REGION III HUDLINE NEWS

January/February 2014

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A MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

It must have been serendipity when the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, our partners and our stakeholders planned the **Moving to Higher Opportunity Summit: Exploring Options and Opportunities for Housing Mobility** for Jan. 9.

Just one day prior fifty years before, **President Lyndon B. Johnson declared a "War on Poverty"** during his State of the Union address. As HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan memorialized the significance of that event, he said that "Upward mobility is still too hard. Opportunity is still too scarce. The pain of poverty is still too prevalent in our neighborhoods. That's why HUD is firmly committed to collaborating with a wide-variety of leaders to address these challenges, including helping the homeless get a fresh start in life, assisting families in fighting off foreclosure and ensuring that people have access to quality affordable housing that's part of communities where a child's futures isn't determined by his or her zip code."

Nearly 300 individuals joined us for the Summit at Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell, PA to address the very challenges Secretary Donovan described. With the support of a dedicated team of partners and stakeholders, HUD hosted the free event for those interested in housing mobility issues. Housing mobility provides low-income individuals and families with access to better housing and education, increases employment opportunities, and leads to improvements in overall quality of life and health-related outcomes.

Partners, Stakeholders & Speakers

The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Housing Authority and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission joined HUD to support the event. The Summit attracted individuals in the housing and community development industry including local elected and appointed governmental officials, faith-based leaders, metropolitan and community development planning organizations, fair housing and civil rights organizations, landlords in the local rental markets and others involved in the delivery of assisted housing.

Steering Committee members from Building One Pennsylvania, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Fair Housing Rights Center in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Montgomery County Community College, Montgomery County Housing Authority, Montgomery County Housing and Community Development, Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development, Poverty & Race Research Action Council, and the Southeastern Pennsylvania First Suburbs Project dedicated .

Nationally known experts including Poverty & Race Research Action Council's Philip Tegeler, Princeton University's Douglas Massey, Building One America's David Rusk, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities' Barbara Sard and Housing Choice Partners of Illinois, Inc.'s Christine Klepper discussed the benefits and challenges of providing families with access to housing in areas of higher opportunity, the results-oriented approaches of two current housing mobility programs, challenges with funding constraints and future reforms in federal housing policy and how these reforms could help state and local agencies meet fair housing goals. Special guests included HUD's Deputy Secretary Maurice Jones as well as Assistant Secretary for Public & Indian Housing Sandra Henriquez.

Insights from the Sessions

In the panel discussion, **Challenges in Finding Housing**, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's Mary E. Bell summarized her organization's research by stating, "Affordable housing stock is in cities and older suburbs. It may not be affordable, but if it is the cheapest, that is where they live. People do not have the ability to move to opportunities or where they work."

Johns Hopkins' Philip Garboden agreed, "Families are not moving because they stay in communities they know. They know what to expect and that they can make a living there."

"This is the 50th anniversary of the war on poverty, which has had some successes, but as we became less racially segregated, we've become more segregated based on income. Gentrification has taken hold and has improved neighborhoods, but at the cost to the residents who were living there," David Rusk, pictured above left, observed.

"Communities already linked by transit should become funding priorities. Affordable housing needs to be planned regionally, like transportation," noted Norristown Councilman Marlon Millner during the **Regional Perspectives on Regional Fair Housing** panel. "Fair housing needs to move from a 'housing first' mentality to an 'opportunity first' mentality." Millner is pictured at right, fourth from the left, with the other members of the panel and moderator, HUD Sustainable Housing and Communities' Salin Geevarghese.

Representatives from two current **Mobility Programs** shared their insights and best practices—including the importance of the housing counseling component. Metropolitan Baltimore (MD) Quadel's Maurice Gadsden shared what a mobility counselor really does and how it benefits the individual and family members. The talked about how the Housing Authority of Baltimore City counselors have been successful because they provide information, execution and follow-up. They offer pre-move counseling to enable families to maximize the efficiency of their housing search, transportation assistance and help with security deposits and once they move, they provide additional support and assistance. The housing authority considers areas with less than 10 percent poverty with good schools and access to jobs and transportation in high opportunity areas. They also host workshops on banking and budgeting, increasing credit awareness, landlord and tenant relationships and home maintenance. Goal setting and career planning are also included. They have classes to help residents adjust to new areas and cultures.

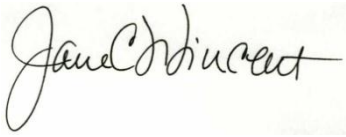
Housing Choice Partners of Illinois' Christine Klepper added, "Our mission is to reduce intergenerational poverty and promote racial and economic diversity in housing. This focus on poverty is helpful because mobility is a housing and poverty issue. Our approach to mobility is that where people live has a direct impact on their family's outcomes. A move may be difficult, but it is worth improving the lives of their children."

HUD Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement Programs Sara Pratt discussed fair housing enforcement principles and their connection to housing mobility activities and PRRAC's Philip Tegeler previewed the forthcoming **Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing** rule, and what it will mean for state and local officials, advocates and residents.

In her remarks, Assistant Secretary Henriquez asked the audience to rise to the challenge to expand involvement to provide opportunities for greater mobility and access for families. "The challenge is to go out and talk to other people. Talk to community leaders, neighbors—talk to everyone about why this is important work and why opportunity makes a difference in someone's life. You may never have someone say 'thank you.' You may never know the benefit of your work, but your work may help someone do things they would not have had the opportunity to do."

In his State of the Union address last month, President Barack Obama said in closing, "The America we want for our kids—a rising America where honest work is plentiful and communities are strong; where prosperity is widely shared and opportunity for all lets us go as far as our dreams and toil will take us—none of it is easy. But if we work together; if we summon what is best in us, with our feet planted firmly in today but our eyes cast towards tomorrow—I know it's within our reach. Believe it."

We are working together to create that opportunity.



Jane C.W. Vincent, Region III Regional Administrator

NEWS YOU CAN USE

In the face of one of the worst rental affordability crises that our country has known, Secretary Shaun Donovan outlined the **Administration's commitment to increasing the supply of affordable rental housing** and the challenges the Administration faces in meeting the nation's needs at an event hosted by Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies.

HUD awarded nearly $16.3 million in grants to help public housing residents to gain access to education, job training and employment. HUD's Public Housing Family Self-Sufficiency Program (PH-FSS) helps public housing authorities across the country to hire or retain more than 300 program coordinators who will work directly with families to connect them to the supportive services that meet their individual needs and to become gainfully employed. To see the awards, click here.

In June 2013, the Department of Energy (DOE) and HUD partnered to expand the Better Buildings Challenge to the multifamily residential sector. This expansion is part of President Obama's Climate Action Plan, recognizes the role that increased efficiency can play in reducing energy use and carbon pollution from this sector. To date, **more than 50 multifamily property owners across the nation have committed to the Better Buildings Challenge**, nine of which are based in Region III. These housing leaders understand that it represents an opportunity to reduce long-term energy costs, support innovative technologies, create good jobs, and help shape healthier communities and neighborhoods. To learn more about how the Better Buildings Challenge is important to these companies, watch the video.

The **Federal Housing Administration (FHA) announced that it is granting expanded authority to lenders to accept electronic signatures (e-Signatures) on documents associated with mortgage loans**. The new policy allows e-Signatures on origination, servicing, and loss mitigation documents, as well as FHA insurance claims, REO sales contracts and related addenda. Current FHA policy allows for electronic signatures only on third party documents such as sales contracts and other documents not controlled by the lender. The new e-Signatures policy will help streamline the origination process and help reduce document submission timeframes for borrowers seeking options to avoid foreclosure. Initially, e-Signatures will not be accepted on the mortgage note itself. FHA plans to begin accepting e-Signatures on forward mortgage notes at the end of the year. A Mortgagee Letter detailing FHA's extended acceptance of e-signatures is posted on the HUD website

The Fiscal Year 14 omnibus spending law makes several policy changes in HUD programs, **including a change in the definition of "extremely low-income."** For the Housing Choice Voucher, public housing, and Section 8 Project-based Rental Assistance programs, "extremely low-income" is defined as the highest of the following—30 percent of area median income (the current standard) or the federal poverty level.

Stay current on the latest housing market conditions with HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research's launch of the U.S. Housing Market Conditions (USHMC) app for Android and Apple iOS powered smartphones. This easy-to-use app displays current national housing data and housing market trends through Quarterly Key Indicators, Supply Data Charts, Demand Data Charts, Finance and Investment Data Charts, and Ownership and Vacancy Data Charts.

Ending youth homelessness requires partnership and coordinated efforts in communities and at every level of government. The Federal Framework to End Youth Homelessness is a resource text for dialogue and action toward ending youth homelessness together. The framework includes a Preliminary Intervention Model, designed to help communities identify the systems and capacity necessary to meet the needs of all youth experiencing homelessness. On Feb. 13 at 3 p.m. ET, please join the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) and the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and Education (ED) for a webinar on the Preliminary Intervention Model. To register, click here.

During the last 10 days of January, **more than 3,000 cities and counties across the country organized thousands of volunteers in a national effort to measure the scale of homelessness in the United States**. These "Point-in-Time" (PIT) counts reveal the number of homeless persons in shelters and on our streets on a given night. The one-night snapshot counts also provides local planners with data they need to understand the number and characteristics of persons who are homeless so they, in turn, can develop a thoughtful response. This effort allows communities to find out not just how many people are homeless, but who is homeless and, more importantly, why they're homeless. Being able to answer these important questions is critical in the efforts to end homelessness. As in prior years, local communities or "Continuums of Care" collect and report information on homeless persons in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs and on our streets. More than 100 federal employees—nearly half of them from HUD participated in the counts throughout Region III. For more information about this year's count, click here.

A recent analysis of the American Housing Survey (AHS) by Econometrica reveals **the number of "doubled-up" households is on the rise in the United States**. Although doubling up can help adults and families avoid high cost burdens or substandard housing, the decision to double up suggest that these households are experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing, housing vulnerability. To learn more, click here.

A regulation issued by the agencies that oversee mortgage lenders **exempts streamlined refinances and transactions of $25,000 or less from a provision requiring appraisals for higher-risk mortgages**. Loans on manufactured homes will be exempt until July 18, 2015 and then will vary depending on circumstances. Contact Robert L. Parson, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, by calling 202-649-6423.

The **Consumer Financial Protection Board (CFPB) has established new disclosure requirements and forms for most consumer mortgage transactions**, effective Aug. 1, 2015. The rule also provides guidance on compliance and includes copies of forms in English and Spanish. Contact CFPB's Office of Regulations, 202-435-7700.

Conversations about the benefits and costs of aging in place are becoming increasingly important with the United States' ongoing demographic shift toward an older population. Although more studies are needed, recent research on home-based health programs **suggests that aging in place can yield potential cost savings** at the individual, state, and federal levels.

The Obama administration has announced that **seven cities including Brownsville, TX; Flint, MI; Gary, IN; Macon, GA; Rockford, IL; St. Louis, MO; and Rocky Mount, NC will participate in the Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative (SC2).** Established in 2011, SC2 aims to foster growth in economically distressed communities by strengthening local capacity, coordinating federal investments, and facilitating local partnerships. Federal inter-agency teams will provide advice and expertise, working with local governments, community organizations, businesses, and philanthropies to align existing resources and leverage new investment in support of local growth and development priorities. The SC2 teams intend to replicate the successes in the first cohort of SC2 cities which included Chester, PA; Cleveland and Youngstown, OH; Detroit, MI; Fresno, CA; Memphis, TN; and New Orleans, LA. Visit HUD User's Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative (SC2) page to learn more about SC2, including information on the SC2 fellowship program, SC2 teams' plans for the second cohort of cities, and accomplishments in the first group of SC2 sites.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development has announced the availability of Community Facilities Direct and Guaranteed Loans with a priority **on investing $50 million to increase access to mental health care in rural areas over the next three years**.

In **Phase Two of the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP),** the Economic Development Administration is calling for applications from regions for designation as one of up to 12 "manufacturing communities." This special designation will elevate them in consideration for $1.3 billion in federal dollars and assistance from 10 cabinet departments. Phase Two Communities must apply by Mar. 14; eligibility for Phase 2 is not contingent on having won Phase 1. Read more here and see the Federal Register for application information.

The **Robert Wood Johnson Commission to Build a Healthier America is calling for a seismic shift in funding priorities** to improve health, emphasizing the importance of community revitalization, early childhood education, and a broader health care scope. Creating healthier communities and lives, the Commission asserts, requires considering the health impacts of all aspects of community development and revitalization. To learn more about the Commission's recommendations, see here or watch the release video.

Check out the new **Healthy Communities Toolkit** produced by Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the American Planning Association (APA). The new kit is designed to help planners, public health professionals and community members included health issues in local planning and decision-making.

The U.S. Census Bureau released a new Interactive Mapping Tool that gives users **easier access to neighborhood level statistics**, drawing on updated statistics from the American Community Survey.

A new report from the Robert Wood Johnson's Active Living Research initiative examines the **economic benefits to businesses of walkable communities**. See Walkable Shopping Areas are Good for Business.

Twenty-six communities will receive assistance from EPA's Building Blocks program to help address local growth and development challenges. Click here to see the list of communities to be assisted by Global Green, and here for assistance from Smart Growth America.

The Department of Health and Human Services **has issued its annual poverty guidelines, adjusted based on the Consumer Price Index**. Contact Kendall Swenson, HHS, 202-690-7507.

DUE Feb. 7 – Comments and specific questions can be submitted on key consumer "pain points" **associated with mortgage closings and ways to address them through market innovations and technology**. Contact Monica Jackson, CFPB, by calling 202-435-7275.

DUE Feb. 7 – Since the fall of 2012, **HUD's Innovation of the Day (IOD) Portal has collected exciting innovative housing, community development, and built environment practices from around the world**. HUD is now soliciting a final round of submissions to the IOD Portal and will post the top innovations to a public-facing searchable database. Innovations may be submitted via www.hud.gov/iod. To learn more, please review the Innovation of the Day Overview. Innovations that meet the listed criteria will be posted to the Innovation Database in early March 2014. Please direct any questions to Lawrence.j.handerhan@hud.gov in HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R).

DUE Feb. 24, 11:59 a.m. EST – The **Federal Emergency Management Agency is currently accepting applications for FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council**. Students between the ages of 12 and 17 who are engaged in individual and community preparedness or who have experienced a disaster that has motivated him or her to make a positive difference in his or her community are encourage to apply. FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council (YPC) is a unique opportunity for youth leaders to serve on a highly distinguished national council and to participate in the Youth Preparedness Council Summit. Additionally, they complete self-selected youth preparedness projects; voice their opinions, experiences, ideas, solutions and questions on youth disaster preparedness with the leadership of FEMA and national organizations working on youth preparedness. FEMA is looking for youth leaders who are dedicated to public service, who are making a difference in their communities and who want to expand their impact as ambassadors for youth disaster preparedness. For more information and application materials for the YPC please visit, http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness-council.

DUE Mar. 14 – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for **$600 million in homeless assistance grants for organizations that serve veteran families** under the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. SSVF is a housing first program designed to provide veteran families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless with permanent housing quickly, then health care and other services as needed. The funds will be split evenly between Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 and FY 2015, and subject to available appropriations. To read the NOFA, click here.

HUD FEDERAL REGISTER RULES, NOTICES & FUNDING

Notices

Federal Property Suitable as Facilities To Assist the Homeless

Request for Comment on the 2015 American Housing Survey Metropolitan Samples

30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: The Impact of Housing and Services Interventions on Homeless Families-36-Month Follow-Up Data Collection

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Baseline Assessment of Renewable Energy Capacity Within HUD's Public Housing and Federally-Assisted Multifamily Housing Portfolios

Announcement of Funding Awards for Healthy Homes Technical Studies Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: HUD Multifamily Energy Assessment

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Application for FHA Insured Mortgages

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: State Community Development Block Program

Proposed Rule

Responsibilities of Boards of Directors, Corporate Practices and Corporate Governance Matters

AROUND THE REGION, DELAWARE

Maria L. Bynum, Field Office Director
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A New Kitchen for the New Year!
Three residents of a Dover group home got a kitchen makeover just in time to prepare holiday dinners and start off the New Year with a renewed enthusiasm for cooking. The home is owned by the National Alliance on Mental Illness Delaware (NAMI Delaware), and the new kitchen was funded by a grant the Borkee-Hagley Foundation. The remodeled kitchen has new cabinets, countertops, flooring, carpeting, refrigerator and stove. Yo Cuz, a foundation which supports people living with mental illness in the Mid-Atlantic States donated brand new cookware. NAMI Delaware Director of Housing Merton Briggs and his co-workers volunteered to do some of the work to help keep costs down for the $11,000 project. "Projects like this are stimulating for all parties involved," said Briggs. "The funders have the financial flexibility to invest in change, we as management can make the changes come to fruition. At the end of the day, it really is all about the residents." Residents Carolyn Donophan (far left) and Diane Etough (far right) were all smiles when Yo Cuz's Debra Michaels (in Santa hat) and her helpers delivered food stuffs, cleaning supplies and cookware to stock their new kitchen. For the complete story, click here.

Stopping Pests the IPM Way
The StopPests in Housing Program is offering its expertise in planning and implementing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies at pilot sites in Delaware. The Wilmington Housing Authority (WHA) has agreed to be a pilot site and other housing authorities in the First State have expressed interest in doing the same. "The Wilmington Housing Authority is excited about the opportunity to get professional help and to network with peers to address the situation of pests without harming our residents," said WHA Deputy Director Karen Spellman. During a recent training on the program, trainer Allison Taisey explained that IPM is the coordinated use of information about pests, the environment, and evidence-based pest control methods to prevent and manage pest infestations. IPM focuses on preventive measures by getting at the root of the problem before an infestation occurs, saving property managers and tenants money. The complete guide for integrating pest management at public housing and multifamily properties is the result of an interagency agreement between the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control. Wilmington Housing Authority staff attending the training included Sandra Rosmini, Irmina Williams, Christine Arnold and Karen Spellman (left to right).

Preventing and Ending Homelessness
At the end of 2013, homeless providers in Wilmington gathered to remember the 14 individuals experiencing homelessness that were lost over the past year, to renew hope for families experiencing homelessness currently and to recommit to ending homelessness in Delaware by releasing Delaware's Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. The homeless lost in 2013 ranged from 27 to 72 years in age and the majority of them were men. Homeless Planning Council (HPC) of Delaware Executive Director Susan Starrett says more people are experiencing homelessness in Delaware, but for shorter periods of time. Statistics also show that more families are experiencing homelessness. This data is collected during a Point in Time Count completed every year in the First State on the last Tuesday in January when volunteers canvas the state to count the homeless in shelters, on the street, in train stations, under bypasses or other locations. Starrett says this information is used to coordinate efforts to end homelessness. To that end, HPC issued Delaware's Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness that adopts the federal goals of ending chronic homelessness and homelessness among veterans by 2015 and ending family homelessness by 2020. The plan combines permanent housing models, outreach and engagement services, improved discharge and transition planning and other evidence based practices. It also seeks to create an efficient and cost-effective service delivery system that addresses chronic homelessness and homelessness for families.

Home 4 the Holidays Provides Housing to Three Delaware Families

After struggling to find a permanent home, Madinah Brown and her three daughters were selected to receive a two-story, four-bedroom house in New Castle just in time for the holidays. Keep Selling Property, LLC, a firm that buys, renovates and sells houses, donated the house for the giveaway and is renovating the home, pictured at left. A fire at the property this month delayed the completion of the renovations, but didn't dim the effort to get the home ready for the Brown family. Until the charity provided a new home, the single mother and her daughters had been living in a hotel. Ms. Brown is pictured at right with two of her three daughters. The firm also gave two other families security deposits and a month's rent at local apartments. Keep Selling Property, LLC owners Kimberly Broomer and Shayvette Hunter started the program, Home 4 the Holidays, to help end homelessness one family at a time.

Events & Announcements

- **Feb. 8, 10 a.m. to Noon** – Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County Homeownership Seminar for first-time homeowners, Cranston Heights Fire Hall, 3306 Kirkwood Highway, Wilmington, DE. For more information, please contact Beverly Ward at Bward@habitatncc.org or 302-652-0365, ext. 105.
- **Feb. 24, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** – Grants Workshop & Fair hosted by U.S. Senators Tom Carper and Chris Coons and U.S. Congressman John Carney, Delaware State University, Martin Luther King Jr. Student Center, 1200 N. DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901. For more information and to register, click here.
- **Mar. 12, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.** – Delaware Healthy Homes Summit: Children's Health and Indoor Environment sponsored by the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and the Delaware Division of Public Health's Office of Healthy Environments, Clayton Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE. For more information, please contact Bill Leitzinger by calling 302-744-4811. Registration information will be available soon.
- **April 5, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.** – 2014 Homebuyer Fair: The Path to Homeownership sponsored by the Delaware State Housing Authority, Delaware Financial Literacy Institute/The Money School and the Delaware Federation of Housing Counselors, Chase Center on the Riverfront, Christiana Ballroom, 815 Justison Street, Wilmington, DE. Pre-registration is recommended (but not required) by calling toll free 877-307-6858 or visit www.DFLI.org.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Marvin W. Turner, Field Office Director
202-275-9200, hud.gov/districtofcolumbia

More than 700 Attend Annual Winterhaven Stand Down in the District

For the second consecutive year, members of the HUD Veterans Affinity Group and HUD Field Office team members joined community volunteers from the Washington Chapter of the National Football League Retired Players Association, Reid Temple AME Church, Arlington Chapter of Links, Inc., Colonial Republican Women's Group, St. Mathews Cathedral, Hillcrest Baptist Church, NGEN, Inc., Gregory B. Davis Foundation, Inc., WAVE, Inc., and Parsons-Workforce Support Center to stage the 20th annual Winterhaven Homeless Stand Down at the District of Columbia's U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in the District on Jan. 25. More than 700 veterans experiencing homelessness attended the event that provided one-on-one assistance and an array of much needed services to vulnerable veterans and their families living in the Washington metro area. Volunteers transported attendees from local shelters as well as Metro bus stops. Services included onsite medical screenings, mental health services, veteran claims and benefits assistance, employment/education assistance and information on training opportunities, clothing distribution, personal hygiene, and hot meals. Those attending also benefitted from HUD's fourth annual "Walk in their Footsteps Campaign" which provided more than 700 pairs of boots and shoes as well as advice on how to obtain housing assistance. To view more photos of the day-long event, click here.

HUD and VA reach out to D.C. homeless community and Veterans

On Jan. 29, hundreds of volunteers walked the streets of Washington, D.C. in search of the city's homeless. The goal was to find and count as many of them as possible in order to get a snapshot—a "Point-in-Time" count—of the current homeless population. Released in Nov. 2013, HUD's 2013 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress found significant and measureable progress to reduce the scale of long-term or 'chronic' homelessness as well as homelessness experienced by Veterans and families. Meanwhile, local homeless housing and service providers in the District of Columbia reported that the number of sheltered and unsheltered persons had actually increased by 326 individuals since 2010; the year the federal government established a strategic plan to end homelessness. HUD's Belinda Fadlelmola, pictured to the left of Secretary Shaun Donovan, volunteered for this year's count as well as coordinated Region III's PIT Count this year. To see video footage from the Washington, D. C. count, click here and to see the VA's Robert Turtil's photographs, click here.

National Capital Area Field Office Director Marvin Turner appeared with Dr. Dwane Jones, Director of the University of the District of Columbia Land-grant Center for Sustainable Development, in a recent episode of the Universities' television series CAUSES hosted by Sabine O'Hara, Dean of the University of the District of Columbia's College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences. Their program motto, **CAUSES is—Healthy Cities—Healthy People!** helps guide the school's research-based community education, academic programs, and partnership with government and community organizations. The cable TV-aired discussion is designed to help viewers gain a deeper appreciation for the connection between housing, urban development, and health. To view the episode, click here.

In January, the Arlington County Board (Virginia) unanimously approved **The Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) proposal to redevelop the Carlyn Springs Apartments and create 71 net new committed affordable rental apartments**. "We are excited to redevelop our 27-unit property into The Springs Apartments, a new five-story, 104-unit, family-friendly affordable property that is close to the Ballston Metro," said APAH President/CEO Nina Janopaul. "APAH and the County are leveraging the land value of this close-in location to create 71 new affordable apartments, an increase of 151 bedrooms, with the promise to keep them affordable for the next 60 years." Rendering courtesy of KGD Architecture. For the complete story, click here.

MARYLAND

Carol B. Payne, Field Office Director
410-962-2520, hud.gov/maryland

HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan Makes Baltimore His First Better Buildings Challenge Visit

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) Deputy Executive Director Anthony Scott were joined by HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development Secretary Ray Skinner, HUD's Jane C.W. Vincent and Carol Payne and residents on a tour of Cherry Hill Homes to highlight the energy efficiency updates being implemented as part of the Obama Administration's Better Buildings Challenge. As the President noted in his State of the Union, "Climate change is a fact." In his Climate Action Plan, he has directed the Administration to work with states, communities, businesses and others to reduce energy use. "Being a partner in President Obama's Better Buildings Challenge is an incredible honor," said Mayor Rawlings-Blake. "Our commitment to reduce energy consumption will help create a better environment for our residents and will help protect our planet for future generations." The Better Buildings Challenge was recently extended to include multifamily developments in which building owners commit to a 20 percent portfolio-wide energy reduction over the next decade. HABC was among the first partners to join the Better Buildings Challenge. Nationwide, there are 53 multifamily partners, which represent roughly 200 million square feet and over

240,000 households. HABC has already implemented several energy conservation initiatives including greening and sustainability practices at its various properties, ensuring the use of EnergyStar appliances and tools and most notably, undertaking a massive Energy Performance Contract initiative at five of its major sites. Through efforts to date, HABC has reduced its annual utility costs by $6 million. Chris Merton, Vice President with Adrian L. Merton, Inc. who serves as one of HABC's partners, describes some of the energy-saving features to the officials during the tour of the Cherry Hills complex. Photos, story and video courtesy of Baltimore Housing. To learn more, watch the video and view the photos.

BFO Works to Make Southern Maryland's Point in Time Count a Success

Baltimore Field Office Director Carol Payne spearheaded a collaborative effort to assist the Tri-County Maryland area in its quest to provide an accurate count of individuals experiencing homelessness. With U.S. Congressman Steny Hoyer's Office, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, the Tri-County Maryland area in its quest to provide an accurate count of individuals experiencing homelessness. With U.S. Congressman Steny Hoyer's Office, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, the Tri County Council chaired by Councilwoman Candace Kelly, non-profit organizations and the BFO's Community Planning and Development Division, Director Payne is working with stakeholders in Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's counties to also capture the number of veterans experiencing homelessness. Activities included a press conference to raise awareness about the Point In Time Counts that included and pictured left to right: John Hartline, Ken Robinson, U.S. Congressman Steny Hoyer, Director Payne, Three Oaks Center Executive Director Lanny Lancaster, Jack Russell, MDHCD Office of the Secretary's Flora Arabo and John Bohanan and seated, Charles County Commissioners President and Chair of the Tri County Council Candace Kelly, LifeStyles, Inc. Executive Director Sandy Washington and Calvert County Mental Health Clinic Coordinator of Homeless Programs Kristen Olivo. In addition to awareness building, HUD's Charles Halm assisted with executing an extension Point In Time Count Training Session in Southern Maryland. Additional insight about the federal commitment was provided by Terrance Taylor of Congressman Steny Hoyer's Office as well as Erin Medlicott, Regional Resource Coordinator for Maryland's Commitment to Veterans, the state's contact for assistance in all matters relating to veterans and veterans' problems with health, housing and social services. The formal PIT Count took place on Jan. 29.

The Community Development Network of Maryland (formerly ABCD) has launched a **new marketing effort to change the perception of the Housing Choice Voucher Program called "Consider The Person."** Please visit their website www.considertheperson.org to view the videos and other available materials.

BFO Partners with Maryland Healthcare Connect to Promote the Affordable Care Act

The Baltimore Field Office (BFO) is partnering and collaborating with Maryland Health Connection to help educate and reach Maryland's uninsured population. "We are working with the agency responsible for getting the uninsured population of Maryland enrolled in the Affordable Care Act," said Director Payne, "and it makes a great deal of logic since our public housing and subsidized housing constituents could benefit greatly from healthcare coverage." In particular, we are working with Sophia Minott, Corporate Outreach and Partnership Coordinator for Maryland Health Connection, and connected here with public housing agencies and affordable housing coalitions in the state to provide outreach activities to their clients. The BFO is also providing introductions to stakeholders with major community development corporations, universities, state agencies, resident council associations and major faith-based groups. For additional information, please visit marylandhealthconnection.gov or contact Sophia Minott by calling 410-547-7373 or email Sophia.minott@maryland.gov.

The Journey Home's Board of Directors Named

Mayor of Baltimore Stephanie Rawlings Blake introduced the Board of Directors of The Journey Home, Baltimore City's Plan to End Homelessness by 2018 at an event held at Stadium Place, a senior complex built on the site of the historic Baltimore Memorial Stadium. The new Board, selected from civic, educational, philanthropic, governmental and non-profit community agency leaders, includes an individual who had previously experience homelessness, but who has since gained full employment and stable housing. Chaired by Baltimore City Housing Commissioner Paul Graziano, the Board includes The Journey Home's Executive Director Adrienne Breidenstine. Ms. Breidenstine previously directed the Youth Count! Initiative while she served with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH). The Board announcement was

followed by a community conversation about how to combat homelessness in Baltimore City. As a partner with The Journey Home, the BFO annually participates in Project Homeless Connect by working with other to provide information, referral and health, social and dental services available to Baltimore's homeless population. Baltimore Field Office Director Carol Payne will serve as an ex officio member of the new Board.

Eight Public Housing Authorities in Maryland have been awarded more than $590,000 to help residents gain access to education, job training and employment. Nationally, HUD awarded nearly $16.3 million under its Public Housing Family Self-Sufficiency Program, which enables public housing authorities across the country to hire or retain more than 300 program coordinators to connect families with supportive services that will assist them in becoming gainfully employed. Maryland Housing Authorities receiving funding include: Hagerstown ($100,125), Havre de Grace ($69,000), Baltimore City ($69,000), Annapolis ($69,000), Frederick ($53,045), Anne Arundel County ($69,000), Housing Opportunities Commission ($138,000) and Rockville ($23,075) with a state total of $590,245. For more information, click here.

Maryland's Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) HOME Initiatives Program has been temporarily suspended due to funding cuts. State HOME funds have dwindled in the past few years, so DHCD is using scarce federal resources only with their primary affordable housing activities, including rental housing financing.

Events & Announcements

- **Feb. 13, 8 a.m. to Noon** – Maryland Affordable Housing Coalition's Housing Day 2014. Learn about legislative priorities, meet with your state legislators, and network with peers. Several important budget issues and proposed legislation will be covered. To register, visit the MDAHC website at www.mdahc.org.

PENNSYLVANIA – EASTERN REGION

Richard Ott, Deputy Regional Administrator
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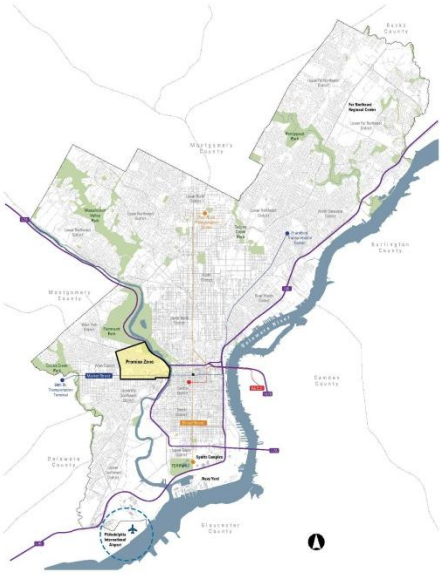
City of Philadelphia Selected as Promise Zone Designee



The City of Philadelphia was one of three cities and a total of five areas selected for a Promise Zone designation, a federal initiative to accelerate revitalization efforts in targeted areas. The Promise Zone initiative is led by the White House with support from federal agencies, including the U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture, Education and Justice. "Being selected as a Promise Zone is an important step in the transformation process for a neighborhood struggling with high poverty, high crime, high vacancy, low educational attainment and low employment rates," said Mayor Michael A. Nutter. "Being a Promise Zone will enable the City to align existing resources and apply for new federal funding—building on efforts already at work—through a multi-faceted, focused approach. I want to thank President Obama and his Administration for this recognition and the opportunities it will provide." The Promise Zones designation provides a package of tools to help local leaders accelerate efforts to revitalize their communities. The designation:

- Creates a partnership between the federal government and local leaders who are addressing multiple community revitalization challenges with on-the-ground technical assistance to help navigate federal programs and regulations;
- Provides preference points on other federal grants and funding opportunities; and
- Will, if enacted by Congress, provide employer tax incentives to create jobs for Zone residents and attract private capital to disinvested places.

The Mayor's Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity (CEO), the City's community action agency, will serve as the lead agency throughout the Promise Zone process. "I am thrilled that the Promise Zone designation will provide federal agency support in helping us implement Shared Prosperity, our plan to fight poverty, and for this opportunity to assist residents of several West Philadelphia neighborhoods," said Eva Gladstein, Executive Director, CEO. The City's selected Promise Zone is a nearly two-square mile area in West Philadelphia. Bordered by the Schuylkill River on the east, Girard Avenue on the north, 48th Street to the west and Sansom Street to the south, the Promise Zone is home to 35,315 residents. For the complete story, visit the City's website.

Veterans Housed in Time for the New Year

Several veterans in Philadelphia received the ultimate gift to end the year—a place to call home. The Philadelphia Housing Authority and a local property owner worked around the clock to quickly house three veterans before 2013 came to an end. "Being part of the process, especially during this time of the year, makes the hard work worth it," said Bret Holden, the Philadelphia Housing Authority's Director of Eligibility and Special Programs. One of the veterans, Wayne Jones, signed his lease a few days before Christmas and said he is happy to be in his new home. According to the property owner, Ron Egan, who is pictured right with Jones after he signed his lease, the HUD-VASH program has motivated him to purchase similar properties to rent to veterans. The success in expediting the leasing procedures for these veterans is just a fraction of what multiagency partners are striving to do in Philadelphia. For the complete blog story, click here.

Philly COUNTS 2014 Attracts 300 Volunteers for Annual Point In Time Count

At 10 p.m. on Jan. 29, over 300 volunteers gathered at Broad Street Ministry before fanning out across Philadelphia to count and survey people living on the streets. The count is a partnership of Project HOME, City of Philadelphia, U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development and Veterans Affairs, and a multi-provider consortium to survey and count people who are street homeless and/or youth (up to age 25) who are unstably housed. Philly COUNTS (Coordinated Outreach for Unsheltered Needs Tally and Survey) takes place on a single night to fulfill the Point In Time Count requirement for all cities receiving federal funding for homeless services. The overarching goal is to gather information about who is still living on the streets and young people who are unstably housed to use for funding decisions, housing placement and systems planning.

New to this year's Philly COUNTS 2014 were measures to survey homeless veterans and at-risk youth, efforts to send volunteers to new areas of the City, and a new more comprehensive questionnaire to collect information helpful to shaping services targeted to these vulnerable groups. Volunteers joined Project Home's Sister Mary Scullion, HUD Regional Administrator Jane C.W. Vincent and representatives from the City and its partners for a training prior to the citywide count. A number of team members from HUD's Philadelphia Regional Office joined Jane Vincent, pictured kneeling second from left, volunteered to support the effort in spite of freezing temperatures. Ben Houck, an economist with HUD's Policy, Development & Research team, is pictured left as he maps out his evening route with another volunteer.

PENNSYLVANIA – WESTERN REGION

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The Unknown are Not Forgotten

Concerned and involved citizens of Pittsburgh observed National Homeless Persons Memorial Day on Dec. 21 by holding a candlelight vigil and memorial service for the individuals living on the street who had perished during 2013. This memorial service was hosted by Operation Safety Net, a program of Pittsburgh Mercy Health System. Local homeless providers, HUD staff, friends and family gathered to pay their respect for ten individuals experiencing homelessness who had touched their lives either personally or professionally. Dr. Jim Withers, medical director and founder of Operation Safety Net, spoke of each person experiencing homelessness who had died in the past year. Others also spoke of the strengths and challenges faced by each one and about their unique personalities with the exception of the one who was "unknown." As the Mt. Ararat Baptist Church Men's Choir sang "Amazing Grace," Dr. Withers acknowledged that over 900 formerly individuals experiencing homelessness had been successfully housed by Operation Safety Net in the past nine years, and yet, the nonprofit's work continues. The resolve to continue to meet the needs of the homeless, with respect and dignity was palpable amongst the crowd present; the cold and darkness of

the night was pierced and illuminated by the warm amber glow of candlelight and the prospect that hope, faith and charity will prevail. Photo courtesy of Pittsburgh Catholic/Chuck Austen.

Self-Sufficiency Works!

Vera Logvina-Sizov has traveled far, from her status as a refugee from the Ukraine to an assisted housing resident in Erie, PA who has become a successful accountant and has built her dream home. She credits her success to the "Step-Up" clerical classes offered by the Housing Authority of the City of Erie. Through "Step-Up," Vera was able to develop her English and computer skills enough to pass the civil service exams. Then, she was hired by the Housing Authority as an accountant—and has continued to work there for the past 17 years. Throughout her career, she has marveled at the impact and the importance public housing has played in her personal and professional life. Over the years Vera has witnessed many innovative programs offered to public housing residents to improve their lives. Her advice is simple—to take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way, and lastly, "Success is not luck," she reflected. "It comes from very hard work. Public housing self-sufficiency programs provide residents that opportunity—to work, and ultimately succeed." Photography courtesy of the Housing Authority of the City of Erie.

Training Offers Insight into Effective Management of CDBG and NSP Sub-recipients

In December, Pittsburgh-area recipients of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and National Stabilization Program (NSP) grants received training that explored the planning and selection process involved in using sub-recipients. Participants learned how to improve performance through technical assistance, training and monitoring as well as best practices to enhance tracking performance. In addition to receiving resource materials for both programs, Cloudburst Consulting Group Senior Analyst Patrick Taylor led the attendees in a dialogue on the changing regulatory environment, how to reward superior or improved performance and learn from mistakes made in the management of sub-recipient agreements.

VIRGINIA

Carrie S. Schmidt, Field Office Director
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Walking the Walk

HUD Richmond's commitment to ending homelessness proves that it's more than words, as staff members have actively participated at a number of local and Commonwealth-wide events in recent months. In November, seven staff members volunteered to assist people who are homeless in Richmond at "Project Homeless Connect" and the next day, HUD was present at the Homeless Veterans Stand Down at the McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center. At right, HUD Richmond's Anne Davis talks with a veteran about affordable housing resources at the event. In January, HUD Richmond participated in Norfolk's "Project Homeless Connect," and the two-day "Veterans Housing Development 101," hosted by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, Virginia Community Development Corporation and the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness. Virginia is home to one of the highest populations of veterans in the country, with more than 18 percent cost burdened or severely cost burdened with regard to housing. At the "Veterans Housing Development 101" seminar, ideas, best practices and potential resources for creating more affordable housing and services for veterans were exchanged through presentations and discussions with Virginia's leading affordable housing development organizations. Thirteen HUD Richmond staff members volunteered with Homeward's semi-annual Point-in-Time Count of people who are homeless on Jan. 30.

Congratulations!

HUD has awarded more than $16 million worth of Family Self-Sufficiency grants, including $777,803 in Virginia, to help housing authorities hire or retain program coordinators who assist families with supportive services to help them become gainfully employed. Among the services provided to residents are connections to child care, counseling, transportation and computer and financial literacy services. To read more about the awards, and to see a listing of the Housing Authorities that received them, click here.

Events & Announcements

- **DUE Feb. 19, 5:30 p.m.** – Nominations are now being accepted for the 2014 Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards. The nomination period ends at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19. Honors will be presented in individual and group categories including youth, senior and adult volunteers, faith-based organizations, families that volunteer together, community organizations, small businesses and corporations that exemplify extraordinary volunteerism and community service. For more information or to nominate a person or group, click here, call (804) 726-7918, 1-800-638-3839 or email info@vaservice.org. Nomination forms can be submitted online or downloaded and mailed to the Virginia Department of Social Services, Office on Volunteerism and Community Service, 801 East Main Street, 15th Floor, Richmond, VA 23219.
- **Apr. 28 through May 1** – Registration is open for the Virginia Association of Housing Counselors (VAHC) 2014 Spring Conference in Hampton. This year, VAHC is offering four certification opportunities: 1) Certified Housing Counselor, 2) Homeownership Counseling Comprehensive Certification, 3) Housing Specialist - Rental Counseling Certification and 4) Housing Specialist- Homeless Counseling Certification. Click here to register.

WEST VIRGINIA

Peter C. Minter, Field Office Director
304-347-7000, hud.gov/westvirginia

Sustainable Agriculture Entrepreneurs (SAGE) Seeking "Agri-preneurs"
The Charleston Area Alliance's farmer-training-program is looking for 10 committed "agri-preneurs" to learn how to grow large amounts of sustainable produce in urban spaces. The program also teaches how to sell this produce as a stream of household income. Right now, SAGE is looking for qualified candidates for the 2014 class. The class includes a two-hour commitment per month for workshop-related activities. These workshops are typically held on weekdays, post business hours and weekend mornings. Additionally, during the growing and market season of May through August, SAGE involvement will be an average of 20 to 25 hours per month. This commitment includes at least one Saturday per month to sell at the market. For more information contact the Charleston Area Alliance by calling 304-340-4253.

West Virginia Coalition for the Homelessness Readies for Annual Point In Time Counts
This year, 100,000 HOMES Campaign Harrison County, WV partnered with the West Virginia Coalition for the Homelessness by incorporating the 100,000 HOMES Campaign Registry Week in conjunction with the Point-In-Time (PIT) Count held statewide on Jan. 27. The 100K Homes Campaign is a national movement of 175+ communities working together to find permanent homes for 100K chronic and medically vulnerable individuals and families experiencing homeless. For more information, call 304-842-9522 or info@wvceh.org. Additional areas that conducted PIT counts: Huntington, Jan. 27; Wheeling, Jan. 28 and Charleston, Jan. 29.

State Mental Health Planning and Advisory Councils Seeking Members
In 1986, a Federal law was passed that required states to undertake mental health planning as a condition of receiving federal mental health funds. It further required that the planning process include various stakeholder groups—consumers of mental health services, parents of children with emotional disturbances and family members of adults with serious mental illness. It also involved representatives from state agencies including mental health, education, vocational rehabilitation, criminal justice, housing, social services and the state Medicaid agency as well as public and private entities concerned with the need, planning, operation, funding, and use of mental health services and related support services. Councils now exist in every state. The West Virginia Behavioral Health Planning Council is actively seeking members who are parents of minor children who are struggling with mental health issues. For more information, please contact Ardella Cottrill at ardella.cottrill@yahoo.com.

Earned Income Tax Credit/Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Available
The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a financial boost for working people in West Virginia, including many taxpayers who live in HUD-assisted housing. Eligibility is based on several factors, including the source and amount of your income, or combined income if married, whether you have qualifying children and how many. Workers without children also may qualify. Earned income includes all taxable income gained from working. To qualify for the EITC, a person must work full- or part-time and have earned income during the year. If married and filing jointly, at least one spouse must work and have earned income. West Virginia operates regional Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Coalitions.

Contact the Coalition for your county to obtain hours of operation and services.

- Central WV EITC Coalition: Boone, Clay, Kanawha Logan, Mingo and Putnam Counties, 304-342-9515
- Eastern Panhandle EITC Coalition: Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan and Pendleton Counties, 304-267-8837
- Mid-Ohio Valley EITC Coalition: Calhoun, Doddridge, Gilmer, Jackson, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Tyler, Wetzel, Wirt and Wood Counties, 304-485-9238
- North Central WV EITC Coalition: Barbour, Braxton, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker, Upshur, and Webster Counties, 304-265-3200
- Northern Panhandle EITC Coalition: Brooke, Hancock, Marshall and Ohio Counties, 304-797-7733
- Southern WV EITC Coalition: Fayette, Greenbrier, McDowell, mercer, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Raleigh, Summers and Wyoming Counties, 304-682-8271
- Southwest WV EITC Coalition, Cabell, Lincoln Mason and Wayne Counties, 304-523-8929

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Ongoing Opportunities:

- The U.S. Department of Labor is accepting applications for "Stand Down" grants that will provide an estimated 10,000 homeless veterans with opportunities to reintegrate into society. The grants are being awarded under the department's Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program.
- Wells Fargo Homeownership grant program to help local nonprofit housing organizations create sustainable homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate-income people.
- The Surdna Foundation offers funding to nonprofit organizations that seek to help communities build wealth in a sustainable manner. Letters of Inquiry are accepted year around. For more information, click here.
- Kresge Foundation is accepting applications for funding for its Advancing the Effectiveness and Resilience of Multi-Service Organizations grant program.
- Kresge Foundation is accepting applications for funding for its Healthy Environments grant program.
- The Coca Cola Foundation offers grants to support programs that focus on: water stewardship; healthy and active lifestyles that lead to physical activity and nutritional education programs; community recycling; and education.
- The Macy's Foundation provides grants to organizations that are focused on women's issues.

Upcoming deadlines:

- **Feb. 10** – Applications are due for National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards.
- **Feb. 14** – Applications are due for Lowe's Charitable and Education Foundation Toolbox for Education Grant Program.
- **Feb. 15** – Applications are due for the Kazanjian Foundation Economic Literacy Grant.
- **Feb. 19** – Applications are due for U.S. Department of Education College Assistance Migrant Program.
- **Feb. 25** – Applications are due for U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Telehealth Resource Center Grant Program.
- **Mar. 14** – Applications are due for U.S. Department of Commerce FY 2014 Economic Development Assistance Grant Programs.
- **Mar. 15** – Applications due for the Champions for Healthy Kids Program, a General Mills Foundation program that will award 50 grants to nonprofit organizations working to improve nutrition and physical fitness behaviors for youth.

REGION III HUDLINE NEWS

We welcome your feedback and invite you to share your news with Lisa A. Wolfe at lisa.a.wolfe@hud.gov. If you know anyone who would like to receive *Region III HUDLine News*, please feel free to share. To subscribe to the *Region III HUDLine News*, visit REGION-III-NEWS-L@hudlist.hud.gov. We safeguard our lists and do not rent, sell, or permit the use of our lists by others, at any time or reason.