the event featured the uplifting songs of hope from the Maryland Center for Veterans Education & Training’s Message of Hope Choir. See The Fruits, Inc. Founder and CEO Gwendolyn Briley-Strand provided the event’s keynote with a “Portal

Through Time.” Ms. Strand, whose company uses the Arts to teach American history, also staged a large display of African-American history for those attending. Her vita includes two White House appearances where she brought Harriett Tubman’s story to life and a one-woman show on Rosa Parks for the Maryland Humanities Council’s Chautauqua.

University of Maryland Students Join BFO for Service Learning Trip

On Mar. 19, the Baltimore Field Office hosted University of Maryland College Park students for their service learning trip. Focusing on the Baltimore City affordable housing and economic development, the students heard from HUD’s Community Planning and Development Director Charlie Halm, City of Baltimore Mayor’s Office of Health and Human Services Director Jacquelyn Duval-Harvey and the Opportunity Collaborative’s Housing Policy Coordinator Dan Pontious. Program Directors and staff also were in attendance for the briefing that included a lively question and answer session.



MD Awarded Grant to Continue Foreclosure Prevention Efforts Ranked Among Nation’s Most Effective

The National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling (NFMC) program recently awarded more than \$44.8 million in grants, including \$747,000 for foreclosure prevention counseling in Maryland. Since 2007, more than 1.89 million families in all 50 states, including the District of Columbia and U.S. territories have received foreclosure counseling through the NFMC program. An additional 129,600 families facing the threat of foreclosure will be directly assisted with these awards with more helped by the training of foreclosure counselors, provided through the NFMC program. Under the leadership of Governor Larry Hogan and Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, the state consistently ranks near the top in putting its funds to work. HOPE NOW ranks Maryland second in the nation in the percentage of homeowners, 84,000 in total, who have received proprietary bank modifications from 2009 to Sept. 2014. The state ranks fifth in the utilization of the federal Home Affordable Modification Program, benefitting 119,000 homeowners, and 11th in utilization of the federal Home Affordable Refinance Program, with nearly 92,000 homeowners. Also, Maryland has been a national leader in using funds from the National Attorney General Mortgage Settlement program to benefit financially beleaguered homeowners directly.



How One County Government Diverts Food Waste to Generate Revenue

Food scrap waste diversion has been gaining momentum around the nation. From Seattle, where [composting is mandatory](#) for city residents, to Minneapolis, [where curbside organics pickup is being introduced](#), to New York City, which is [turning food waste into energy](#), waste-diversion programs have been popping up. A pilot project in Maryland's Howard County is now expanding. Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman

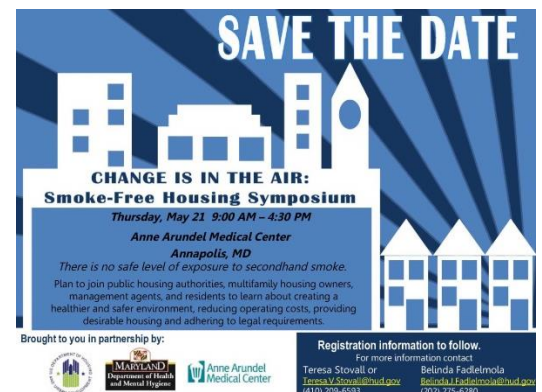
traveled to local elementary school that has been collecting food scraps to announce that the pilot project there would be expanding across the street to a middle school. "Since starting this program in August, this one school has helped divert four tons of waste from our landfill," Kittleman said in a statement. "It makes sense for these students to be able to continue their sustainability efforts as they move on to middle school. Their support for food scrap collection demonstrates that simple ideas can produce big results." It also produces revenue for the county and lowers costs, since food-scrap diversion is cheaper than hauling away regular household waste. Located southeast of Baltimore, Howard County offers curbside food scrap collection to 15,000 households, [according to a county press release](#). Up to 400 tons of waste material is diverted from landfills to composting, which the county sells as mulch, topsoil and other byproducts, generating \$60,000 in revenue for the county.

Immigrants Reinvigorating American Communities

The 14th annual New Partners for Smart Growth conference, which ran from Jan. 29 through 31 in Baltimore, drew hundreds of participants and featured dozens of panels with experts and practitioners discussing such topics as resilience, land preservation and equitable development, among many others. Among these panels was "The New Faces of Economic Resilience: Immigrants Revitalizing Distressed Communities," moderated by Megan McConville of the National Association of Development Organizations, which discussed the critical role of immigrant communities in various community contexts. Two officials working to support immigrant communities in the city of Baltimore offered complementary perspectives on the opportunities and changing demands generated by an increasingly diverse population. Catalina Rodriguez-Lima, the director of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs, noted that Baltimore's foreign-born population is approximately 50,000, nearly double what it was in the 1990s despite a decline in the city's overall population over the same period. Rodriguez-Lima explained that these immigrants, many of whom have come from Central American nations, are bringing resilience and local businesses to neighborhoods that have struggled. For the complete article, visit [PD&R's The Edge online magazine](#).

Events & Announcements

- **Apr. 20, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.** – The Fourth Annual Symposium on the Social Determinants of Health, Healing Together: Community-Level Trauma--Its Causes, Consequences and Solutions at the Turner Auditorium on the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine campus, 720 Rutland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21205. Presented by the Office of the Provost and the Urban Health Institute, the Social Determinants of Health symposium annually invites faculty, administrators, and students from Baltimore's colleges and universities to join this important discussion with local community-based organizations, city agencies, engaged community residents, service professionals and community leaders. To register, visit http://urbanhealth.jhu.edu/Social_Determinants_of_Health/.
- **Apr. 24** – The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, the Maryland CASH Campaign and partners will host a Maryland Financial Education Summit at the Baltimore branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. For more information or to register, contact [Karen Huffman](#).
- **May 7, 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.** – Fair Housing Accessibility FIRST and Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc. (BNI) will present a design and construction training at the Randallstown Community Center, Randallstown, Md. The event is free, but [registration is required](#).
- **May 21 – SAVE THE DATE! HUD's Baltimore and National Capital Area Field Offices will host a special Change is in the Air: Smoke-Free Housing Symposium** at the Anne Arundel County Medical Center, 2000 Medical Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401. For online registration available early April, visit hud.gov/Maryland.





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Philadelphia Strategy Gains Momentum in Reducing Homelessness

After 20 years of living on and off the streets of Philadelphia and in and out of shelters, Robert LaTerza is happy to be in a place of his own. He's now living in the James J. Wilson Mercy-Douglass Residences, a HUD-subsidized multifamily property in West Philly. "It feels so good to have some place I can call my own," said LaTerza. "It makes me happy, and I feel better inside about myself." His new home is one of 28 properties participating in a program that is gaining momentum in Philadelphia, increasing resources to house people experiencing homelessness. Pictured above right as he

entered his new apartment, LaTerza is the first to be housed through the program.

The Philadelphia Multifamily Homeless Placement program encourages property owners in HUD's Multifamily Housing inventory to adopt a homeless preference and to lease units to families and individuals experiencing homelessness. Using a streamlined process, property owners have made selections through their homeless preferences or waiting lists. As a result, 55 households are no longer without a home, and the number of placements is growing steadily. Project leaders Lyn Kirshenbaum and Shirley Bryant in HUD's Philadelphia Regional Office came up with the idea as part of their work in supporting the Dedicating Opportunities to End Homelessness Initiative—a 10-city initiative led by HUD and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness that focuses on reducing chronic and veteran homelessness by streamlining housing and support systems. "Some multifamily properties experience difficulties in filling efficiency units; so as a starting point and with these properties in mind, we developed a strategy to supplement affordable housing—bolstering local efforts to end homelessness," said Kirshenbaum, a senior management analyst in the Office of Field Policy and Management, with a background in public and multifamily housing.

Traditionally, public housing programs are considered first when addressing housing needs, but other possibilities emerged in Philadelphia. "To get the project up and running, I requested information from property owners, asking them to provide details on their vacancies, and we targeted those units as well as others with high turnover rates," said Bryant, a program advisor in Multifamily Housing. "Now a national model for other HUD regions, interest in the initiative has grown through regular meetings with property owners and management agents, focusing on both subsidized and unsubsidized units as well as different types of dwellings. The program has received support from the Philadelphia Federal Executive Board's annual Homeless to Housed drive, which provides household items for those individuals housed through the program. Also, a property management company has helped arrange furniture donations from local businesses.

As the end-of-the-year deadline approaches for ending veteran homelessness, regional planning is shifting into high gear. Creative minds, perseverance and a passion for ending homelessness are fueling efforts. "We are now expanding the initiative to other parts of our region," said Kirshenbaum. "I am so excited about the future of this program and its many possibilities." Federal, state and local agencies make up Philadelphia's multifamily homeless placement team, including HUD, Department of Veterans Affairs, Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, Philadelphia Office of Supportive Housing, Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health, Philadelphia Housing Authority, Veterans Multiservice Center, Utility Emergency Services Fund and Impact Services. See [photos](#) of the team's celebration held after its first housing placement.

Philly Conference Allows Regional Planners to Compare Notes on Community-Building

On Mar. 12, Community developers from around the Delaware Valley received advice on best practices for building livable communities. Barry Seymour, with the [Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission](#) celebrating its 50th year, says the one-day conference was designed to give helpful information to planners and developers of more than 350 communities around the region. "We're covering a lot of ground, so we're talking about planning around transportation, around reuse of vacant properties, around parks and open space, around dealing with climate change and weather events," he told *KYW Newsradio* reporter Justin Udo.



And Harriet Tregoning, HUD's Director of the Office of Economic Resilience was also on hand to talk about how to best build up neighborhoods. "How to activate streets. How to create more opportunities for young entrepreneurs, and how to attract and retain highly educated college graduates in their communities," she said. Tregoning also gave the developers examples of cities from around the country that are making great strides in developing their land and properties. DVRPC Executive Director Barry Seymour and HUD Economic Resilience Director Harriet Tregoning pose for a photo. Story reprinted by permission of KYW Newsradio.

Fast facts: For more news on the work of HUD's Office of Economic Resilience, read Harriet Tregoning's recent blog [story](#).

Events/Announcements

- **Apr. 9, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.** – The Housing Equality Center of Pennsylvania, Fair Housing Accessibility FIRST, North Penn Legal Services, Greater Lehigh Valley Realtor Association and HUD are hosting a Fair Housing Conference: Promoting Accessibility in Lehigh Valley at the Hotel Bethlehem, 437 Main Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018. HUD's Regional Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Director Melody-Taylor Blancher will be one of the featured speakers. For more information and registration, visit fairhousingfirst.org.
- **Apr. 13, 6 to 8 p.m.** – The Housing Resource Center's Landlord Forum: Understanding the Housing Market for Landlords at the Lancaster Housing Opportunities Partnership Housing Resource Center, 123 East King Street, Lancaster, PA 17602. The evening event offers an opportunity for aspiring and current landlords to network while learning new industry developments and best practices. To register, visit lhop.org.
- **Ongoing through Apr. 17** – The Philadelphia Federal Executive Board is holding its second annual Homeless to Housed drive to help people experiencing homelessness settle into their new homes. Donated goods will be used to create move-in baskets. For more information, contact FEB Executive Director Lisa Makosewski at (215) 861-3665 or visit <http://philadelphia.feb.gov/>.
- **Apr. 23, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** – Fair Housing Rights Center in Southeastern Pennsylvania's Fair Housing Month Event, "Property Taxes, Education and Fair Housing: Key Components to Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing in Philadelphia" at the Free Library of Philadelphia in Philadelphia, PA. To register for this event, visit fairhousingrights.org.
- **May 28, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** – Housing Equality Center of Pennsylvania is hosting Zoned Out: Fair Housing Solutions Symposium at the GIANT Willow Grove Community Center, 315 York Road, Willow Grove, PA 19090. The fair housing program will explore group homes, affordable housing, Not-in-my-Backyard known as NIMBYism, age-restricted communities and other fair housing planning, zoning and land use topics. Designed for local government officials, solicitors, attorneys, planners and housing advocates, the symposium will include presentations, panel discussions and networking opportunities with HUD's Sara Pratt and Jane C.W. Vincent, expert attorneys and local agencies. This is a FREE event and lunch is included with registration. Visit equalhousing.org for more information and to register.
- **June 26** – In collaboration with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control will host an Asthma Summit in Philadelphia. The purpose of the summit is to advocate and gain support for a policy shift that would result in the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Innovation and private health insurance providers reimbursing the costs for environmental interventions to reduce or eliminate asthma triggers in the homes of children with asthma. Watch for more information in future issues of *Region III HUDLine News*.

PENNSYLVANIA – WESTERN REGION

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Residents Learn More, Earn More

Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh Embraces Section 3 Resident Employment Program

In Pittsburgh, the Section 3/ Resident Employment Program empowers both HACP (Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh) residents and qualified non-residents achieve self-sufficiency. Many individuals face barriers that can hinder them from performing up to their full potential. The aim of the Section 3/Resident Employment Program is to assist these individuals in obtaining the skills, knowledge and confidence needed to advance in the work force. In 2014 the HACP Section 3/ Resident Employment Program connected 77 individuals with viable employment. Pictured at right, Rashad Cox represents one of the residents benefiting from this program. A resident of Homewood North, Rashad has worked with Lloyd C. Wilson, Jr., the HACP's Section 3 Coordinator, since October 2014 as an employee of JKECO Electric and Air Technology Inc. (ATI). Mr. Cox worked as a laborer with ATI for three months on a large window replacement project taking place at Bedford Dwellings. Mr. Cox was also one of several HACP residents recommended for the Authority's Construction & Trades Training Program, which is kicking off this spring. He is also scheduled to interview for a demolition and site preparation job. Like all clients who work with the HACP's Section 3 Program, employment assistance and training are provided on an ongoing basis. The process does not end after a referral or connection with an employer.



An Action Plan for Erie's Future

On Mar. 26 with a standing-room only crowd on hand, the Destination Erie Regional Plan funded by a \$1.8 million HUD Regional Sustainability Planning Grant was unveiled. Those supporting the effort predict that over the next 25 years, "the Erie County of the future will emerge from the Erie County of the present." In recognition of this opportunity, the effort to implement the Destination Erie Regional Plan has been named Emerge 2040: A Focused Partnership for the Erie Region's Future. Emerge 2040 will extend the collaboration that was built through Destination Erie and will work to inspire and catalyze action throughout the Erie Region toward the shared vision for the future that Destination Erie describes. And,

according to a posting on the new website, Emerge 2040 will keep Erie County's communities talking with one another to identify opportunities to become more efficient and more effective at achieving shared goals. Recommendations include 42 initiatives addressing economic development, job creation, housing, public safety, the environment and transportation. Immediately following the announcement, citizens and stakeholders lined up to sign a declaration of their commitment to Emerge 2040. For more insight, download the final strategic plan [Overview and Summary](#) and the complete final [Destination Erie](#) strategic plan.

Are you curious about how the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County are faring with the Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness? How about the results from the most recent 100 days of the Pittsburgh Rapid Results Boot Camp? You'll want to keep an eye out for PCTV-21's special segment highlighting the two local initiatives in late April. Pictured left to right during the studio taping are Interviewer Steve Irwin, Producer Carl Cimini, Pittsburgh Rapid Results Boot Camp Lead Jesse Rodriguez and Etta Sherman, a veteran who had experienced homelessness and who now has housing through the HUD-VASH program. Watch for details in the next edition of *HUDline News*.



Events & Announcements

- **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.

- **Apr. 22, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.** – Homebuyer Resource Expo, St. Martin Center, 1701 Parade Street, Erie, Pa. Learn about mortgage options, first-time homebuyer initiatives and more. For more information, call (814) 452-6113, ext. 207.
- **Apr. 28** – The Erie County Human Relations Commission will hold its 9th Annual Fair Housing at the Blasco Library, Hirt Auditorium, 160 East Front Street, Erie, Pa. Topics include Fair Housing & Accessibility in Cyberspace; Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing; Service Animals under the Fair Housing Act – and much more! For more information, call 814-451-7021, visit www.eriecountygov.org/HRC/ or send an email to cscalise@eriecountygov.org.

VIRGINIA



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Virginia's HUD-VASH Partners Target Utilization of Vouchers

The HUD Richmond Public Housing Program Center continues to coordinate meetings between Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) administering HUD-VASH Program with the Hampton Veteran's Affairs Medical Center (VAMC). A meeting was held in March to continue discussion of HUD-VASH Portability and increased utilization of the program. The meeting topics included a HUD-VASH update, proposed Hampton Roads Regional HUD-VASH Referral Form, HUD VASH - Portability Process initiative, and the Virginia 100-day challenge as it related to HUD-

VASH. Seven Public Housing Authorities and staff from the Hampton VAMC were present, and the coordinated efforts of the Richmond Public Housing Office and its HUD-VASH partners has resulted in an increased utilization of the VASH program, now on target for 100 percent utilization of all VASH vouchers this year.

Council Tasked with Advancing Virginia's Housing Policy Meets

Virginia's Housing Policy Advisory Council held its first meeting on Mar. 19 to address important housing issues facing the Commonwealth. Created as a result of Governor Terry McAuliffe's Executive Order 32, "Advancing Virginia's Housing Policy," the council is chaired by Secretary of Commerce and Trade Maurice Jones and is tasked with developing housing policy initiatives aimed at addressing Virginia's critical housing needs. For more information, visit governor.virginia.gov.

Congratulations

Virginia has been awarded a \$22.3 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a pilot program to help increase job skills training for SNAP recipients. The grants are intended to help states test new programs that put participants in SNAP—the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—back to work. In Virginia and across the country, SNAP helps low-income families obtain access to nutritious foods and serves as the first line of defense against hunger. Last month, 856,500 Virginians received SNAP benefits. Thirty-five states applied for the \$200 million in grants made available through the 2014 farm bill, and Virginia is one of 10 states that were successful. The grants will fund pilot programs for three years. The Virginia Department of Social Services partnered with the Virginia Community College System to apply for the grant. Virginia's pilot program will allow 3,760 eligible SNAP-Employment and Training program recipients to earn workforce credentials, such as certifications, apprenticeships, occupational licenses and college certificates, to work in high-demand occupations. For more information, visit governor.virginia.gov.

Governor Terry McAuliffe has announced \$226,000 in Building Entrepreneurial Economies (BEE) awards for 12 projects in the Commonwealth. The BEE program provides funding to nonprofits and local governments to assist with the development of local and regional entrepreneurial economies that foster job creation and expansion by micro- and small businesses. To read more about the awards, visit the [Governor's newsroom](http://Governor's%20newsroom).

Events & Announcements

- **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](http://virginiahousingcounselors.org) 2015 Spring Conference will feature training, certification and educational workshops. For more information and to register, visit virginiahousingcounselors.org.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** Registration is now open for the Virginia Governor's Housing Conference, to be held in Hampton November 18 through 20. For more information and to register, visit the [VGHC website](http://VGHC.org).

WEST VIRGINIA



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CKHA Presses Forward with Long Term Revitalization Efforts

For the Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority (CKHA) in West Virginia, which is now nearly seventy seven years old, perhaps there has never been a time frame within this history with more dramatic changes than what has occurred over the last eight years. This change has reduced the quantity of units at some of the original sites built between 1939 through the 1950's, reduced crime stats and has replaced blighted properties with a total of

352 new beautiful townhomes. This effort has in turn, transformed the perception of many properties from "developments" to "communities," where socialization and community pride are more evident.

Most of the redevelopment has been focused upon the West Side of Charleston to impact an area that is in greatest need of revitalization. Since 2007, a staggering amount of CKHA construction has led to new apartment buildings being built each year through 2014. Made possible through mixed finance funding and partners including Alan Ives Construction, BB&T, Charleston Urban Renewal Authority, City of Charleston, Community Development Trust, Fannie Mae, Federal Home Loan Bank, Hope of Kentucky Bank, JPMorgan Chase, Mayor's Office of Economic Development, National Equity Fund, West Virginia Affordable Housing Trust Fund, the West Virginia Development Office and HUD.

In 2007, the first transformation began and was showcased at the Patrick Street Apartments ribbon cutting ceremony. The new brick townhomes offering modern conveniences replaced vacant buildings. Simultaneously, demolition phases were underway at Washington Manor. Originally built in 1940, the long-term project that would not be completed until 2013. Today, this community is one of the most desirable places to live in Charleston and is often referred to by the media as "reborn." The new Washington Manor community offers desirable townhomes, a great convenient downtown location, two senior low-rises and a very busy community room that features a wide variety of activities for its residents.

Construction phases continued at various properties. In 2009, the new Administrative Office was unveiled—and CKHA received a Mixed-Use Development of the Year Award from the Mayor's Office. The project transformed vacant buildings into a multi-purpose facility that not only provides a centralized space for staff members, but also provides space for a wide variety of community functions. Throughout this time span, CKHA worked closely with the West Side Main Street Association to continue to develop additional revitalization efforts. Other endeavors led to the demolition of old warehouses and unused properties and continued to transform them into new neighborhoods such as the Greystone Apartments (2013) and the Legion Apartments (2014). Pictured above left, Prezioso Place is the newest CKHA community and just opened in Dec. 29, 2014. Many of the residents moving in that day were actually relocated from the neighboring Littlepage Terrace development in preparation for the final demolition phases that will soon occur. As we look toward the future, two phases are planned and will eventually complete the transformation of this community, the first public housing property constructed in West Virginia in 1939, into a finished new community similar to Washington Manor. For the complete collection of before and after photos, visit hud.gov/westvirginia.

Events & Announcements

- **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 Apr. 10** – The U.S. Dept. of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) has released the [Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation \(BCJI\) Program FY 2015 solicitation](#). BJA is seeking applications from eligible entities to plan and implement place-based, community-oriented strategies to address targeted crime issues within a neighborhood as part of a broader neighborhood revitalization initiative.
- **DUE Apr. 23** – The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has announced a funding opportunity for projects that strengthen the public's and/or K-12 students' environmental literacy through enhanced awareness of a community's threats and vulnerabilities. Eligible applicants include institutions of higher education, nonprofits, school systems and state and local governments. For details, visit [noaa.gov](#).
- **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/>.
- **DUE Apr. 30** – The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) will award \$30.5 million in grants through the "Face Forward" initiative—a program designed to help court-involved youth overcome barriers early on and provide occupational training and credentials that will help them open the door to career success. DOL plans to award four grants of \$5 million each to intermediary organizations who will then work with local service providers in no less than three communities across no less than two states. The remaining funds will be awarded to approximately 10 community organization for up to \$1.05 million each. Preference will be given to grantees that target communities with high-poverty and high-crime rates that provide services to youth between the ages of 14 to 24 that have been involved in the juvenile justice system, but never convicted in the adult criminal system. The Funding Opportunity Announcement, which includes information about how to apply, is available at <http://www.grants.gov>.

- **DUE Apr. 30** – The Environmental Protection Agency has announced the availability of \$8 million to establish regional Environmental Finance Centers that provide multi-media environmental finance expertise and outreach to help communities meet environmental requirements. Applications must be submitted via Grants.gov. Please see the [request for applications \(RFA\)](#) for more information.
- **DUE Apr. 30** – Letters of intent for the \$6 million in grants available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s [The Farm to School Grant Program](#) that funds planning, implementation, support service, and training efforts and allows community partners such as local agencies and nonprofit organizations to participate in bringing local products to school cafeterias. Final proposals for planning, implementation and support service grants are due May 20.
- **DUE May 14** – Applications for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s [Farmers Market and the Local Food Promotion Programs](#) to help create market opportunities and facilitate connections within local and regional food systems. The Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program provides a combined total of \$26.6 million divided equally between its two grant programs. The Farmers Market Promotion Program provides \$13.3 million to support projects for direct farmer-to-consumer marketing projects such as farmers markets, community-supported agriculture programs, roadside stands, and agritourism. The Local Food Promotion Program offers \$13.3 million in funds for projects that support intermediary supply chain activities for businesses that process, distribute, aggregate and store locally- or regionally-produced food products. Applications are accepted through www.Grants.gov. For more details, visit the AMS Grant Programs [website](#).
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Marketing Service Technical Assistance (AMSTA) initiative shares knowledge through an in-person grant writing workshop in each US state, as well as additional tools and materials provided through the AMSTA website. Workshops will focus on effective grant-writing practices, with an emphasis on USDA’s [Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program](#). This is a partnership between USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to conduct workshops that will help potential grant applicants understand, develop, and submit their Federal grant applications for the [Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program](#). View a list of upcoming grant workshop dates and locations at the [AMSTA website](#). More workshops will be added soon, and the State representatives listed on the website can be contacted for additional information about upcoming workshops. Some of the workshop sessions will be recorded and available for online viewing for those not able to attend in person.

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 HUDLine News](#). We safeguard our lists and do not rent, sell or permit the use of our lists.