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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

September 2015 - A Special 50th Anniversary Edition of the Region III HUDLine News

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A MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR



Championing Ending Homelessness

As the City of Philadelphia made final preparations to host two significant events—the World Meeting of Families, beginning Sept. 22 through 25 and the Papal Visit on Sept. 26 and 27, we joined our nonprofit partners at Project HOME as they announced the final plans for their newest affordable housing development in the City. Located in Chinatown at 810 Arch Street, the name of the site “Francis House of Peace,” will serve as a long-term reminder of Pope Francis and his commitment to improve conditions for those who live in poverty.

I had the pleasure of joining Sister Mary Scullion along with their partners, lead donors and residents for a very special tour and dedication ceremony on Sept. 21. Francis House of Peace was developed in partnership with the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation. Scheduled to open in early November, the project will be a nine-story mixed-use development with retail space and 94 apartment units for formerly homeless and low-income men and women, including young adults at risk of becoming homeless. Pictured below left to right, Project HOME’s Janet Stearns leads a tour of the building for me, Middleton Partnership Co-Founder Leigh Middleton, Raynier Institute and Foundation

Trustee Michael Valucci and Philadelphia Councilman Mark Squilla.

The new residence development leverages both private and public funding—with lead private funding from the Raynier Institute and Foundation, Leigh and John Middleton and the Maguire Foundation. The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority, the Philadelphia Housing Authority and FHLBank Atlanta provided public funds. Lead investors include Capital One, National Association and the National Equity Fund.



“Francis House of Peace is a sign of hope for our entire community,” said S. Mary Scullion, “It demonstrates that we are finding even more ways to take concrete steps toward truly preventing and ending homelessness in Philadelphia, and it shows what is possible when people come together with shared vision and commitment.”

Francis House of Peace residents will have access to all Project HOME services, including basic medical care and fitness classes through its Health Initiative Program, employment training through its Employment Services Department, and educational and technological opportunities through its Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs.



The dedication was a great way to celebrate the good work of Sister Mary and Project HOME, pictured at right with me, on behalf of the individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia, and Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency Executive Director Brian Hudson.

And, a strong reminder of the work that we are doing throughout the Mid-Atlantic region and across the country to meet the goals of *Opening Doors*, the nation's first strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness. You'll find more examples of efforts to end homelessness in the "Around the Region" section of this month's HUDLine News. Please feel free to send your stories our way—we're all working towards the same goals, and together we will achieve success, one person at a time.

Jane C.W. Vincent
Region III Regional Administrator

"We can find no social or moral justification, no justification whatsoever, for lack of housing."

- Pope Francis stated in his talk at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 24, 2015

Photographs courtesy of Jay Gorodetzer Photography/Project HOME.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Grant, Funding & Award Announcements

On Sept. 18 as part of the Obama Administration's effort to prevent and effectively end homelessness, **HUD announced that it will offer \$1.9 billion for fiscal year 2015 to support existing and new homelessness programs.** Funded through [HUD's Continuum of Care \(CoC\) Homeless Assistance Program Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\)](#), this notice will further incentivize local applicants to pursue permanent housing using a Housing First approach to target their resources to proven strategies. The funding will provide permanent and transitional housing to people experiencing homelessness as well as services including housing stabilization, job training and health care. Continuum of Care grants are awarded competitively to local programs to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness. These grants fund a wide variety of programs from street outreach and assessment programs to transitional and permanent housing for individuals, including unaccompanied youth, and families. For this CoC program competition, HUD has made several changes to the application process that will make it more competitive and increase incentives for communities to improve their performance. As part of these changes, HUD has expanded incentives to adopt best practices such as permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing which will enable communities to further move the needle on ending homelessness. HUD requires prospective grantees to submit applications electronically at grants.gov by Nov. 20.

On Sept. 28, HUD Secretary Julián Castro traveled to Atlanta, Georgia and Kansas City, Missouri to announce that **five communities will receive a combined \$150 million** to redevelop severely distressed public housing and revitalize the surrounding neighborhood. HUD is awarding [Choice Neighborhoods Initiative](#) Implementation Grants to city and housing authority partnerships in Atlanta, Georgia; Kansas City, Missouri; Memphis, Tennessee; Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Sacramento, California; in order to begin the process of transforming, rehabilitating and preserving public housing. [Read summaries of the grants.](#)

Other Announcements

The White House launched a [new mapping tool](#) showcasing the **Obama Administration's community-based initiatives and grant programs** focused on building community assets across issues. The [open-source map](#), developed with input from HUD, displays programs from over 15 federal agencies, including HUD's Regional Planning and Community Challenge grants, Choice Neighborhoods, Strong Cities Strong Communities, and U.S. Dept. of Transportation TIGER grants, helping communities leverage federal funding to realize local visions. The Administration is also eager to capture the personal impacts of this place-based work, and has set up a [web portal](#) for the public to weigh in on how these federal programs are affecting their community.

HUD Office of Economic Resiliency has developed **a series of briefs to take you inside the innovation of our grantees and partners**. These briefs introduce planners, policymakers, community leaders and other interested parties to the people involved in our Sustainable Communities grant projects and the tools they have developed that are models to others. Additionally, our Renew300 brief provide an overview of HUD's work to accelerate the use of renewable energy. Visit our [Innovation Series](#) website to find the full set of briefs and view a video that gives you a quick tour of OER's work. Additionally, OER has made publicly available 222 products, case studies, videos, and other items, written by capacity-building organizations that worked closely with our sustainable communities grantees over the past five years. Please visit our [SCI Resource Library](#), and stay tuned for more tools and best practices we will share in the coming months.

The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) is **temporarily waiving its requirement for mortgagees to obtain a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Form 26-8937, Verification of VA Benefits**, when documenting a borrower's VA disability benefits. Additionally, the temporary waiving of this requirement also applies to Home Equity Conversion Mortgages (HECMs), as noted in Section 3.34 of [Attachment 2](#) to [Mortgagee Letter 2014-22](#), "HECM Financial Assessment and Property Charge Guide." This is a [temporary waiver](#) for the collection of Form 26-8937 only, and in no way impacts FHA's policy that considers VA disability benefits an acceptable source of borrower income. This waiver will remain in place until FHA communicates any changes in the waiver's status in the future.

The [2nd Quarter Regional Summary](#) of economic and housing market conditions in the Mid-Atlantic Region has been published. According to the overview, **economic conditions continued to strengthen in the Mid-Atlantic region during the second quarter of 2015**. Nonfarm payroll jobs have expanded year-over-year in every quarter since the second quarter of 2010. Sales housing market conditions in the region remained balanced to slightly soft, unchanged from the range of conditions during the first quarter of 2015 and a year ago. Home sales increased or were unchanged throughout the region compared with an increase in only two states during the first quarter of 2015. Apartment market conditions ranged from slightly tight to balanced; compared with slightly tight to soft conditions a year ago. Vacancy rates declined in most markets from a year ago, but the rate increased significantly in the District of Columbia because of a large number of apartment completions during the 12 months ending June 2015. Slightly tight-to-balanced apartment conditions contributed to an increase in multifamily construction activity throughout the region. The report was authored by Philadelphia's Benjamin Houck.

Sales of new single-family houses in Aug. 2015 were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 552,000, according to estimates released jointly by HUD and the Census Bureau. This is 5.7 percent above the revised July rate of 522,000 and is 21.6 percent above the August 2014 estimate of 454,000. The median sales price of new houses sold in the same period was \$292,700; the average sales price was \$353,400. The seasonally adjusted estimate of new houses for sale at the end of August was 216,000. This represents a supply of 4.7 months at the current sales rate. [Read more about the latest release of new home sales](#).

HUD and the U.S. Census Bureau also jointly announced new residential construction statistics for Aug. 2015. Privately owned housing units authorized by building permits in August were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,170,000. This is 3.5 percent above the revised July rate of 1,130,000, and is 12.5 percent above the Aug. 2014 estimate of 1,040,000. Single-family authorizations in August were at a rate of 699,000; this is 2.8 percent above the revised July figure of 680,000. Authorizations of units in buildings with five units or more were at a rate of 440,000. [Read more about August housing construction activity](#).

Be prepared. Get the [How to Prepare for a Hurricane](#) guide from [America's PrepareAthon!](#) to learn hurricane basics and how to protect yourself during these storms, including: stay away from windows and glass doors; go to a small, interior, windowless room such as a bathroom or closet, on the lowest level not likely to flood; if you are in an area that is flooding, move to a location on higher ground; and if the power goes out, use a flashlight, not a candle for lighting. Also, power outages can last longer than expected, so having a [disaster supply kit](#) can help your family survive. Check out this story from a [disaster survivor](#) who understands the importance of being prepared for the unexpected. Stay informed about hurricanes by monitoring weather reports and [signing up to receive local alerts](#). The National Weather Service (NWS) issues hurricane [watches and warnings](#) to let you know when a storm is headed your way. You can also download the [FEMA mobile application](#) to receive NWS weather updates. Be sure to follow directions from local authorities if they issue an evacuation order.

The stress of shopping for a mortgage will be reduced for those applying for most mortgages beginning October 3, as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's new mortgage rule and forms take effect. These changes are a part of the [Know Before You Owe mortgage initiative](#) and are designed to ease the process of buying a home, help consumers save money, and ensure buyers "know before you owe." The Know Before You Owe mortgage disclosure rule makes it easier to

understand mortgage paperwork by streamlining four overlapping disclosure forms into just two forms, the [Loan Estimate](#) and the [Closing Disclosure](#); standardizing the information to obtain loan estimates and allowing potential buyers more time to review the terms of the mortgage by helping them understand all terms and obligations before closing. Learn more at [consumerfinance.gov](#).

Publications, Studies, Training & Resources

On Oct. 1 from 2 to 4 p.m., please join HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) as they convene their [Quarterly Update, Partnering and Planning for Regional Impact](#). Communities face challenges and opportunities for action on many issues that transcend local boundaries and can often be effectively addressed through a regional approach. Regional planning can facilitate **collaboration among local governments and foster cross-sector approaches to regional challenges as well as encourage equitable economic growth and sustainable development**. Hear the compelling case for using regional approaches to address many of the pressing problems and threats confronting communities.

The Federal Housing Administration's (FHA) National Servicing Center will offer **a series of free webinars for FHA-approved Servicers and Housing Counselors** over the next few months. Upcoming sessions include: Webinar I: Overview HUD Early Delinquency Activities and Loss Mitigation Programs on Oct. 14 from 2 to 4 p.m. which will include an overview of FHA-approved Servicer requirements. [Registration](#) is required. Webinar II.1: HUD Loss Mitigation - Home Retention Options on Oct. 21 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. will provide guidance on special forbearance and loan modifications. [Registration](#) is required. Webinar II.2: HUD Loss Mitigation - Home Retention Options (FHA-HAMP) on Oct. 28 from 2 to 4 p.m. will provide guidance on FHA's Homeownership Affordable Modification Program. [Registration](#) is required. A valid company email address and the FHA 5-digit Lender and/or Agency ID are required at the time of registration. For additional information, please e-mail stacey.a.brown@hud.gov.

The HUD User website has moved to a new address: [huduser.gov](#). **Please update your bookmarks, and visit HUD User at our new address** to access all of PD&R's research, publications and data sets previously hosted on huduser.org. As always, we encourage you to stay up-to-date on new research and resources available from PD&R by following us on [Twitter](#) and liking us on [Facebook](#).

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness' [Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness: A Coordinated Community Response](#) **builds upon the federal framework to end youth homelessness** and lays out the preliminary vision for the system communities need to build to end youth homelessness forever. It draws upon what the agency and its partners have learned to end homelessness for other populations, along with strategies that support the unique needs of unaccompanied youth and young adults under 25.

HUD has posted agendas, handouts and presentations from Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Regional Trainings recently held in New Orleans, La. and Chicago, Ill. To learn more, please visit the [Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program page](#).

HUD FEDERAL REGISTER RULES, NOTICES & FUNDING

Rule

[Streamlining Administrative Regulations for Public Housing: Revisions to Public Housing Flat Rents](#)

[On-Site Completion of Construction of Manufactured Homes](#)

[Housing Choice Voucher Program: Streamlining the Portability Process](#)

Notices

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Mark-to-Market Program: Requirements for Community-Based Non-Profit Organizations and Public Agencies](#)

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

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Housing Choice Voucher Program](#)

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Mortgagee's Certification of Fees and Escrow and Security Bond Against Defects](#)

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection; Legal Instructions Concerning Applications for Full Insurance Benefits-Assignment of Multifamily Mortgages to the Secretary; Correction of Web Site Address for Form](#)

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

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection; Legal Instructions Concerning Applications for Full Insurance Benefits-Assignment of Multifamily Mortgages to the Secretary](#)

[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Personal Financial and Credit Statement](#)

[30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 \(NSP2\) Reporting](#)

[Retrospective Review-Improving the Previous Participation Reviews of Prospective Multifamily Housing and Healthcare Program Participants Informational Conference Call](#)

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Core Performance Reporting Requirements for Competitively-Funded Grants](#)

[60 Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection; Accountability in the Provision of HUD Assistance "Applicant/Recipient Disclosure/Update Report-HUD 2880"](#)

[Proposed Fair Market Rents for the Housing Choice Voucher Program, Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy Program and Other Programs; Fiscal Year 2016](#)

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

[Additional Clarifying Guidance, Waivers, and Alternative Requirements for Grantees in Receipt of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Funds Under the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013: Correction](#)

[60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: FHA Lender Approval, Annual Renewal, Periodic Updates and Required Reports by FHA-Approved Lenders](#)

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

Funding Notices

DUE OCT. 23 – [Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\) and Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS \(HOPWA\) Project Demonstration](#)

DUE OCT. 27 – [National Disaster Resilience Competition PHASE TWO](#)

DUE NOV. 20 – [Continuum of Care NOFA](#)

AROUND THE REGION, DELAWARE



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Breaking Ground for Innovation Center/Library

More than 400 people turned out for the groundbreaking of the Route 9 Innovation Center/Library in New Castle, Del. on Sept. 22. The groundbreaking for the library is the latest accomplishment in the effort to revitalize the Route 9 corridor. Through the use of HUD's Neighborhood Stabilization Program and HOME funds, the County has invested in stabilizing housing and community redevelopment in several communities in the corridor. "We know that what this Innovation Center will do is give people an opportunity to learn, to gather in a safe place where they have access

to the most important tools of the modern day, where they can go as far as their potential can take them," said Delaware Governor Jack Markell. "I believe when this facility is finished, it will be a magnet and it will show what we can do when we work together. The beauty and magic in that is not in the facility itself, it's what people are going to do to transform their lives." The state of the art facility is expected to be like no other library. New Castle County has forged new partnerships that have helped to place the building design at the forefront of national library standards. State, county and local officials believe the community deserves a world class library that will be a hub for learning for local schoolchildren and lifelong learners. One local student, James Watts, summed up what the library will mean for him, his friends and classmates. "Reading gives us education and so does having fun for some kids," said 11-year-old Watts. "So if we incorporate a library so kids can have fun and read at the same time, nothing can go wrong." James, pictured center, is joined by his mother, Javier Paula-Bouldin, and sister, Janai, 9, during the official groundbreaking. Plans for the Route 9 library offer children plenty of opportunities for fun and reading including a Lego Room; a Bookatarium, a hybrid between a book mobile and a planetarium; a creative culinary kitchen for learning about food literacy and budgeting; and a Sensory Room which will feature solar projections and special technology so autistic children can enjoy story time. To see the groundbreaking ceremony, visit youtube.com.

Standing Down for Delaware Veterans

It is estimated that 900 and 1,000 veterans and service providers participated in the Seventh Delaware Veterans' Stand Down at the American Legion Post #2 in Dover on Sept. 25. Veterans looking for housing, employment and medical services found providers ready to assist from Federal, State and local agencies that filled the building and spilled out onto the lawn. Veterans were offered breakfast and lunch, a massage, clothing, toiletry items and other forms of assistance on the spot. The objective of the Stand Down is to assist all Delaware Veterans to achieve independence and self-sufficiency through access to information and services. Delaware Governor Jack Markell visited with veterans and providers and expressed his gratitude for the sacrifice service members made for their country, and for the help agencies give to Delaware's veterans. During the Stand Down, Markell signed a bill that gives veterans preference in state hiring, and cited his commitment to the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness by the end of this year. An official report on the attendance at the Stand Down will be provided at the Oct. 20 meeting of the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs. Veteran Howard Bryant points to a sign announcing the event in this photograph by Arshon Howard of the Delaware State News. For more about the event and the veterans served, read the complete Sept. 26 article in delawarestatenews.net.



What Home Means to Me

"To me home means a place that I can just go and forget about the day I've had. I like the fact that when I'm home I can do anything I feel is right, and there are people there to help me up when I'm down on my luck, and push me higher when I'm doing my best. When I'm home laughter fills the air, and even when everyone is sad, someone will say something and just seeing their face light up reminds me this is home," according to the winning entry from 15-year-old Queenie Jones who earned first place in the Delaware National Housing and Redevelopment Officials' poster contest, "What Home Means to Me." The New Castle County youth's family is a Housing Choice Voucher program participant. Her family proudly applauded as she accepted her first place ribbon and gift card. Queenie is pictured here, second from right with New Castle County Executive Tom Gordon (right) and Department

of Community Services Director Sophia Hanson (left) and New Castle County Council member David Tackett. Picking up second place ribbons were Rene Fillie whose high school entry, pictured right, stated that her home "has lots of love and hope" and eleven-year-old Julian Justice-Ortiz, pictured left, who placed second in the elementary school category. His essay included this message, "...and we also are grateful to Section 8 for helping us to keep our home, because my mom is disabled and if it wasn't for Section 8, we wouldn't have a home to live in." The youngsters' art work will be featured in the DE NAHRO 2016 Calendar, "What Home Means to Me."



Events & Announcements

- **Oct. 8 & 9** – 2015 PennDel AHMA Fall Management Conference and Expo, Chase Center, Wilmington, Del. For more information and to register, visit penndelahma.org.
- **Oct. 21 & 22** – Kent County ASIST, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, is a two-day, intensive suicide intervention skills-training workshop aimed at those who want to feel more comfortable, confident and competent in helping to prevent the immediate risk of suicide with vulnerable populations, including teens. This series is provided by Mental Health Association in DE and are free to the public. Courses will also be conducted in Sussex County, Nov. 17-18 and in New Castle County, Jan. 7-8. To register, please email jseo@mhainde.org or call (302) 654-6833, ext. 17 or fax (302) 654-6838.
- **Oct. 23, 9:30 to 11 a.m.** – Delaware Housing Coalition's Annual Meeting, NCALL, Dover, Del. Please contact Trish Kelleher at dhc@housingforall.org for more information.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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Ribbon Cutting Celebrates Next Phase of Anacostia's Sheridan Station

Director Marvin Turner joined District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser and District of Columbia Housing Authority Director Adrienne Todman, developers, funders and other are officials to celebrate Sheridan Station's completion of 247 rental and 80 homeownership units in the Anacostia neighborhood's latest undertaking to create more affordable housing. Under the development of WC Smith, the project included \$16.7 million in HOPE VI subsidies as well as \$5.8 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funding. In total, this brings the HUD investment to nearly \$250 million in stimulus funds to reduce blight, create a sustainable environment, prevent homelessness and transform this community, Director Turner, pictured left, said in his remarks. "Every day the partners that you see today help families secure quality, affordable housing, and ensure that opportunity doesn't stop at the front door—connecting folks with the jobs, schools, transit options, green spaces and other assets they need to thrive," he stated. "So, Sheridan is more than just housing. Its education and transportation; its economic development and the environment; it's about transformation; and it's about giving folks the tools to build a brighter future and to create strong neighborhoods." The mixed-income development near the Anacostia Metro Station includes a medical clinic, community rooms, solar panels, on-site parking and a new playground. Built to high standards of sustainability, Sheridan Station includes the first multifamily building in the District to be awarded LEED platinum designation.



Mayor Bowser Outlines Next Steps in Homelessness Plan and Calls on Residents to Sign Pledge

On Sept. 1, District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser, City Administrator Rashad Young, Director of DC Department of Human Services Laura Zeilinger, Executive Director of the Interagency Council on Homelessness Kristy Greenwalt and other Administration officials participated in a meeting with members of the District's Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH). During the meeting, Mayor Bowser announced a set of legislative and administrative measures to improve the District's homelessness crisis response system for families and called on residents to sign a pledge to end homelessness. "Far too many men, women and children live on our streets and in our shelters," said Mayor Bowser, pictured at right addressing the press with Director Zeilinger looking on. "Ending homelessness in the District has to be a priority for all of us. We have a plan to make homelessness, rare, brief and non-recurring by 2020, and it's on all of us to make that goal a reality. That's why today, I'm asking residents to sign a pledge and commit to ending homelessness in the District." Residents can sign the Mayor's pledge to end homelessness in the District by visiting mayor.dc.gov/homewarddc. For the complete press release, visit mayor.dc.gov.



HIP Delivers First Passive House in Prince George's County

In August, Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP), an innovative, green nonprofit housing developer and counseling agency based in Prince George's County, delivered a two-story modular home to a vacant lot at 5424 Addison Road in Fairmount Heights. What made this home so special? The three-bedroom/two-bath farmhouse style home not only blends in with the historic wooden frame homes in the neighborhood, but it has been built to Passive House Institute US Standards. Designed by Peabody Architects in partnership with O'Neill Development and Beracah Homes, a passive house incorporates design standards that

emphasize energy efficiency through an airtight building envelope, superior insulation, high performance windows and an orientation that takes advantage of solar gain in the winter. Given this construction, minimal heating and cooling systems are necessary. HIP's goal is to create a prototype that builds on best practices of more expensive homes, to offer similar features that will make the home affordable to low- and moderate-income homebuyers. To check on the progress of the home construction, visit David Peabody's blog at Peabody Architects. To learn more about HIP and all their programs, visit www.hiphomes.org. Pictured is architect David Peabody, with HIP's Jocelyn Harris and Maryann Dillon during the delivery of the home.



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Baltimore Field Office Strengthens Support for Penn-North Community

On Sept. 16, Baltimore Field Office staff visited the Penn-North Community Center in Baltimore's Sandtown-Winchester Neighborhood, located just two blocks from the unrest this past spring in the City of Baltimore. The Baltimore Field Office is forming a partnership with the leadership team at the Center, most recently supporting their "Back to School Rally" backpack drive. Located in the original Frederick Douglass High School where Thurgood Marshall and Cab Calloway graduated, the building has been converted into a neighborhood resource center.

The Community Center offers narcotics anonymous meetings every hour from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, workforce development programs and acupuncture for addiction treatment, a large children's "safe zone" room and other services. The building includes apartments for temporary and long-term residents with very low monthly rents to help neighborhood residents to get back on their feet. Pictured above left to right, HUD Multifamily Housing's Bob Iber joined Field Office Director Carol Payne, Public Housing's Emma Middleton, Penn-North Community Center Director Blaize Connelly-Dugan, Single Family's Joyce Richardson and Penn-North's Public Relations Director Ericka Alston for a photo after they toured the Center including the children's safe zone room, pictured at right.



The Maryland Grand Slam Program Launches at Oriole Park

On Sept. 2, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, pictured center, joined Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, Baltimore Housing Commissioner Paul T. Graziano, elected officials, real estate and development partners, and the community to launch the Maryland Grand Slam at Oriole Park at Camden Yards. Using \$2 million from the State of Maryland and \$1 million from Baltimore City, the Maryland Grand Slam will help an estimated 400 homebuyers increase their purchasing power through the Maryland Mortgage Program. Incentives include \$7,500 in down payment assistance grants and 0.25 percent discount on the Maryland Mortgage Program's already competitive rates. Eligible borrowers buying a home in Baltimore City can layer the Maryland Grand Slam with the Baltimore

Homeownership Incentive Program (B-HiP). Incentives include: the Vacants to Value Homeownership Program (\$10,000), Live Near Your Work (city/employer matching funds up to \$2,500), the Baltimore City Employee Homeownership Program (up to \$5,000), the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Homeownership Assistance Program (\$5,000), Buying Into Baltimore, and City Living Starts Here (up to \$5,000). In addition, Maryland State employees may qualify for \$2,500 from the Baltimore City Live Near Your Work program. "This collaboration between Baltimore City and the State of Maryland will make homeownership more affordable for those who want to buy a home in Baltimore City," said Commissioner Paul T. Graziano. "With relatively low interest rates, attractive home prices compared to surrounding counties, and the layering of Grand Slam and B-HiP incentives, this is a great time for families to establish economic security through homeownership." For more information about the program, download the [Grand Slam Fact Sheet](#) or visit baltimorehousing.org.

Baltimore Field Office Director Receives National Award

On Sept. 28, Baltimore Field Office Director Carol Payne was honored at the 5th Annual National Center for Health in Public Housing Awards at the 2015 Health Center and Public Housing Symposium in Alexandria, Va. Director Payne received the Edward W. Brooke Award, established in honor of the late United States who co-authored the Fair Housing Act. The annual award is presented to an individual or organization devoted to the advancement of public housing residents in the field of education, health or family self-sufficiency.

PENNSYLVANIA - EASTERN REGION



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Montgomery County Pledges to End Veteran Homelessness

Montgomery County Commissioners Valerie Arkoosh, Josh Shapiro and Bruce Castor, pictured left to right with Regional Administrator Jane C.W. Vincent, signed a proclamation on Sept. 22, joining the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness. "We can eliminate veteran homelessness in Montgomery County by the end of the year," said County Commissioner Chair Josh Shapiro.

Governor Wolf Challenges Pennsylvania Communities to Significantly Reduce Veteran Homelessness in 100 Days

Governor Tom Wolf, along with officials from the Pennsylvania Departments of Military and Veterans Affairs, Labor and Industry, Community and Economic Development and Human Services, challenged all commonwealth agencies and communities to reduce veteran homelessness by 40 percent in the last 100 days of 2015. The challenge began Sept. 22, aiming to give 550 veterans stable housing by the end of the year. "Veterans are national heroes, and I'm proud to join governors and mayors across the country as we work toward the goal of ending homelessness among our military veterans," said Governor Tom Wolf. "In order to achieve this goal, Pennsylvania's veterans and their families who are in need of permanent housing must have access to the programs and services that will help rebuild their lives, acquire meaningful employment, and successfully establish themselves in our communities."

Recognition Program Held for Property Owners, Managers

At a special program in HUD's Philadelphia Regional Office on Sept. 11, property owners and managers were recognized for their efforts in supporting the Multifamily Homeless Placement Program, which encourages property owners in HUD's Multifamily Housing inventory to adopt a homeless preference and to lease units to families and individuals experiencing homelessness. Pictured are the federal, state and local partners involved in the program, including the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency Executive Director Brian Hudson (left/first row) and HUD Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Jane C.W. Vincent (right/first row). Read [more](#) on the initiative and partners.



Celebration Marks the Grand Opening of Gordon Apartments

The Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) celebrated the grand opening of its newest development on Sept. 15 in the Strawberry Mansion neighborhood. Gordon Apartments is a 21-unit affordable housing development containing a mixture of walkup units and townhomes, which are all sustainable and energy efficient. New resident Tyshena Burton (center) posed for a photo with her family, State Senator Vincent Hughes (left) and HUD Mid-Atlantic Deputy Regional Administrator Richard Ott.

Events/Announcements

- **Chester County officials announced on Sept. 24 the county's success in housing 125 veterans during its 100-day campaign.** This is the third successful 100-day campaign, with the preceding campaign having permanently housed 110 veterans. For more information, call Dale Gravett, executive director of the Housing Authority of Chester County, at (610) 436-9200.
- **The Fair Housing Rights Center in Southeastern Pennsylvania is sponsoring a [National Trade Show on Accessibility](#), Oct. 15-16, focusing on Type A, B, and C units, signage design guidelines, accessibility guidelines for recreation facilities and consumer rights/housing provider requirements.**

PENNSYLVANIA - WESTERN REGION



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Orchard Park Neighborhood Embraced by All

On Sept. 10, officials showcased the \$17.4 million dollar Orchard Park Neighborhood of Duquesne that replaced the former Burns Heights public housing development. Allegheny County Housing Authority (ACHA) joined developers Ralph A. Falbo, Inc. and Pennrose Properties, LLC to transform the 5.1 acre property into Orchard Park. To accomplish this transformation, ACHA was awarded \$11.7 million dollars from Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency's Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Equity funds; \$5.3 million dollars from a HUD Capital Fund Grant, \$750,000 from Allegheny County Economic Development HOME Funds and \$500,000 from Pennsylvania Economic Development Funds. Federal, state, county and local officials and community stakeholders celebrated the new 44 housing units in the mixed-finance development with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, pictured above left. Orchard Park also features an onsite community center that will offer early education programs through HEAD Start, adult job training programs, computer labs and education programs that will assist residents in obtaining and retaining employment opportunities. The redevelopment includes a sizeable recreation field that can be readily used for soccer and football games. Public, private and non-profit cooperation was necessary for the neighborhood of Orchard Park to be fully realized. Locally, the City of Duquesne played a pivotal role in assisting the development team through the process of zoning approval, building code enforcement and the issuance of certificates of occupancy. Everyone's efforts mattered in this community-wide endeavor.

HUD Awards \$3.2 Million in Lawrence County to Protect Children and Families from Dangerous Lead and Other Home Hazards

In an effort to protect children and families from the hazards of lead-based paint and other health hazards and safety hazards, HUD awarded more than \$3.2 million in Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program grants to Lawrence County, Pa. Over the next three years, the grant funding will help reduce the number of lead-poisoned children and protect families by targeting health hazards in low-income homes with significant lead and/or other home health and safety hazards. The Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control grant program has a demonstrated history of success, filling critical needs in communities where no other resources exist to address substandard housing built before 1940 that threatens the health of the most vulnerable residents. Through a 12-partner collaboration including the Community Action Agency of Delaware County; Cities of Farrell, Hermitage, Lancaster, New Castle and Sharon; Ellwood City Borough; Mercer County Regional Planning Commission; Union Township and Venango County Human Services, the grants will address lead hazards in 172 housing units providing safer homes for low and very low-income families impacting an estimated 300 children. The County will also conduct Healthy Housing assessments in 30 units and plan to intervene and make safer for healthy home hazards in 29 units as well as conduct community education and outreach events. On Sept. 22, officials (pictured above left to right) including Lawrence County Community Action Partnership's Jennifer Elliott, HUD's Jane Miller and Michelle Miller, Lawrence County Commissioner Robert Del Signore, Sr., Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's Kim Thomas, Lawrence County Commission Chairman Dan Vogler and LCCAP's Thomas Scott gathered in New Castle, Pa. to officially announce the grant award.



Events/Announcements

- **Oct. 9, 1 p.m.** – Mon Valley Provider Council: Working Group on Housing Event, Community College of Allegheny County Braddock Hills Center, Braddock Hills Shopping Center, 250 Yost Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15221. For more information or to pre-register (walk-ins welcome!) contact Darrah Bird at dbird@hsc-mvpc.org or call (412) 829-7112.
- **Oct. 15** – Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership Summit 2015. For information, call Samantha at (412) 394-4275 or visit www.gpnpsummit.org.
- **Nov. 13** – Homeless Education Network Summit VI: Paving the Way - Real Solutions to Confront Youth Homelessness in Allegheny County. For information, call (412) 562-0154 or visit www.homelessfund.org.



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First-Time Hispanic Homeownership Seminar Offered in Newport News

On Sept. 19, the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA) held “Aiming High for Homeownership,” a first-time Hispanic homeownership seminar. Sponsored by the Virginia Housing Development Authority, the session targeted Hispanic public housing and housing choice voucher program clients enrolled in the HUD-funded NNRHA Family Self-Sufficiency program. The thirty-five clients attending, including 10 of

Hispanic-origin, benefited from the expertise of a VHDA-certified first-time homebuyer instructor, a member of the residential sales industry, NNRHA staffers and an interpreter. Pictured above, Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinators Jocelyn Brewer (HCV) and Elsie Hines (PH) take a time-out for a photo with their next wave of soon-to-be homeowners. As the agency continues to educate all of their clients on the benefits of homeownership, NNRHA’s short-term goal is to assist at least four Hispanic families reach their goal of homeownership within the next 24 months. Since 1994, NNRHA staffers assisted 167 public housing and housing choice voucher clients, including 120 enrolled in family self-sufficiency programs, to reach their goal of homeownership. Home purchases totaling nearly \$19 million include residences in Newport News, Hampton, Williamsburg, Gloucester, Yorktown and James City County. Pictured at right, Tiffany Lee, a housing choice voucher program resident, speaks to attendees about the assistance and encouragement she received while in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program.



Richmond Field Office Launches Successful School Supply Campaign

Local school children were launched into a successful school year by a joint Richmond Field Office-American Federation of Government Employees Local 3380 effort resulting in a bonanza of back-to-school supplies being donated to the Richmond’s George Washington Carver Elementary School and the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority. The effort resulted in a collection of over 558 pencils, 168 markers, 85 ink pens, 66 glue sticks, 63 spiral notebooks, 56 composition notebooks, 48 permanent markers, 44 packs of notebook paper, 32

bottles of hand sanitizer, 24 boxes of crayons, 17 pairs of scissors, 15 pencil erasers, 12 boxes of tissue, 11 notebook binders as well as an assortment of pencil pouches, index cards, backpacks, rulers, index tabs, student calendars, calculators, disinfectant wipes, pencil sharpeners and Post-it® note pads. “Our students face many challenges and count on all of us to provide them with the opportunities they deserve,” wrote Carver’s Principal Dr. Kiwana S. Yates in response to the donation. “Because of you, our students can take full advantage of the opportunities we have to offer.” Pictured are members of the Richmond team with some of the supplies collected during the campaign.

Events & Announcements

- **SAVE THE DATE!** Registration is now open for the Virginia Governor’s Housing Conference (VGHC), to be held in Hampton November 18 through 20. For more information and to register, visit the VGHC website. In addition, nominations are now being accepted for the 2015 Virginia Housing Awards, which will be presented at the Governor’s Housing Conference.
- The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will be holding several [“How-to-Apply” Workshops](#) throughout the state to cover the application process for the **Homeless Reduction Grant Program and the Competitive Loan Fund through the Housing Trust Fund**. The goals of the Trust Fund are to create and preserve affordable housing and reduce homelessness in the Commonwealth. Applications for the program will be opening in the near future.

WEST VIRGINIA

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West Virginia's "Housing Builds Strong Communities" Housing Conference a Success

Annually, the West Virginia Housing Conference draws agencies, organizations and individuals from across the state to convene to discuss the need as well as how to provide better housing for Mountain State residents. Sessions included design and maintenance, loan processing, forming better organizations and social services and needs of the elderly. More than 250 people participated including builders, lenders, housing managers, homeless providers, social workers, federal, state, county and city governmental agency officials agreeing in this year's theme, "Housing Builds Strong Communities." Keynoting this year's affair was Jonathan Reckford, Chief Executive Officer for Habitat for Humanity International, pictured above. Habitat for Humanity International, an ecumenical Christian housing ministry that since its founding in 1976, has helped more than five million people construct, rehabilitate or preserve homes in over 70 countries. Since 2005, Habitat's 1,450 U.S. affiliates have grown from serving 25,000 families each year to over 300,000 families annually; an uplifting and inspiring message.



Huntington Hosts Annual West Virginia Veterans Stand Down

On Sept. 9, the Huntington U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs Medical Center held its annual one-day Stand Down. Participants of the Stand Down were provided housing information on Housing First and housing assistance available through the HUD-VASH program. Non-perishable food items were distributed along with available health care screenings and substance abuse treatment as well as information about employment, education and counseling opportunities. The Huntington Habitat for Humanity was on hand to provide information and applications for their homeownership program for veterans experiencing homelessness. A complimentary lunch with karaoke entertainment was provided. HUD's Evie Williams represented the agency and provided information on

supportive and permanent rental housing, fair housing and rehabilitation services to those attending. The City of Huntington's pro-active efforts to eliminate chronic homelessness have been successful with the elimination of veterans experiencing chronic homelessness at a functional zero in the spring of 2015 and all chronic homelessness at a functional zero in the summer of 2015.

HUD/SBA/USDA Host Federal Partner's Business Development Seminar

On Sept. 10, HUD's Charleston Field Office partnered with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide a small business development seminar to assist with funding sources, better business practices and networking with potential lenders or funders. HUD's Evie Williams presented on HUD's Multifamily Accelerated Process (MAP) program.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES

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.
- 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.
- 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 OCT. 5** – The U.S. Department of Commerce's Regional Innovation Strategies program [is offering grants](#) of up to \$500,000 to build public and private capacity to invent, improve, and commercialize new products and services as part of regional innovation strategies. Capacity-building activities may relate to Proof of Concept Centers, Commercialization Centers, or operational support for organizations that provide early-stage funding to startups.
- **DUE OCT. 23** – The Wells Fargo Regional Foundation is providing grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000 to support 501 (c) (3) non-profit organizations' neighborhood [planning expenses](#) for certain communities in New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania.
- **DUE OCT. 23** – The Wells Fargo Regional Foundation is providing grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$750,000 to support 501 (c) (3) non-profit organizations' neighborhood [implementation expenses](#) for certain communities in New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania who have completed a comprehensive neighborhood plan.
- **DUE OCT. 30** – The State Farm Companies Foundation helps to build safer and stronger communities through their grants focused in two areas, safety and education. Funding requests will be available Sept. 1 through Oct. 30. For more information and the application, visit [statefarm.com](#).
- **DUE OCT. 30** – The State Farm Companies Foundation is providing [Good Neighbor Citizenship grants](#) ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000 to support K-12 education through teacher development, service learning, or education reforms/improvements; financial literacy; homeownership and foreclosure prevention counseling and skills training.
- **DUE NOV. 24** – The 100 Resilient Cities Challenge seeks to find 100 cities that are ready to build resilience to the social, economic, and physical challenges that cities face in an increasingly urbanized world. So far, 67 cities around the world have begun their journey toward a safer and more secure future. Cities in the 100 Resilient Cities network get the financial and strategic support they need to withstand the stresses and shocks that are part of life in an increasingly urban world. Cities receive funding to hire a Chief Resilience Officer, assistance in developing a resilience strategy, access to a platform of innovative private and public sector tools to help design and implement that strategy, and membership in the 100 Resilient Cities Network. For more information on how to apply, visit [100resilientcities.org](#).

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