



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-0001

JUN 18 2015

Dear Executive Director:

Each year the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development partners with public housing authorities (PHAs) and multifamily owners across the nation to support HUD's National Father's Day initiative. The National Father's Day initiative helps our residents celebrate Father's Day by organizing events that will strengthen, empower, and encourage positive relationships between fathers and families. In anticipation of Father's Day 2015, which is Sunday, June 21, I am asking your agency to join us in this important and exciting initiative.

The Department is focused on strengthening and empowering families. As Alexandria Housing Authority resident, Kevin Harris, put it during Father's Day 2014, "A father can instill proper values to assist children in fulfilling their dreams and aspirations." Studies show that children in households without fathers are more likely to drop out of school, enter the juvenile justice system, and suffer poorer health outcomes. It is our responsibility to foster positive influences for the children that we serve. In addition, we are working towards strengthening and empowering fathers and other male figures through such opportunities as job training, legal resources, and health services that can improve their lives and strengthen their families.

Last year 446 PHAs and multifamily owners partnered with local nonprofits to host Father's Day events around the nation, from Providence, Rhode Island, to Ventura, California. If your agency participated last year, I would like to thank you and encourage you to join us again this year. If your agency has yet to participate in the Father's Day initiative, I ask that you take part in this year's effort.

You can visit www.hud.gov/fathersday to find helpful facts, useful strategies on coordinating with local stakeholders to organize events, and other valuable materials. I hope you will take this opportunity to team up with HUD and help make a positive difference in the lives of our children and families. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "JC" with a large flourish at the end.

Julián Castro