

Covering the States of Arkansas,  
Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma  
and Texas



# Region VI



US Department of  
Housing and Urban  
Development

Tammye H. Treviño  
Regional  
Administrator

Southwest News-1st Quarter 2015

## Message from the Regional Administrator

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APRIL IS FAIR  
HOUSING MONTH

### Grant Opportunities

Search Currently  
Available HUD  
Funding Opportuni-  
ties at [grants.gov](http://grants.gov)

HUD Fort Worth Re-  
gional Office

801 Cherry St, Unit 45

Ste. 2500

Fort Worth, TX 76109



Regional Administrator  
Tammye H. Treviño

## SECTION 3 REGISTRY GOES NATIONAL PROMOTES JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOW- INCOME RESIDENTS

HUD needs your help. As one of the largest sources of federal investments in distressed communities, HUD grants result in employment, training and contracting opportunities. Since 1994, HUD's Section 3 requirements have been designed to direct some of those opportunities to local residents and businesses, helping low-income residents get jobs and become self-sufficient.

To help identify Section 3 businesses, HUD created the **Section 3 Business Registry** in 2014. Piloted in five cities, it allowed Section 3 qualified businesses to register on an on-line database that could be used by contractors to solicit bids and to notify these businesses of new contracting opportunities.

**Because of the pilot's success, the Section 3 Business Registry has now been launched nation-wide, and we need your help to get your communities' Section 3 -qualified businesses registered so they can benefit.**

For more information about Section 3 and how to get involved, visit HUD's **Section 3 webpage**. Click here to view HUD's **Section 3 pdf**.

Secondly, HUD just published a notice of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register to revise the current Section 3 regulations. There is a 60-day comment period, and we need your comments and suggestions on these proposed revisions. The link to the **FR notice is here**.

Under the Section 3 pilot program, we saw real success stories. We want to make every community in Region VI enjoy the same success by getting their Section 3 businesses registered. I thank you, and if you have any questions, please contact my office. See Page 4 for More Details

## HUD 2016 BUDGET PROPOSES INCREASED SUPPORT TO 'COLONIAS' IN TEXAS, NEW MEXICO, ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA

As part of President Obama's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is proposing to increase the amount that states along the U.S.-Mexico border can use to promote affordable housing and community development in severely distressed communities known as Colonias. See Colonias on Page 6

## SENATE HAS CONFIRMED COLORETTI AS HUD'S DEPUTY SECRETARY

The United States Senate confirmed President Obama's nomination of Nani Coloretti to serve as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As the second most senior official at HUD, Coloretti will manage the Department's day-to-day operations, including a \$45 billion annual budget and approximately 8,500 employees.

"Nani is a proven executive who has excelled at making government more efficient at the municipal and federal levels," said HUD Secretary Julián Castro. "Her breadth of experience and track record at the Treasury Department make her the ideal choice for a mission-oriented agency like HUD."

"I'm immensely grateful for the trust that President Obama and Secretary Castro are placing in me to help lead HUD at this critical time," said Coloretti. "This Department is undergoing significant change as it works to support our nation's housing recovery and improve the way it serves communities all across this country. I'm looking forward to working with the Department's outstanding employees and continue a data-driven approach to help make HUD's operations run as efficiently as possible."

Prior to joining HUD, Coloretti served as an Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of the Treasury where she advised the Secretary on the development and execution of the Department's budget, strategic plans, and the internal management of the agency and its numerous bureaus. In July 2012, President Obama appointed Coloretti as a Member of the Government Accountability and Transparency Board. Following the passage of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act in 2010, Coloretti helped establish the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), serving as its Acting Chief Operating Officer.

She served as a policy advisor and budget director in San Francisco where she led the development and implementation of the city's \$6.2 billion annual budget. Coloretti also spent six years in San Francisco as the policy and budget director at an agency that worked to improve the lives of children, youth and families by investing in cross-cutting, evidence-based initiatives. In years prior, she served as a consultant at the Law and Economics Consulting Group, a health finance and budget analyst in the Clinton Administration's Office of Management and Budget, and a budget analyst for the State of Hawaii.

Nani Coloretti is a recipient of the UC Berkeley Goldman School Award for Policy Innovation, the National Public Service Award, and the Fed 100 award. She holds a B.A. in Economics and Communications from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master's in Public Policy from University of California at Berkeley.



HUD D/S Nani Coloretti

## HUD'S 2015 ENACTED BUDGET

This past December, President Obama signed the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, setting HUD's 2015 budget at \$45 billion. HUD will continue to focus on helping secure quality housing for Americans, ending homelessness, making communities more resilient from natural disasters, fighting housing discrimination, and preserving housing assistance for millions of extremely poor Americans.

Of the budget HUD Secretary Julian Castro said, "HUD is the Department of Opportunity. We support millions of Americans with the housing they need to succeed and we invest in making communities economically strong and inclusive. As the need for our services has gone up in states, cities, and counties across the country, HUD resources have gone down. As we have time and again, we'll continue to find creative ways to have the greatest impact with the resources available so that we can continue to expand opportunity for all."

Follow the link for more information on the approved 2015 Budget: [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/2014/HUDNo\\_14-153](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2014/HUDNo_14-153).

## HUD's 2016 PROPOSED BUDGET

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has unveiled President Obama's proposed HUD budget for Fiscal Year 2016 which is focused on helping to secure quality housing for Americans; to end homelessness; to make communities more resilient from natural disasters; to protect people from housing discrimination; and to provide critical rental assistance for millions of extremely poor families. The 2016 budget includes \$49.3 billion to support these efforts, representing a \$4 billion, or 8.7 percent, increase over current levels. Follow the link for detailed information on the [2016 Budget proposal](#).

## FHA PREMIUMS

Secretary Castro announced in January that HUD reduced Annual Insurance Premiums on FHA mortgages by .5%. This move will have a significant impact on new borrowers, saving families an average of \$900 per year. The new fee structure is expected to affect more than two million homeowners and also hopes to encourage 250,000 first time borrowers to purchase homes of their own. During the housing crisis FHA raised its insurance premiums to protect the health of the FHA Insurance Fund, which backs every FHA loan and has opened doors to homeownership for the past 80 years. FHA recently reported to Congress that the insurance fund is improving and should add \$21 Billion in value over the following two years, which makes the fee reduction possible while continuing to preserve the financial integrity of the fund. Follow the link for more information:

[http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/2015/HUDNo\\_15-001](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2015/HUDNo_15-001).

## HUD WELCOMES LOURDES CASTRO RAMÍREZ AS HUD'S PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

Lourdes Castro Ramírez joined HUD on March 9 as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary to lead the Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH). She was previously the President and CEO of the San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA). SAHA is the only housing authority in the nation to receive Choice Neighborhood Planning and Implementation grants, a Byrne Criminal Justice grant and be partnered with the lead applicant in a Promise Neighborhood grant, a distinction that is thanks to her leadership and commitment to creating opportunities for all Americans.



Lourdes Castro Ramírez

Prior to her tenure with SAHA, she served as the director of the Housing Choice Voucher program for the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, one of the nation's largest housing choice voucher programs. She led the turnaround of the Section 8 program from a troubled to a high performer rating in less than three years. She is a talented and dedicated public servant with an extensive range of executive management, program and policy experiences needed to manage the array of PIH programs.

Ms. Castro Ramírez was born in Juchitlan, Jalisco, Mexico and came to the United States at 4 years old when her family moved to Lynwood, California. A graduate of Lynwood High School, she attended UCLA and earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a Master's degree in Urban Planning.

Welcome Ms. Castro Ramírez!

Follow the link for more information on HUD's [Office of Public and Indian Housing](#).

## SECTION 3 BUSINESS REGISTRY

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Julián Castro has proposed 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.

“All Americans should have the chance to contribute to the development and growth of their own communities,” said HUD Secretary Julián Castro. “These Section 3 initiatives will connect more hard-working folks and small businesses to local economic opportunities, giving them new tools to secure a more prosperous future.”

Every year, HUD funds create thousands of jobs across the country that range from construction to professional services like accounting or engineering. From 2009-2014, based on data reported by public housing authorities and HUD modeling, approximately 170,000 jobs were created by HUD for eligible low-income workers through this program. More than \$5 billion in HUD-funded contracts has been directed to Section 3 businesses since 2009. While businesses are only required to hire 30 percent low-income workers, that goal has been exceeded nationally. About 50 percent of new hires for HUD-funded contracts are low-income workers or public housing residents.

[\*\*Section 3\*\*](#) of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 states that, “employment and other economic opportunities generated by Federal financial assistance for housing and community development programs shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be directed toward low- and very low-income persons, particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing, and to businesses that employ them.” Since 1994, the Section 3 program has been governed by an interim regulation. For the first time in 20 years, HUD is proposing a new rule today that would expand opportunities for public housing residents and low-income workers.

In 2012, HUD launched a five-city pilot Section 3 Business Registry in Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans and 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. While in Miami recently, Secretary Castro applauded the nearly 300 Section 3 businesses that have signed up for the registry statewide. HUD has now announced that the initiative will become national.

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. It also clarifies vague language in the interim rule and eases challenges to achieving compliance. HUD is currently accepting feedback on the [\*\*proposed rule\*\*](#) during a 60-day public comment period. To read more about HUD’s proposed rule amendment to Section 3 [\*\*please visit here\*\*](#).

To register a business, search the database of local self-certified Section 3 businesses, or to learn more about HUD’s National Section 3 Business Registry, please visit: [\*\*www.hud.gov/sec3biz\*\*](http://www.hud.gov/sec3biz). For more information about the Section 3 program, please visit [\*\*www.hud.gov/Section3\*\*](http://www.hud.gov/Section3).

## Region VI State News Releases (click release to read full text)

### Region VI News Releases

#### Arkansas

Friday, February 27, 2015

**HUD Awards \$355,000 in Emergency Funding to Lake City Housing Authority in Arkansas for Critical Repairs**

Thursday, February 12, 2015

**HUD Awards \$16.3 Million in Arkansas to Improve, Preserve Nation's Public Housing**

#### Louisiana

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

**Four Louisiana Tribes Receive \$500,000 in HUD Indian Housing Block Grants**

Thursday, February 12, 2015

**HUD Awards \$31.5 Million for Local Homeless Programs in Louisiana**

#### New Mexico

Monday, March 2, 2015

**HUD Awards over \$2.2 Million to Provide Permanent Homes, Services to Extremely Low-Income People with Disabilities in New Mexico**

Thursday, February 26, 2015

**HUD Awards \$246,000 to Truth or Consequences Housing Authority to Promote Jobs, Self-Sufficiency for Public Housing Residents**

#### Oklahoma

Thursday, February 26, 2015

**HUD Awards \$352,293 to Housing Authority of the City of Tulsa to Promote Jobs, Self-Sufficiency for Public Housing Residents**

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

**37 Oklahoma Tribes Receive \$94 Million in HUD Indian Housing Block Grants**

#### Texas

Monday, March 2, 2015

**HUD Awards \$12 Million to Provide Permanent Homes, Services to Extremely Low-Income People with Disabilities in Texas**

Thursday, February 26, 2015

**HUD Awards \$648,000 to Houston and \$475,720 to Fort Worth Housing Authorities to Promote Jobs, Self-Sufficiency for Public Housing Residents**

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**@HUDSouthwest**



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on policy development and  
research breaking news.**



## COLONIAS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The budget would authorize the states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California to set aside up to 15 percent (from the current 10 percent) of their [Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\)](#) funding for these rural border communities that often lack adequate water, sewers, and/or decent housing.

In accordance with the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (NAHA) of 1990, HUD defines a colonia as a community within 150 miles of the United States-Mexico border in Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas that was in existence before November 28, 1990, excluding metropolitan areas with populations exceeding one million. In addition, a colonia must include a "lack of potable water supply, lack of adequate sewage systems, and lack of decent, safe, and sanitary housing." Some colonias are incorporated communities under the control of the city, some are unincorporated under control of the county, and others may be territories of cities which share some level of control with the county.

Texas has the most colonias, with over 2,000 individual communities considered eligible. The state has also developed innovative programs and services beyond the basic activities that are eligible under the state CDBG program, including Self-Help Centers administered by local non-profits that provide home construction and repair technical assistance, tools for borrowing, and financial literacy training and technology access to colonia residents. In FY 2014, Texas set aside the maximum allowable of 10 percent of its CDBG funds for colonias, which was a total of \$6,149,458, plus an additional \$1,537,364 for Colonias Self-Help Centers.

In New Mexico, about 150 colonias have been identified. Most are unincorporated long-standing communities. Many of the New Mexico colonias consist of rural small towns that were designated as colonias via county resolutions that cited a lack of adequate water, sewer, and/or safe and sanitary housing. In FY 2014, New Mexico set aside the maximum allowable of 10 percent of its CDBG funds for colonias, which was a total of \$901,637.

In addition to the CDBG set-aside funds, HUD's [Border Community Capital Initiative \("Border Initiative"\)](#) is a partnership among three Federal agencies – HUD, the Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund) and the Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (USDA-RD) to increase access to capital for affordable housing, business lending and community facilities in the chronically underserved and under-capitalized U.S./Mexico border region. The [White House Rural Council](#) was launched by President Obama in 2012 to help create jobs and expand opportunities in rural communities.

## TENANTS FROM THE TEXARKANA HOUSING AUTHORITY (THA) IN ARKANSAS RECEIVE AN UNEXPECTED CHRISTMAS GIFT

An anonymous person with a compassionate heart brightened Christmas for approximately 80 families in Bramble Courts at the Texarkana Housing Authority in Arkansas. The Executive Director received an inquiry from someone who wanted to make a charitable donation and wanted to know how much it would cost to pay everyone's rent for the month in Bramble Courts. The Executive Director provided him with a figure over \$7,000. Later, a check for the full amount stated was given to the Housing Authority along with a thank you note for the staff that expressed appreciation for the remarkable job they are doing to make a difference in the lives of families within the community.



The Texarkana Housing Authority

W.A. "Dub" Wingfield, Executive Director of the THA stated "I was then and remain so touched today by this generous act of kindness."

"It is inspiring to know that the THA's impact in the community contributed to such a generous act of kindness by an individual. It also reveals that people support our mission and want to make a difference in the lives of families that are less fortunate by working together to improve their quality of life," stated Johnny Wooley, Public Housing Director in the Little Rock Field Office. The THA has been designated as a high performer. The development was built in 1952 and consists of 18 buildings providing 80 apartments of affordable housing for the community.

## NEW ORLEANS, ACCEPTED, ACCELERATED AND ACCOMPLISHED THE CHALLENGE TO END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

On January 7, 2015, Mayor Mitch Landrieu announced that New Orleans is the first major city in the nation to end homelessness among veterans as part of First Lady Michelle Obama's [Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness](#). Members of the New Orleans Interagency Council on Homelessness as well as veterans, service members, military leaders, national homelessness advocates and federal partners from HUD and VA joined Landrieu at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans to announce and celebrate the city's historic milestone.



Mayor Landrieu makes announcement on ending Veteran Homelessness in New Orleans January 7, 2015.

On July 4, 2014, Mayor Landrieu accepted and accelerated the challenge by paying homage to our service members and veterans who courageously serve our great nation, announcing the goal to effectively end veteran homelessness in New Orleans by the end of 2014, instead of 2015. The Mayor reported that the collaborative housed 227 veterans, exceeding the goal of 193, thanks to the hard work of its committed partners. New Orleans is now the first major city in the nation to answer the President and First Lady's call to end veteran homelessness – and did so one year earlier than the federal goal.

Said Secretary Castro, "I want to congratulate Mayor Landrieu and the entire City of New Orleans for turning its commitment to end veteran homelessness into a reality. As one of the first cities to achieve this noble goal, New Orleans is helping lead a national campaign to make certain that these brave Americans have a place to call home. At HUD, we stand ready to assist in bringing this kind of progress to cities across the country, fulfilling our commitment to all those who served our country so courageously."



Community members enjoy the first South Valley Main Street Chile Festival in Bernalillo County.

## SUSTAINABILITY AT WORK IN NEW MEXICO

The New Mexico HUD Field Office and its partners have achieved remarkable progress in advancing sustainable, place-based planning and development. Two Partnership for Sustainable Communities grantees have completed a majority of their planning work, and a third grantee has moved into the implementation phase.

Another grantee, the Pueblo de Cochiti Housing Authority, held their first community outreach presentations in December 2014, which received positive feedback from the community for the planning of their plaza revitalization.

The Bridge Boulevard Corridor Redevelopment Plan, an Albuquerque area project funded by HUD and DOT, has moved into the implementation phase. Key objectives of the plan include reducing traffic congestion, increasing safety, revitalizing neighborhood businesses, and improving housing affordability and availability. The Gateway district of the corridor was designated a historical Main Street, which increases access to technical assistance and grant funding for local businesses.

*See Sustainability Continued on Page 8*

## FIELD OFFICE DIRECTOR JERRY HYDEN RETIRES JANUARY 2015

HUD Oklahoma City Field Office Director, Jerry Hyden, retired on January 9, 2015. Nearly 100 colleagues and friends stopped by on December 16 to wish Jerry well and celebrate his career spanning 27 years with HUD and approximately 34 years of total federal service.

HUD Region VI Deputy Regional Administrator, Mark Brezina, lauded Hyden's accomplishments and thanked him for all he had done for the Department and the citizens of Oklahoma. Also in attendance were staff members from Oklahoma Senator James Lankford's office and representatives from numerous local organizations with which Hyden has worked through the years. Included was Mark Gillett, Executive Director of the Oklahoma City Housing Authority, which had given Jerry special recognition at its Board meeting in mid-November.



Mark Gillett of the OKC Housing Authority congratulates Field Office Director Jerry on his service to the community.

After holding various positions in HUD's Minneapolis and Tulsa Offices, Mr. Hyden came to Oklahoma City in 1995. That was a very difficult time for the HUD Office and the city, as both were just beginning the long, painful recovery process from the horrific 1995 bombing of the Murrah Federal Building and the tragic loss of innocent lives. In 2006, Hyden became HUD's Public Housing Program Center Coordinator for Oklahoma and served in that capacity until being selected as Field Office Director in September 2008. Jerry also served his country in the US Navy and the Oklahoma Army National Guard.

Hyden said that he would really miss the daily contact with so many good friends, both at HUD and in the community. But, he also said he knew the time was right to turn more attention to family and to other aspects of life that have not always gotten the full measure of his time because of work responsibilities. In summary, Jerry said, "it's been a great ride."

The Office's commitment to excellence in community service continues as Senior Management Analyst, Carol D. Jones, has been asked to serve as Acting Field Office Director.

## *Sustainability Continued from Page 7*

The newly created South Valley Main Street office in Albuquerque has ignited enthusiasm for community gatherings, including a health fair, a weekly growers market, a new fall chili fiesta and a winter holiday celebration.

At the beginning of the year, HUD took the reins as the local lead agency for the EPA's Middle Rio Grande Urban Waters Federal Partnership. HUD took steps to develop community relationships outside of traditional agency silos, to leverage funding opportunities, and to support local priorities included in the broad themes of climate change; transportation; water and storm water management; community and economic development; and environmental education and employment.

To further the project goals and priorities, HUD and EPA hosted three public information workshops in Albuquerque on the National Environmental Policy Act in November 2014. The workshops included an overview of the Environmental Assessment determination process, including the status of projects included in the Urban Waters Federal Partnership project area. Materials were provided in English and Spanish, and a bilingual facilitator and translator service were provided. Participants included Congressional representatives, federal/state/local government officials, NGO staff and community members.



**Recent National News Releases (Click on Link for Full Release)**

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

**HUD AND CENSUS BUREAU ANNOUNCE NEW RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN FEBRUARY**

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

**HUD ANNOUNCES NOTICE OF INTENT TO CONDUCT PROJECT DEMONSTRATION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND HIV/AIDS HOUSING**

Monday, March 2, 2015

**HUD AWARDS \$150 MILLION TO PROVIDE PERMANENT HOMES AND SERVICES TO EXTREMELY LOW-INCOME PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Friday, February 27, 2015

**HUD ANNOUNCES FINALISTS IN STUDENT DESIGN AND PLANNING COMPETITION**

Thursday, February 26, 2015

**HUD AWARDS \$36 MILLION TO PROMOTE JOBS, SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS**

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

**HUD AND CENSUS BUREAU REPORT NEW RESIDENTIAL SALES IN JANUARY**

Monday, February 23, 2015

**HUD ISSUES GUIDANCE ON HOME LENDING AND APPROPRIATE PLACEMENT FOR TRANSGENDER PERSONS IN HOME-LESS SHELTERS**

Thursday, February 22, 2015

**HUD AND CITY OF BERLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE, SETTLE ALLEGATIONS OF HOUSING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

**HUD ANNOUNCES MORE THAN \$650 MILLION IN INDIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANTS**

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

**STRONG CITIES, STRONG COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE SELECTED BY HARVARD UNIVERSITY'S ASH CENTER AS A FINALIST FOR THE INNOVATIONS IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AWARD**

**Region VI HUD Field Office/Field Office Director Contact List**

**Arkansas**

Little Rock Field Office Director Wanda C. Merritt  
Email: [Wanda.C.Merritt@hud.gov](mailto:Wanda.C.Merritt@hud.gov)  
Phone: 501-918-5700  
Web Page: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/arkansas>

**Oklahoma**

Oklahoma City Acting FOD Carol Jones  
Email: [Carol.d.jones@hud.gov](mailto:Carol.d.jones@hud.gov)  
Phone: 405-609-8400  
Web Page: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/oklahoma>

**Texas**

Regional Administrator Tammye H. Treviño, Fort Worth Regional Office  
Email: [Tammye.H.Trevino@hud.gov](mailto:Tammye.H.Trevino@hud.gov)  
Phone: 817-978-5965  
Web Page: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/texas>

**Louisiana**

New Orleans Field Office Director Earl Randall, III  
Email: [Earl.randall@hud.gov](mailto:Earl.randall@hud.gov)  
Phone: 504-671-3001  
Web Page: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/louisiana>

Tulsa Field Office Director Sharon Gordon-Ribeiro  
Email: [Sharon.GordonRibeiro@hud.gov](mailto:Sharon.GordonRibeiro@hud.gov)  
Phone: 918-292-8900  
Web Page: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/oklahoma>

Houston Field Office Director Edward L. Pringle  
Email: [Edward.L.Pringle@hud.gov](mailto:Edward.L.Pringle@hud.gov)  
Phone: 713-718-3199  
Web Page: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/texas>

**New Mexico**

Albuquerque Field Office Director Elise McConnell  
Email: [Elise.M.McConnell@hud.gov](mailto:Elise.M.McConnell@hud.gov)  
Phone: 505-346-6463  
Web Page: [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/new\\_mexico](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/new_mexico)

Call or email a HUD Office near you! We welcome your questions, comments, suggestions and concerns. As always, we thank you for your partnership!

San Antonio Field Office Director Richard Lopez  
Email: [Richard.L.Lopez@hud.gov](mailto:Richard.L.Lopez@hud.gov)  
Phone: 210-475-6806  
Web Page: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/texas>

## Publications of Note

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

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

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

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

## Funding Opportunities

**Apr. 1** – U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker announced that the round two designation competition of the ‘[Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership](#)’ (IMCP) is **now open**. IMCP, an Administration-wide initiative coordinated by the U.S. Commerce Department, is designed to accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing in communities nationwide. Specifically, the program aligns federal economic development investments behind long-term economic development strategies that help communities attract and expand private investment in the manufacturing sector and increase international trade and exports. Manufacturing Communities will receive preference for a range of future Federal economic development funding and technical assistance offered by IMCP participating agencies.

**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.

**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.

**Apr. 30** - There is a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) of up to \$5.25 million in Fiscal Year 2013 and 2014 funds from HUD for research and evaluations. Funds are provided from HUD’s Office of Policy Development and Research from the Transformation Initiative. Funds will be awarded in the form of cooperative agreement. Eligible applicants include: public or private nonprofit organizations or intermediaries, including institutions of higher education and area-wide planning organizations; for profit organizations; States, units of general local government, or Indian tribes; public housing authorities; and small businesses. [Click for Details](#).

**WE REMEMBER, AND WE WILL NEVER FORGET  
OKLAHOMA CITY, APRIL 19, 1995**



**YOUR FRIENDS IN REGION VI AND ALL OF HUD  
HONOR YOUR SERVICE AND YOUR SACRIFICE**

**IN MEMORIAM**

Ted Allen  
Diane Althouse  
Peter Avillanoza  
Andrea Blanton  
Paul Broxterman  
David Burkett  
Donald Burns, Sr.  
Kimberly Clark  
Kim Cousins  
Diana Day  
Castine Deveroux  
Susan Ferrell  
Judy Fisher  
Linda Florence  
Juretta Colleen  
Guiles  
Thompson Hodges  
George Howard

Carolyn Ann Kreymborg  
Teresa Lauderdale  
James McCarthy  
Betsy McGonnell  
Patricia Nix  
Terry Smith Rees  
Mary Rentie  
Antonio Reyes  
Lanny Scroggins  
Leora Lee Sells  
John Stewart  
Jules Valdez  
John Karl Van Ess, III  
David Walker  
Michael Weaver  
Jo Ann Whittenberg  
Frances Williams  
Clarence Wilson

Twenty years ago on April 19, 1995, the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City was bombed, killing 168 people. HUD lost 35 of our own on that terrible day - amazing and vital lives cut short by an act of terrorism.

There were also 50 HUD employees who survived and many continue to serve. Their commitment to work together to improve their community is as strong as ever and the strength they demonstrate stands as a testament to our nation's resilient character.

So on April 19, 2015, let us all pause to honor those that lost their lives, those who survived and persevered through hardship, and those whose lives were changed forever. We will never forget their contributions to HUD and to our great nation.

**SURVIVORS IN CONTINUED SERVICE**

Terry Barnes  
Sherri Coleman  
Caren Cook  
Teresa Cook  
Cathy Duncan  
Arlanna Erich-King  
Virginia Fredman  
Tamara Greiner  
Leona Jones  
Colleen Larney  
Sharilee Lyons  
Deborah Parks  
Michael Reyes  
Jean Robinson  
Robin Ross  
Sheila Schick-Kidder  
Mark Gregory Young