



HUD Center for Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships: 2015 in Review

2015 IN REVIEW

Community Partners Action Summit



HUD CFBNP Hosts “Community Partners Action Summit” at the White House

As part of its ongoing work to support faith-based and community organizations across the nation, in 2015, HUD’s Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (HUD CFBNP) partnered with the [White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships \(WHOFBNP\)](#) to host the “Community Partners Action Summit.” This gathering brought together a variety of public, private and philanthropic partners to help build the organizational capacity of non-profit organizations that work with underserved communities.

The “Community Partners Action Summit” provided faith and community leaders the opportunity to discuss how to better build capacity and implement programs with other industry thought-leaders. The Summit was modeled on HUD CFBNP’s signature [“Capacity-Building and Grant-Writing Training”](#) workshops. These workshops have been used in numerous communities all over the country instructing participants on organizational development, financial stewardship, monitoring and evaluation, and the application process for Federal grants.

As faith and community organizations continue to participate in longstanding programs and new initiatives alike, HUD stands ready to help them carry out their mission to make a sustainable, lasting impact in their communities.

Capacity Building Training



The day-long summit included keynote remarks from non-profit funders, foundations, representatives from the White House Office of Social Innovation

Overview

Dear friends,

2015 was a year of unprecedented success for the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD CFBNP)! In 2015, HUD CFBNP hosted several events to connect its stakeholders to senior White House and HUD leadership, helped faith and community organizations address challenging issues in their communities, and continued its outreach efforts to connect non-profit faith-based and community organizations to the work of HUD, including through continuing its signature “Capacity-Building and Grant-Writing Training for Emerging Organizations” series.

If you don’t know, HUD CFBNP serves as a resource center for secular and faith-based non-profit organizations seeking to partner with HUD to address the housing and community development needs of the neighborhoods in which they operate.

This newsletter presents highlights from the past year and information on programs for 2016. I wish all of you a wonderful New Year. If you have questions about HUD programs or ideas for potential collaboration, please do not hesitate to contact our office at partnerships@hud.gov or 202-708-2404.

Sincerely,
Paula A. Lincoln
Director

About HUD CFBNP

The HUD Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (HUD CFBNP) supports the mission of HUD to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality homes for all. Strong communities with safe, affordable housing promote a better quality of life. Non-profits, both faith-based and secular, play vital roles as HUD's partners in implementing HUD's housing development and policy strategies.

HUD CFBNP is part of the HUD Office of the Secretary, and supports the Secretary's priorities and HUD's strategic goals. The Center also supports the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (WHOFBNP) initiative to ensure that organizations rooted in the community can access and participate in HUD programs to advance shared goals. For more information on the WHOFBNP you can go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ofbnp>.

HUD CFBNP coordinates daily with the WHOFBNP and its 12 sister Partnership Centers including Health and Human Services (HHS), Education, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Labor (DOL), Veteran's Affairs (VA), Commerce and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Center collaborates with Federal departments to host outreach and training events which provide a comprehensive view of Federal resources and partnership opportunities available to grassroots non-profits; the Center also provides important opportunities for Federal officials to receive invaluable input from community stakeholders.

HUD CFBNP serves as a public resource center to provide information, resources, and training opportunities through our website, in-person presentations, publications, roundtables, and conferences. HUD CFBNP opens doors to connect groups with HUD program offices, creating two-way information sharing opportunities, and leveraging relationships with other Federal agencies.

and Civic Participation, and staff from the Federal Centers for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Panelists concluded that capacity building represents "a conceptual approach to development that focuses on understanding the obstacles that inhibit organizations from realizing their development goals, while enhancing the abilities that allow them to achieve measurable and sustainable results." For more information about the "Community Partners Action Summit," and the "Capacity Building and Grant Writing Training" workshops, visit [HUD Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships](#) or email partnerships@hud.gov.



Ending Veterans Homelessness Conference Call

Working to End Veteran Homelessness

In 2015, HUD CFBNP continued its "Secretary's Conference Call Series for Faith and Community Leaders," which connects faith-based and community organizations with senior HUD leadership. In March, HUD CFBNP collaborated with its counterpart at the [Department of Veterans Affairs \(VA\)](#) to present, "Ending Veteran Homelessness in 2015: Doing Your Part to Help Veterans." The call featured introductory remarks from Melissa Rogers, Director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, along with HUD Deputy Secretary Nani Coloretti, who discussed the critical role of faith and community organizations in achieving the Administration's goal of ending veteran homelessness.

Following these opening remarks, the call featured program experts from both HUD and the VA who provided information about programs and resources dedicated to achieving the Administration's goal of ending veteran homelessness. Specifically, representatives discussed [HUD-VA Supportive Housing \(HUD-VASH\)](#), as well as the [HUD-VASH Tribal Demonstration Program](#).

VA staff also discussed other programs to help homeless veterans including the Supportive Services for Veteran Families transitioning into permanent housing, healthcare for homeless veterans, and other programs. A full list of VA programs related to veteran homelessness can be viewed [here](#). Finally, staff discussed opportunities for faith-based and community organizations to get involved in combatting homelessness at the local level, including collaborating with the [Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness](#); participating in annual [Point-in-Time](#) counts, and connecting with your local [Continuum-of-Care](#).

Participants felt that information from the call, along with the question and answer period, provided helpful information as organizations seek to



Secretary Julián Castro

combat veteran homelessness in their communities. HUD CFBNP staff and colleagues at the VA stand ready to help organizations take advantage of these programs or answer other questions on this important topic.

HUD CFBNP Participates in the Fifth Annual President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge

On September 10 and 11, 2015, HUD CFBNP participated in the [Fifth Annual President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge](#) held at Howard University in Washington, DC. Originally developed by the [President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships](#), the Campus Challenge brings together college students, faculty, and administrators with Obama Administration officials to share ideas and learn from others about opportunities, programs and innovations in interfaith and community service. For the first time, in 2015, the event incorporated international areas of focus, including promoting interfaith understanding abroad, confronting hate speech, and increasing religious diversity. Educators and students from 24 countries and six continents participated in the event.

After a welcome message from President Obama, participants attended numerous workshops focused on promoting service, learning, and engagement across faiths and cultures. During the conference's closing session, "Living with Hope in a Post-9/11 World," HUD Secretary Julián Castro spoke about how faith and service provided a hopeful response to the tragedy, and cemented his commitment to public service. During this portion, the parents of a victim of the 9/11 attacks shared their story. HUD employee Michelle Cottom and her husband Clifton, who lost their daughter, Asia, in the September, 11, 2001 plane crash at the Pentagon, shared memories of their daughter and announced the creation of the Asia S. Cottom Memorial Scholarship Fund. In his speech, Secretary Castro recognized the Cottoms and paid tribute their effort to honor their daughter by empowering others through education.

The White House and the Centers for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships are already planning the 2016 Campus Challenge. If you would like to receive updates on the event, visit HUD CFBNP's counterpart at the [Department of Education](#). You can learn more about Centers for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships at other Federal agencies by visiting the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships website.

Middle school students from Aurora Christian Schools



HUD CFBNP's Ongoing Outreach to Faith and Community Organizations

One of the core missions of the HUD Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships is to connect grassroots non-profit organizations to the work and leadership of HUD. One of the ways the Center accomplishes this goal is through ongoing outreach, whether by meeting with non-profit organizations, faith-based activists, universities or other local partners; welcoming groups to the Center to learn more about its role and the resources available

from the Federal government; or by continuing its signature "Capacity-Building and Grant-Writing Training for Emerging Organizations" series to enable faith-based and community organizations to serve their constituents more effectively.

In 2015, HUD CFBNP continued its core outreach activities in several ways. Among other examples, as in previous years, HUD CFBNP staff brought its signature "Capacity Building and Grant-Writing Training for Emerging Organizations" workshop to communities nationwide. In 2015, the Center had the opportunity to provide the training in many communities seeking opportunities to spur economic development, including [Promise Zone communities](#), areas participating in [other HUD economic-development programs](#), and communities that had recently experienced civic unrest. As part of this effort, HUD

continued



Capacity Building Trainer, Pauline Zvonkovic

CFBNP brought its training curriculum to Ferguson, MO; Baltimore, MD; Brooklyn, NY; Chicago, IL; and Sacramento, CA, among many other urban, suburban and rural locations across the nation.

In another example of this ongoing outreach, in September 2015, HUD CFBNP staff met with the leadership of Chicago Theological Seminary, to discuss the work of the Center, learn about the seminary's programs and explore areas for potential collaboration on special projects, including combatting human trafficking and fostering community empowerment. Regarding community empowerment, HUD CFBNP shared details about a pilot program at the seminary called H.E.L.P.I.N.G.—“Higher Education Learning Programs Increasing Neighborhood Growth.” The goal of H.E.L.P.I.N.G. would be to help seminary and other students learn about existing resources for community development while still in

seminary, to better serve their congregations upon graduation.

Finally, in June, HUD CFBNP—along with colleagues from the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and HUD CFBNP counterparts at the [U.S. Departments of Agriculture](#), [Homeland Security](#), [Justice](#) and [Education](#)—participated in a roundtable discussion with a group of students from Aurora Christian Schools in Aurora, IL. Through presentations from the White House and other agencies, students learned about the work of the Centers and the value of public service. HUD's presenter, Linda Ayala (Program Manager), talked about various volunteer opportunities the students could take part in locally including those at homeless shelters, soup kitchens, youth services at a public housing authority, and senior housing.

Outreach remains critical to the mission of HUD CFBNP. If you have questions or ideas for potential outreach in Washington, DC or in your community, please contact HUD CFBNP at 202-708-2404 or partnerships@hud.gov.

New Video Series “Let’s Talk” Will Answer the Most Popular Questions about HUD Programs

Consistent with its mission to serve as a resource center to help faith-based and community organizations learn about and take advantage of HUD programs, HUD CFBNP is creating a series of short videos about HUD programs. Entitled, “Let’s Talk,” these short videos will feature interview-style segments with HUD program-office staff answering the most popular questions you have asked. Each video will focus on one program or program office, and include a brief overview of the mission of the office, as well as the latest information on program developments, priorities, and other relevant information. HUD CFBNP will soon post a video on housing opportunities for survivors of human trafficking, and plans the release of several more videos throughout 2016. Future topics include how to become a HUD-approved housing counseling agency, housing opportunities for persons with HIV/AIDS, and others. Stay tuned for more details, and do not hesitate to submit your ideas for topics to partnerships@hud.gov.



Gayela Bynum taping a video segment