



REGION III HUDLINE NEWS

June 2012



■ E-Briefs from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development ■ Region III (DE, DC, MD, PA, VA & WV) ■
■ (215) 656-0500 ■ Jane C.W. Vincent, Regional Administrator ■ www.hud.gov/pennsylvania ■

A Message from the Regional Administrator

Dear Friends,

June is Homeownership Month, and HUD continues to work with our partners to keep the American Dream alive. President Obama has a [plan](#) to help borrowers who are current on their payments, but underwater on their mortgages, to refinance. The \$25 billion mortgage settlement will certainly provide some relief for struggling homeowners, as Region III states receive \$2.6 billion to help support housing counseling and foreclosure prevention. Each state is deciding how to best implement its share of the settlement. States may also negotiate additional settlements or take other action if they think it necessary. Meanwhile, a different mortgage settlement allows borrowers to request an [independent foreclosure review](#) if they believe their homes were unfairly foreclosed in 2010 or 2011. The borrowers are eligible for the review to determine if they suffered financial injury as a result of errors during the foreclosure process, and whether they may be eligible to receive compensation. Servicers sent letters informing **4 million borrowers** of their rights to reviews, but there is concern that the letters were mistaken for “scam-mail,” and were left unopened. The good news is that borrowers can request a review online by clicking [here](#). **All requests for independent foreclosure reviews must be postmarked or submitted on line by July 31.** Please share this important information with your family, friends and colleagues. President Obama, and everyone at HUD, is fully committed to ["Keeping the Dream Alive."](#)

Sincerely,



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Father’s Day 2012...



HUD held its inaugural Father's Day event on June 18, 2011. This year, HUD wants to go one step further and place Father's Day in a larger context. While HUD continues to encourage Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to work toward increasing the bonds between fathers and their children throughout the year, it is hoped that, in addition to hosting a [Father's Day event](#) in June, participating PHAs will hold activities throughout the year to help connect fathers and their children. To capture this expanded vision the Department is calling this initiative “Reconnecting Families and Dads.” Register an event by clicking [here](#). (So far, 36 events are registered for Region III)!



Follow HUD happenings between newsletters through social media – search @HUDMidAtlantic on Twitter or join the HUD group on Facebook!



HUD’s Mission: To create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities with quality, affordable housing for all.

SETTLEMENT SAVVY...

You may be interested in the HUD and Attorney Generals' settlement with major mortgage servicers, which addresses foreclosure processing violations by the nation's largest mortgage servicers, and provides substantial and immediate financial relief to homeowners. Three areas of assistance are targeted: homeowners who need loan modifications now; borrowers who are current, but underwater; and borrowers who lost their homes to foreclosure. The settlement also establishes new homeowner protections for the future -- forcing the biggest banks to clean up their acts and fix the problems that led to so much devastation in your communities. Here is an information page to help you find out if [you or someone you know may be eligible](#) to participate in the settlement.

The \$25 billion mortgage settlement will provide some desperately needed relief for struggling homeowners. The participating states (all of the states in Region III have signed the settlement) will receive \$2.6 billion to be used for housing counseling and other foreclosure prevention efforts. [Maryland](#) is the first state to announce how it plans to use its share of the settlement money. The landmark foreclosure settlement between the state and the nation's five largest lenders is expected to bring significant new resources for foreclosure prevention counseling to Maryland. Maryland Attorney General Douglas Gansler established a work group, including Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development staff, to develop the best [plan](#) for using those resources. In addition, the attorney general's office expects to conduct from 20 to 30 workshops across the state this summer to help homeowners, housing counselors and the public understand the terms of the settlement and what to expect. There will be three in Baltimore, beginning with a workshop with US Representative Elijah Cummings on June 16. To learn more about the settlement, visit the [Maryland Attorney General's website](#) or contact the [MD HOPE Counseling Network](#).

HUD cautions everyone to [beware of scams](#) related to the settlement. Help is free, so there shouldn't be any charge to obtain assistance with the settlement. Here are some important web pages for more information:

- www.NationalForeclosureSettlement.com
- [HUD: Overview of Mortgage Servicing Settlement](#)

There is more help in the works: If you're a responsible homeowner and are current on your mortgage payments but would like to refinance for a lower payment, help could be on the way. President Obama has proposed a [plan](#) that would allow underwater homeowners to refinance at historically low rates. The plan is expected to save homeowners who are current on their payments an average of \$3,000 per year, giving borrowers the chance to rebuild equity in their homes. In this installment of the [White House White Board](#), Brian Deese, Deputy Director of the National Economic Council, explains how the President's plan would make it much easier for millions of American homeowners to refinance their mortgage and save hundreds of dollars every month.

SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERS AT WORK...

HUD's Sustainable Communities Resource Center has developed a [matrix](#) to measure the Savings of Green Building Technologies. The matrix highlights 10 proven and affordable green building technologies organized into four categories: Building Envelope, HVAC, Management and Use, and Water. Each product features a brief description for general reference; technical overviews are addressed by the resources highlighted in the "Additional Information" section. These entries have a track record of providing savings, are affordable across building types and scales, and are viable in diverse climates. This document is a simple, accessible, cogent tool to educate and motivate builders about the nuanced economics of green building. For more information about the matrix, please [click here](#).

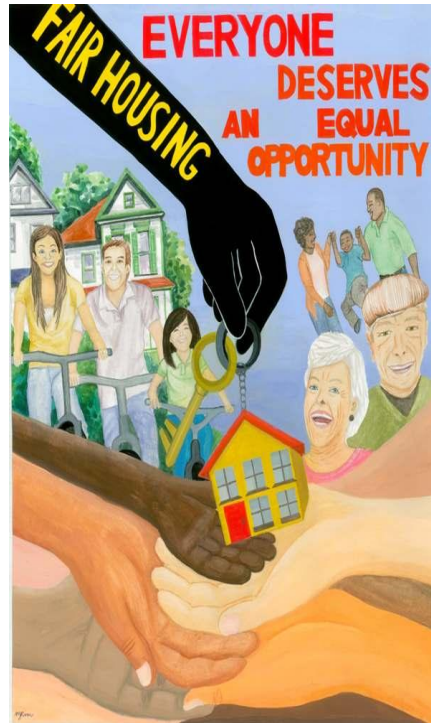
TOTALLY RAD...

HUD's new Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) is designed to test new preservation tools for the HUD-assisted housing stock by allowing:

- Public Housing and Moderate Rehabilitation (Mod Rehab) properties to convert, under a competition limited to 60,000 units, to long-term Section 8 rental assistance contracts; and
- Rent Supplement (Rent Supp), Rental Assistance Payment (RAP), and Mod Rehab properties, upon contract expiration or termination, to convert tenant-based vouchers, either in their current form as Enhanced Vouchers or Tenant Protection Vouchers, to project-based vouchers.

Read more about this RAD idea [here](#).

FOCUS ON FAIR HOUSING...



This original artwork by Min Jo Kim is the first place Fair Housing Month Poster winning entry. The contest was sponsored by the Fairfax County Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs, in partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools.



New ADA Design Standards: On March 15 the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design went into effect. The standards set new requirements for fixed or built-in elements in facilities such as swimming pools and play areas. The rules also clarify and refine issues that have arisen over the past 20 years, including service animals, reach ranges, toilet room dimensions, and accessible routes. Specifically:

- The definition of “service animal” is now limited to a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the dog must be directly related to the person’s disability.
- Access to parking, routes to the playground, playground equipment and amenities (picnic tables and restrooms) is addressed.
- Playground equipment is now required to be accessible.
- Swimming pools, wading pools, and spas (pools) must be accessible.
- Newly constructed or altered places of public accommodation, commercial facilities and state and local government facilities are required to comply with the ADA Standards.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER...

HUD has awarded nearly \$7.2 million to Region III fair housing and non-profit agencies to assist people who believe they have been victims of housing discrimination. The competitive grants are funded through HUD's [Fair Housing Initiatives Program](#) (FHIP). [Click here](#) to read a project-by-project summary of all the FHIP grants awarded nationally:

- (Delaware) Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. Private Enforcement Initiative – \$307,500
- (District of Columbia) Equal Rights Center Private Enforcement Initiative – \$325,000, Housing Counseling Services Education and Outreach Initiative – \$125,000, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law Fair Housing Organization Initiative – \$324,323, National Community Reinvestment Coalition Fair Housing Organization Initiative – \$1,249,885, National Fair Housing Alliance Private Enforcement Initiative – \$2,149,911
- (Maryland) Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc. Private Enforcement Initiative – \$324,411, University of Maryland, Baltimore Education and Outreach Initiative – \$100,000
- (Pennsylvania) St. Martin Center, Inc. Fair Housing Organization Initiative – \$450,000, Fair Housing Council of Suburban Philadelphia, Inc. Private Enforcement Initiative – \$324,877, Fair Housing Rights Center in Southeastern Pennsylvania Private Enforcement Initiative – \$324,000, Fair Housing Partnership of Greater Pittsburgh Private Enforcement Initiative – \$325,000, United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania Education and Outreach Initiative – \$96,904, Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services, Inc. Private Enforcement Initiative – \$525,000
- (Virginia) Piedmont Housing Alliance Education and Outreach Initiative – \$62,757
- (West Virginia) Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living Fair Housing Organization Initiative – \$143,571

HUD FUNDING RESOURCES...

- [Performance Based Contract Administration \(PBCA\) Program for Project Based Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Contracts](#) applications are due June 11.
- [FY 2012 Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Demonstration Program](#) applications are due July 31.

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES...

- **June 1** – Applications are due for 2012 Neighborhood Builder awards from the [Bank of America Charitable Foundation](#).
- **June 1** – Applications are due for US Department of Energy Methane Hydrate Program [contract](#).
- **June 4** – Applications are due for US Department of Agriculture Household Water Well System Grants. For more information, [click here](#).
- **June 5** – Applications are due for US Department of Health and Human Services Community and Economic Development (CED) program. To learn more and to apply, click [here](#).
- **June 8** – Letters of Intent are due for US Department of Education Promise Neighborhood Planning and Implementation Grant Programs. Final applications are due July 27. For more information, [click here](#).
- **June 14** – Applications are due for US Department of Justice Drug Court Grants. For more information, click [here](#).
- **June 18** – Applications are due for US Department of Health and Human Services Refugee Individual Development Account Grant program. For more information, click [here](#).
- **July 24** – Applications are due for US Department of Agriculture Small, Socially Disadvantaged Producers Grant Program. For more information, click [here](#).

FHA LEADS THE WAY...

Webinars: FHA Loss Mitigation Series: New Loss Mitigation webinars designed for FHA approved servicing lenders and housing counseling agencies – Wednesdays, 2:00 pm EST.
Schedule 1 from June 06 - July 18:

- **June 06** - Webinar I: Overview HUD Early Delinquency Activities and Loss Mitigation Program. Register at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/904200968>.
- **June 13** - Webinar II: HUD Loss Mitigation – Home Retention Options. Register at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/727282712>.
- **June 20** - Webinar III: HUD Loss Mitigation Disposition Options – Pre-Foreclosure Sale & Deed in Lieu. Register at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/308591624>.
- **June 27** - Webinar IV: SFDMS - Default Reporting. Register at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/940852729>.
- **July 11** - Webinar V: HUD’s Neighborhood Watch System – Servicer Tools. Register at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/898586809>.
- **July 18** - Webinar VI: FHA Claims. Register at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/209467697>.

Visit the National Homeownership Center homepage at: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/hsgsingle.cfm>.
 Servicing lenders can visit the National Servicing Center at: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/nsc/nschome.cfm>.

New Mortgage Letters:

2012-08 - sets forth the Department’s policy in defining the indebtedness eligible for refinancing in connection with healthcare (Sections 232 and 242) projects and in connection with multifamily projects to include, under certain circumstances, interest rate swap termination fees.

2012-09 - designates Annual Base City High Cost Percentages and High Cost Areas effective January 1, 2012.

To read all FHA Mortgage Letters, [click here](#).

NEWS YOU CAN USE...

The Veterans Affairs Women Veterans Task Force has developed a comprehensive action plan to focus on resolving critical issues facing women Veterans. [View](#) the 2012 Draft Report: “Strategies for Serving Our Women Veterans,” and feel free to [leave your comments](#). A complimentary blog by Gary Officer of Rebuilding Together, entitled “The Invisible Soldier,” can be found at the National Housing Coalition ["Open House"](#) blog page. This posting discusses the critical housing concerns of women veterans from the perspective of a housing professional.



When Secretary Donovan established HUD’s Strategic Plan, among the Department’s top goals was to transform how HUD does business. It was really quite simple: fix what’s broken and improve what needed improving. The Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) has launched an overhaul of the planning process that 1,200 cities, counties and states are required to satisfy as a condition of receiving billions of dollars in annual block grant assistance. The [eCon Planning Suite: Consolidated Plan and IDIS](#) will allow HUD grantees to submit their Consolidated Plan using the Consolidated Plan template in IDISOnLine. These new tools will help local planners approach their jobs in a smart way, ensuring increasingly scarce federal dollars are targeted to where they are needed most. It is estimated HUD’s new approach will save communities approximately 65,000 staff hours each year and will save HUD staff 30-40 hours per Consolidated Plan.

Housing ex-offenders: Each year, more than a half million people are released from prisons in the U.S., and an additional 7 million are released from jails. Research shows that ex-offenders who do not find stable housing in the community are more likely to recidivate than those who do, yet people returning to their communities from prison often face significant barriers to obtaining housing. Studies have also found that the majority of people released from prison intend to return to their families, some of whom may live in assisted housing. The Department is asking owners of HUD-assisted properties to seek a balance between allowing ex-offenders to reunite with families that live in HUD subsidized housing, and ensuring the safety of all residents of its programs. Accordingly, the Department encourages owners of HUD-assisted properties to develop policies and procedures that allow ex-offenders to rejoin the community to the extent that this balance can be maintained. When screening family behavior and suitability for tenancy, owners may consider all relevant information, including factors that indicate a reasonable probability of favorable future conduct. For example, evidence of rehabilitation

and evidence of the applicant family's participation in or willingness to participate in social services such as counseling programs. Read more in the [Philadelphia Multifamily Housing HUB News](#).

HUD has released two reports on the impact of HUD-approved housing counseling for those families who purchase their first homes and those struggling to prevent foreclosure. In both studies, HUD found housing counseling significantly improved the likelihood homeowners remained in their homes. To read the press release in its entirety, and to also read both the housing counseling studies, please [click here](#).



United States Department of Agriculture
Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service is hosting a "Together We Can" Partnership Series for community and faith-based organizations. This webinar program will share opportunities to collaborate with USDA to help those in need in your community. All are invited to these one-hour training sessions

covering topics such as providing summer meals, teaching nutrition education, and building local food systems. You can attend all of the sessions, or join the ones most relevant to your organization and community.

The remaining webinars in the series are:

- *Together We Can* Put Healthy and Affordable Food on the Table – Wednesday, June 20 at 2pm EDT
- *Together We Can* Teach About Nutritious Cooking and Eating – Wednesday, July 25 at 2pm EDT
- *Together We Can* Build Local and Regional Food Systems – Wednesday, August 29 at 2pm EDT
- *Together We Can* Feed Kids After School – Wednesday, September 26 at 2pm EDT
- *Together We Can* Build our Partnership: More Opportunities to work with USDA – Wednesday, October 31 at 2pm EDT

These sessions will be available via Microsoft Office LiveMeeting (Webinar) and are free of charge for all participants. You will need access to a phone line and a computer with internet access to participate. Please note that you must register for the webinar to receive additional information. You'll find more [information about the series and registration here](#). If you have any questions about the webinar, please contact us by emailing collaborate@usda.gov or via phone at (202) 720-2032.

DON'T BE SORRY - BE READY...

[National Hurricane Preparedness Week](#) ends June 2, but preparation should be ongoing (especially throughout hurricane season that extends from June 1 through November 30). The severe weather banners at [Ready.gov](#) direct site visitors to information specific to that type of disaster. Once on Ready.gov, users can access a [clickable map to find contact information](#) for state and local government agencies, where they can learn more about specific severe weather and warning and alert systems in their communities. More information and ideas on how to take action can be found on FEMA's official accounts at www.facebook.com/FEMA or twitter.com/FEMA and NOAA's official accounts at www.facebook.com/usnoagov or twitter.com/usnoagov.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND REGION III...

HUD EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA/ REGIONAL OFFICE

HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan gave the keynote address to the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia's [Fifth Biennial Reinventing Older Communities conference in Philadelphia](#) on May 10. The conference focused on how government, non-profit, academic, philanthropic, and private-sector partners can support economic development strategies to reinvent older communities and build more resilient cities – large, medium, and small – across the United States. The Secretary highlighted HUD and the Administration's work to strengthen the housing market and create jobs. He talked extensively about the [Strong Cities, Strong Communities](#) program as a key effort by the Obama Administration to help local governments strengthen their capacity, better utilize existing resources, and change how the federal government partners with communities to help cut through red tape and rebuild economies. Secretary Donovan noted that SC2 emphasizes the critical role of locally driven decision-making and priority setting. This local leadership allows federal agency representatives on the SC2 Community

Solutions Teams to work side-by-side with city government staff and other community partners to address locally identified priorities and break down federal government barriers. As a part of the conference, attendees enjoyed a bus tour (see the pictures below) to visit Chester and were able to witness first-hand the potential of that small city to rebuild, especially when the right partners are committed to the effort. The shared vision and development of partnering potential is what makes the SC2 initiative dynamic, and is what made the week in Philadelphia and Chester memorable.



The HUD Region III Office is engaged in the [Strong Cities, Strong Communities](#) (SC2) pilot program in Chester, PA, which will continue for another year. Chester is a city with numerous challenges and, as the SC2 team is learning, many assets that can be leveraged; such as local “anchor” institution Widener University. Located just 13 miles south of Philadelphia, the City of Chester is working closely with Widener, and with the Institute for Economic Development and the Crozer-Chester Medical Center, to strengthen home ownership by encouraging employers to provide cash incentives to workers who settle in Chester, with the City contributing money to cover down payment costs. (For more on resilience and the role of local anchors, in Chester and around the nation, please see HUD’s recent issue of [Evidence Matters](#)). On May 30, the partnering federal agencies, including HUD, signed a memorandum of understanding with Chester Mayor Linder to continue working together to strengthen economic and community development in the city.

- **June 7** – Pennsylvania-Delaware Affordable Housing Management Association (PenDel AHMA) is hosting an “Understanding the REAC Inspection Process” in Lansdale. For more information or to register, [click here](#).

HUD VIRGINIA

Just in case you ever wondered - here’s the best reason for HUD to stay focused on our mission “To Create Strong, Sustainable, Inclusive Communities with Quality, Affordable Housing for All.” The young people pictured here are the recipients of the 2012 [Virginia Association of Housing and Community Development Officials](#) (VAHCDO) scholarship awards. All residents of public housing, these dynamic young people have shown excellence in academics, leadership and community involvement. From left to right: Jaquan Outlaw of Heritage High School (Newport News) will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology; Chyanne Trowell of Hopewell High School will be attending Longwood University; Latifah Neblett-Burrell of Richmond Community High School will be attending Howard University; Fatimah Neblett-Burrell (yes, she is Latifah’s twin sister) of Richmond Community High



School will be attending Georgetown University, and James Etheridge of Lake Taylor High School (Norfolk) will be attending Old Dominion University. HUD offers our heartfelt congratulations to these outstanding young men and women.

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) has won *Site Selection* magazine's [2011 Competitiveness Award](#), which recognizes excellence on the part of state-level economic development groups.

The Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness has released a [Rapid Rehousing Resources Toolkit](#) containing fair housing, landlord and other resources for more effective service delivery to people who are homeless.

Congratulations to the [Virginia Association of Housing Counselors](#) 2012 Housing Counseling Award Recipients:
Rookie of the Year, Sherri Wilson – Suffolk Redevelopment & Housing Authority
Housing Specialists of the Year, Catrina Paige – Bay Aging Housing and Sandra Waldon – Clinch Valley Community Action Agency
Outstanding Community Service, Reggie Mebane – Southside Community Development & Housing Corporation
Agency of the Year, City of Martinsville

- **June 1** – proposals are due for [Organizational Change Grants](#) and [Community Change Grants](#), part of the National Alliance to End Homelessness project, “Reducing Family Homelessness in Virginia: A Rapid Re-Housing Approach.”
- **June 2** – Earlybird registration deadline for National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness [Housing Stability and Mental Illness Summit](#). Regular registration closes June 30.
- **June 8** – [Virginia Housing and Community Development Corporation](#) Venture Weekend, during which applications are due for seed, early stage, and startup ventures to launch or re-launch micro businesses in Virginia. For more information, [click here](#).
- **June 9** – Better Housing Coalition is hosting a [Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit](#) workshop. Contact [David Herring](#) (804-644-0546 x37).
- **June 12** - SBA HUBZone Boot Camp hosted by the Virginia Beach Department of Economic Development. Register [here](#).
- **June 15** - 2012 Virginia Conference on Volunteerism and Community Service (complimentary, pre-conference "Welcome and Networking Reception" June 14). To learn more and to register, [click here](#).
- **June 15** – Application deadline for grants from the [Community Leadership Partners](#) and the [Beach Fund](#) for nonprofits working to improve academic achievement for South Hampton Roads children. For more information, contact the [Hampton Roads Community Foundation](#).
- **June 25-30** - [National Veteran Wheelchair Games](#) in Richmond. Volunteers are still needed. For more information, [click here](#).
- **June 27-28** – Capacity Building and Grantwriting Workshop for nonprofit and faith-based organizations. Contact Anne Davis (anne.davis@hud.gov) to register.
- **July 2** - deadline for submission of applications for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta's 2012 Affordable Housing Program. For more information, [click here](#).
- **July 19-20** - 2nd annual Symposium on Homeland Security: Enhancing Public-Private Partnerships and Coordination, to be hosted on the CNU campus. For information and registration [click here](#).

HUD DELAWARE

On May 10 the HUD Delaware participated in a Sustainable Communities event sponsored by the [Delaware Department of Transportation](#) (DEDOT). Staff from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Transportation also attended. A presentation was made by DEDOT about the Christina River Bridge Project that will give much needed additional access to and egress from the redeveloped Riverfront area of Wilmington. A second presentation was given by the Wilmington Area Planning Council about the [Newark Transportation Improvement Planning Project](#) that will primarily support a new technology center at the University of Delaware.



[Connections Community Support Programs](#) received a new funding award of \$300,557 from HUD to help thirty-five (35) homeless Delawareans with persistent mental illness secure stable and affordable housing. Delaware Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services Rita Landgraf, and Connection's consumer and HUD housing participant Vilata James, share smiles at the success she has had with the help of Connections' supportive services, which helped her move into an apartment and get a job. Ms. James' opinion: she loves Connections!

On May 21, HUD Delaware participated as an exhibitor at a [Federal Grants Workshop](#) attended by approximately 175 participants. Opening remarks by U.S. Senator Tom Carper, U.S. Senator Chris Coons and US Representative John Carney stressed the importance to the State of Delaware that nonprofit and faith-based organizations are able to access information about competitive federal grants that will benefit their communities.

- **June 2** – Neighborhood House will conduct a Homebuyer Education Workshop in Middletown. For Contact Iris Donato at (302) 652-3981 or at idonato@neighborhoodhse.org.
- **June 2** – First State Community Action Agency will host a National Community Action Month event in Georgetown. Call 1-800-372-2240 or contact: www.firststatecaa.org.
- **June 6 - 7** – Delaware NAHRO will conduct UPCS Inspection Protocol Training in Dover. Contact Paula Sims at (302) 738-0915 or at paulasims1@yahoo.com.
- **June 18** – The Milford Housing Development Corporation will celebrate Homeownership Month in Sussex County. For information call (302) 422-8255 or email at: info@milfordhousing.com

HUD MARYLAND



Baltimore's "[Open Walls](#)" Project is receiving international attention! Mainstream media has picked up the story, including the newest report by [the Voice of America](#) (which is produced for foreign readers), according to [Baltimore Brew](#). [The Voice of America posted a video](#) that features interviews with Baltimore Street artist Gaia, artists from Ukraine and South Africa, and Ben Stone, the [Station North](#) district executive director. The attention "Open Walls" is receiving is very exciting, not only for the artists themselves, but for the City of Baltimore too. Baltimore looks to the sizeable and growing art community to help it expand and blossom, especially in blighted neighborhoods, and serves as an example and success story for other communities.

The Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) celebrated the grand opening of the new Baltimore City Police Community Action Center (CAC) at the J Van Story Branch Senior Apartments. The center is just one of several strategies HABC has recently employed to promote a healthier and safer quality of life for more than 150 senior and disabled residents. The CAC will help connect residents to a wide array of much needed support services, such as family counseling, health care and job training. For more information, [click here](#).

- **June 6** - Hear energy efficiency and renewable energy success stories from Baltimore County manufacturers at a forum in Timonium. To register, visit RMofMaryland.com.
- **June 11 – 12** - The Maryland Partnership for Affordable Housing is holding a series of sessions on Customizing Housing Development & Management for Enhanced Results. To register call Aisha Mason at 443-923-9555 or email masona@kennedykrieger.org.

- **June 14** - Grand opening of Union Rowe, a 72 unit affordable apartment complex in the historic Franklin Square community developed by [AHC Greater Baltimore](#). The new units have been completely renovated using HUD's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP1).
- **June 16** – US Representative Elijah Cummings' Annual Foreclosure at the Woodlawn Senior High School in Gwynn Oak. To register, [click here](#).

HUD WEST VIRGINIA

[Habitat for Humanity West Virginia](#) is celebrating 25 years with a challenge to build 25 homes in a year. All across West Virginia, there have been many exciting 25th Anniversary events held and many, many more to come. Follow all the events on [Facebook](#).

The West Virginia [SenseAbilities Project](#) assists sensory disabled children and their families, teachers and service providers find information, resources and support. For more information about the WV SenseAbilities project, contact the Office of Special Programs at the West Virginia Department of Education at 304-558-2696.

- **June 15** – Applications are due for the West Virginia Business Volunteer Council (BVC) matching mini-grants to encourage private/nonprofit partnerships through meaningful community service projects. Contact [Kellie Aikman](#) (304) 558-0111 for an application packet contact.
- **July 30** – Letters of Inquiry are due for the National Inclusion Project's "Let's ALL Play" grants. For more information, [click here](#).

HUD CAPITAL DISTRICT



The District of Columbia Housing Authority's (DCHA) VASH Housing Fair on May 23 provided housing assistance to more than 80 homeless veterans. These veterans had the opportunity to sit down with 20 landlords who have housing units already approved and pre-inspected by DCHA. Most of the veterans will move into their new housing this week. Left, Vietnam Veteran Helen Sullivan received a voucher and spent time at the event reviewing the information about available units that the landlords brought. Ms. Sullivan decided to visit some of the units before she made up her mind on which would be her future home.

The [Affordable Housing Conference of Montgomery County](#) was held May 7. Secretary Shaun Donovan was the keynote speaker, and Regional Administrator Jane C. W. Vincent hosted a panel on veterans housing issues and addressed the lunch time press conference. A recent study released at the conference showed a waiting list in excess of 115,000 in the DC Metropolitan area for public housing and vouchers.

Homeless and at-risk veterans now have 24 hour access to help. The Washington DC VA Medical Center opened the doors to its new [Community Resource and Referral Center](#) (CRRC) May 9. The new CRRC is the first of its kind in the metropolitan DC area and will serve as a community hub to combat homelessness among veterans. The CRRC will centralize services such as healthcare, housing, employment, benefits and education—into a collaborative center located in the heart of the community.

- **June 7** – Deadline for applications for the House Lottery to be held at Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development 2012 Housing Fair (see next item). Interested applicants should visit the [County website](#) or call call (301) 883-7321.
- **June 9** - Prince George's County 2012 Housing Fair – featuring the County's first House Lottery! For more information, contact Alexis Revis Yeoman (301) 883-2760. [Click here](#) to pre-register on-line by June 8.

To pre-register for a free legal consult with an attorney at this event, call the [Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland](#) at 1-800-396-1274 extension 3050.

- **June 12** - Fifth National Housing Mobility Conference at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C. To register, [click here](#).
- **June 13** – Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND) Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Click here to [register for table sponsorships and tickets](#).

HUD WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA



Advocates from the [Fair Housing Partnership of Greater Pittsburgh](#) (a HUD Fair Housing Initiative Program partner) led a spirited dialogue with audience members who had just viewed a production of “Dutchman,” a play by Le Roi Jones about race relations in the 1960’s. The audience responded to questions about whether “Dutchman” is dated in approach and orientation, or does its message still resonate? The show, which ran from April 26 – May 12, was a collaborative project of the [August Wilson Center for African American Culture](#) and [Bricolage Production Company](#), and served as a “starting point” for audience participation in a frank discussion about racial divides in local communities, particularly as they affect housing choice. Pictured left, on the set of “Dutchman,” Jay Dworin, Fair Housing Program Director for Enforcement, HUD Western PA, engaged audience members in an open dialogue about racism and its impact.

Allegheny County has published a newly revised family guide, available [at this link](#). The Family Resource Guide is published by The Information Collaborative, a membership group of local organizations that serve children and families. Contact them via email at info@familyresourceguide.org.

On Thursday, April 26, during the National Education Association’s ["Week of the Young Child,"](#) Representative Mark Longietti took time to read with the children at Sharpsville Gardens Learning Center, a program of [Mercer County Housing Authority](#). Each child received a copy of the book being read, “Stop Shoring Bernard!” as a present. The books were provided to Mercer County Housing Authority by the [Keystone SMILES](#) Americorp Program through [PennServe](#), the Governor’s Office of Citizen Service. Mercer County Housing Authority and Keystone SMILES have been community partners for sixteen years, sharing a vision to empower and strengthen people of all ages, with a special focus on children and youth, and to enhance the quality of their lives through learning and service.



- **June 2** - Neighbor@Works Western Pennsylvania is hosting a FREE Homebuyer Education Workshop at McKeesport Heritage Center. Call 412-281-9773 or email dnewson@nwpa.org to register.
- **June 8** – Pittsburgh Neighborhood and Community Information System Third Annual User’s Conference - Focus on Sustainability. To register contact pncis@pitt.edu or call 412-624-9177.
- **June 13** - [Managing Marcellus Program](#): Public Safety Roundtable
- **June 20** - National panel discussion in the [Connecting to Markets](#) series: “Exploring Low-Income Neighborhoods in the Regional Context,” sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland and the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development. To be streamed live to all satellite locations. For more information, please contact: Elen Kight at Elen@ppnd.org (412) 471-3727 x13 or Joseph Ott at joseph.c.ott@clev.frb.org (412) 261-7947, or [click here](#).
- **June 21** - [Managing Marcellus Program](#): Pipelines, Easements & Rights of Way
- **June 30** – deadline to use [Allegheny County Alliance for Community Respite Care](#) Lifespan Respite Mini-grants. For more information, contact Connie Campbell at ccampbell@ucpclass.org.

Region III Contact Information
Jane C.W. Vincent, Regional Administrator

HUD Maryland

Carol B. Payne, Field Office Director
(410) 962-2520, www.hud.gov/Maryland

HUD Capital District

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

HUD Western Pennsylvania

Jane Miller, Field Office Director
(412) 644-6428, www.hud.gov/pennsylvania

HUD West Virginia

Peter C. Minter, Field Office Director
(304) 347-7000, www.hud.gov/WestVirginia

HUD Eastern Pennsylvania

Richard Ott, Deputy Regional Administrator
(215) 656-0600, www.hud.gov/pennsylvania

HUD Virginia

Carrie S. Schmidt, Field Office Director
(804)822-4804, www.hud.gov/virginia

HUD Delaware

John Magee, Senior Management Analyst
(302) 573-6300, www.hud.gov/delaware

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