

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410-7000



December 9, 2011

Dear Colleagues:

HUD's Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, in conjunction with the Office of HIV/AIDS Housing and the Baltimore HUD Field Office, releases to you two instructional DVDs on fighting AIDS stigma and overcoming barriers to development of HIV/AIDS housing venues. The first DVD chronicles how faith-based and community organizations, in partnership with the Federal government, can fight HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination. Stigma inhibits stable housing, early testing, and treatment of HIV disease. The second DVD discusses overcoming barriers to the development of successful AIDS housing programs and/or facilities. Both new construction developments and scattered-site master leasing venues are discussed. These instructional videos are in furtherance of the implementation of the [National HIV/AIDS Housing Strategy](#) and HUD's *Strategic Plan FY2010-2015*. All the materials referenced in the videos were presented at the HIV/AIDS Housing Roundtable: "Keeping Our Partnerships Alive: HUD and Faith-Based Community Organizations' Response to HIV/AIDS", held in HUD Headquarters on August 3, 2011.

The accompanying PDF files for the DVDs are available on the HUD Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships ([CFBNP](#)) web page. These handouts are good resource sheets relating to HIV/AIDS stigma, treatment, developing housing and/or housing programs, and increasing access to care.

The Roundtable was developed and produced jointly by HUD's Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships ([CFBNP](#)), in conjunction with HUD's Community Planning and Development Division's Office of HIV/AIDS Housing ([OHH](#)), and HUD's [Baltimore Field Office](#). The Roundtable was conceived out of the information-gathering town halls which led to the [White House's National HIV/AIDS Strategy](#), the vision of CPD's Assistant Secretary, and local community concerns. The Roundtable brought together speakers from HUD, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services-Office of HIV/AIDS Policy ([OHAP](#)), The Department of Justice-Civil Rights Division ([Disability](#)) ([Housing](#)), the State of Maryland, and the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships ([OFBNP](#)). The non-profits and faith-based institutions who presented included the following:

- The Executive Director of [AIDS Interfaith Residential Services](#) and [Empire Homes](#), Baltimore, Maryland;

- The Vice-President of Development for First African-American Episcopal Church's [FAME Assistance Corporation](#), Los Angeles, California;
- The Director of the [State of Maryland's Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Administration](#);
- A Professor at Morgan State University, Behavioral Sciences Division, [School of Community Health and Policy](#), Baltimore, Maryland;
- A Consumer on the Board of Directors of the [National AIDS Housing Coalition](#);
- The Deputy Executive Director of the [National Minority AIDS Council](#);
- The Executive Director for the Positive Impact Ministry of the [New Samaritan Baptist Church](#), Washington, D.C.;
- Director of Housing for [Victory Programs Incorporated](#), Boston, Massachusetts; and
- Senior Vice President of Development, [Volunteers of America](#), Alexandria, Virginia.

This cross-governmental agency and non-profit collaboration, eliminated barriers which typically inhibit the maximum exchange of information, programmatic efficiency, and effectiveness, in serving the needs of low income persons with HIV/AIDS. In this time of tight fiscal constraints it is now more important than ever to leverage limited federal dollars with private, local, institutional, and philanthropic material and intellectual resources. In addition, the role volunteers can play to help with fighting stigma, programmatic planning, execution, monitoring, and fundraising for HIV/AIDS housing venues, should not be underestimated.

It is our hope that by having local citizens groups, or faith-based congregations, view and discuss the *Stigma* video, it will raise consciousness and promote vigorous dialogue. This, in turn, will hopefully lead to more programs which compassionately serve the housing, supportive service, and access to care realities, of persons living with HIV/AIDS. We all know that early HIV testing and treatment can transform a person's life from facing a veritable death sentence, to having a normal longer-span life, with HIV as a managed chronic illness. By fighting stigma we open the door to recognizing HIV risks, and treating infections among our families and friends, early enough to make that critical difference. The dialogue engendered by the *Stigma* video will hopefully lead to a compassionate local response to HIV/AIDS, so that all lives of affected persons will be affirmed, and supportive housing and care enhanced.

The second DVD deals with overcoming barriers to the successful development of HIV/AIDS housing facilities and/or programs. This *Housing Development* video presents talks by experienced experts in the field of non-profits building AIDS housing facilities. One presenter also talks about how to create partnerships or collaborations which can result in master-leasing dwelling units, for the placement of persons or families with HIV/AIDS. The civil-rights of

persons with HIV/AIDS are masterfully summarized by the speaker from the Civil Rights Unit of the U.S. Department of Justice. It is suggested that this *Housing Development* video be shown to faith-based congregations, developers, or other neighborhood organizations, which are contemplating the development of an HIV/AIDS housing program or facility.

The PDF files for the DVDs contain references, resources, and informational materials helpful to those viewing the DVDs. These handouts can be put to great use in fighting stigma, developing projects, and finding appropriate care for persons and families living with AIDS. Print out and keep the resource sheets as they contain much useful information, and many web links, which can help direct consumers and providers to housing, services, and/or resources, for low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS.

We hope that you find the videos and resource sheets enlightening. As all of this information is in the public domain, feel free to copy or reproduce the materials for the DVDs in accordance with your needs. Additional copies of the DVD are available upon request. Let's be the generation that stops the spread of HIV infection and AIDS stigma, and compassionately responds to the housing needs of low-income persons living with HIV disease.

Thank you for getting the word out into your communities about how we can overcome HIV/AIDS stigma, and similarly how we can overcome the barriers which prevent successful development of HIV/AIDS housing venues.

Sincerely,

Paula Lincoln, Director, HUD's [Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships](#)

David Vos, Director, HUD's [Office of HIV/AIDS Housing](#)

Carol Payne, Director, [Baltimore HUD Field Office](#)