

# Section 3 Grantee Spotlight

April 10, 2013

## About Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NRHA)

Founded in 1940, NRHA is a national leader in community revitalization and fostering sustainable mixed-income communities. As the largest redevelopment and housing authority in Virginia, NRHA plays a key role in making Norfolk the city of choice to build, work, play and live.

**The Office of Economic Opportunity's (EO)** goal is to strengthen the parity for Section 3 stakeholders by maximizing economic opportunities and facilitating favorable conditions to enhance capacity for all stakeholders.



In partnership with Portsmouth and Suffolk Redevelopment and Housing Authorities, the Section 3 Coordinators Grant afforded NRHA the resources to hire Bennie Miller, Jr. in March of 2012. Mr. Miller, a Fort Worth, Texas native and graduate of Prairie View A&M University, is passionate about empowering low income individuals with self-awareness, education, training and opportunities. Miller serves as liaison among local housing agencies with emphasis on Section 3 compliance for local housing authorities including Portsmouth, Suffolk, Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Williamsburg and the City of Virginia Beach.

The EO's primary objectives are to share best practices, examine compliance deficiencies and develop strategic plans to ensure regional Section 3 compliance. Today, 100 percent of the housing authorities in the Hampton Roads region have developed written Section 3 plans, policies or procedures. Other key accomplishments include:

- Regional Section 3 presence on the NRHA webpage complete with contact information for Section 3 professionals across the region, self-certification documents for residents and contractors and a Section 3 Directory of Certified Contractors
- Quarterly Regional Section 3 Round Table Sessions
- Implemented regional outreach for jobs and contracts
- Sponsored and facilitated National Section 3 Professional Certification Training
- Sponsored and facilitated regional Section 3 Policy and Regulatory Compliance Seminar for Board of Commissioners, Executive Directors and Executive Staff
- Sponsored and Facilitated Estimating with Ease Workshop for Section 3 contractors
- Sponsored and Facilitated Entrepreneurship training for Section 3 Residents
- Implemented regional Newsletter articles on Section 3
- Promoted Section 3 at local contractor fairs and other events
- Implemented regional Baseline Assessments and various surveys
- Facilitated Regional Contract Projections
- Managed individual action plans for business development
- Compiled, analyzed and submitted Section 3 data for the HUD 60002 Report