



REGION III HUDLINE NEWS

July 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,

With rising temperatures and record-breaking heat forecast throughout the region this month, more people are seeking relief out of the sunlight and in their homes. With concern for tenants who are spending more time indoors, HUD sees our continuing effort to provide safe and healthy affordable housing as more important than ever. With the goal of healthy homes in mind, HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control, along with the US Department of Health and Human Services and other health advocates, has released a set of [toolkits](#) to help provide a smoke-free environment in subsidized federal housing. These toolkits, created for owners, managers and residents, offer information on the health effects of smoking and secondhand smoke, as well as "how-to" brochures and information about housing authorities with smoke-free policies. It's a known fact that smokers are two to six times more likely to develop heart disease when compared to nonsmokers. Additionally, secondhand smoke increases one's risk of heart disease and childhood illnesses. Feel free to share the toolkits with your local housing authority and any others who may benefit as we work toward creating healthy havens from the summer heat!



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HERE'S YOUR CHANCE...

Timing is everything, they say. Because of the timing of the HUD appropriations bills, the House of Representatives was still working them late last week. For this reason, the HUD FY13 budget stakeholder call, (originally scheduled for June 28), had to be postponed. The rescheduled date is **July 10, 4:00-5:00 PM EDT**. This call presents a golden opportunity to hear about legislative developments and share feedback. Are you interested in participating? Then please RSVP [at this link](#), so we know how many lines to reserve for the call. This stakeholder call is not intended for press purposes.



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...UPDATES FROM THE STATES

In Virginia: Nearly 1,000 homeowners in Prince William County and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park have been identified as eligible for assistance under the National Mortgage Settlement announced early this year. The [announcements](#) about how the housing settlement will affect Prince William County came at a community meeting sponsored by [Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement](#) (VOICE).

In Maryland: The [Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development](#) has issued a Request For Proposals for the [Maryland Housing Counseling Fund](#), and for the Mortgage Loan Servicing Practices Settlement Fund on behalf of the [Maryland Office of the Attorney General](#). To download Grant Application see [MDHope.org](#) links for Housing Counseling and for Foreclosure Prevention Legal Services.

In Pennsylvania: The [Homeowners' Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program](#) (HEMAP) will again be funded following Gov. Tom Corbett's signing of [Senate Bill 1433](#), which establishes a trust fund to use the more than \$60 million allocated to Pennsylvania as part of the \$25 billion joint state-federal mortgage settlement with the country's five largest loan servicers.

STAFF NOTES...SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT...



Region III is celebrating Maria L. Bynum's acceptance of the Field Office Director position in our Delaware office. Maria has been the Director of Public Affairs for HUD Region III since 2004. In that role, she has worked with HUD's Headquarters office to coordinate communication outreach for the offices in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. With her comprehensive understanding of how HUD's programs work to "create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities with quality, affordable housing for all," Maria is a perfect fit for leadership of the Delaware office. In fact – she and her family have called Delaware "home" for years. Click [here](#) to see a congratulatory message to Maria from Regional Administrator Jane C.W. Vincent.

FATHER'S DAY 2012...



Father's Day 2012 was all about "Reconnecting Families and Dads," and the celebrations are still going on! Here are a few of Region III's Father's Day events that were held in June...



HUD Capital District Field Office Director Marvin Turner and several staff members from HUD headquarters volunteered to show leadership and support to youth at Alexandria, Virginia's Father's Day celebration on June 9. Under the leadership of the Executive Director Roy Priest, the day combined art, dance and community involvement to bring families together for a day of fun and unity.

Right, HUD Deputy Secretary Maurice Jones addressed Norfolk Redevelopment & Housing Authority (NRHA) students who participated in the West Point Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Workshop at the Grandy Village Learning Center on Father's Day weekend. The 2012 National Father's Day Initiative provided Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NRHA) with an excellent opportunity to reconnect with families, explore new ideas for expanding services, promote healthy communities, encourage and promote, and refine the Workforce Development Business Café model. NRHA estimates nearly 500 parents and children were part of the Father's Day



weekend activities from June 15-16. Some of the events included parenting workshops, a men's focus group, and a seminar on restoring relationships. Lt. Col. Outing, an instructor from the US Military Academy at West Point, provided a hands-on STEM workshop for students who were then able to apply the knowledge to build their own mini-robots. Deputy Secretary Jones was on hand to talk with parents and children about the critical importance of keeping families connected to each other, and especially keeping Dads connected with their families. Left, Antoine Hines, - Chairman of Virginia Father's Day Initiatives, enjoyed some "Dad and Daughter" time with his seven year-old daughter at the Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority's Father's Day event at Norfolk State University.



CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER...

The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) joined JBSoul Foundation Chairman, Jbn Bon Jovi, to announce the five finalists of Project REACH (Real-time Electronic Access for Caregivers and the Homeless) during the Health Data Initiative Forum in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the US Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS). Two of the finalists, Binary Group of Arlington, VA and Qbase of Reston, VA are in Region III. Read more about the Project REACH challenge [here](#).

The Philadelphia Housing Authority and the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center will receive \$544,757 of the additional \$25 million announced by HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan and VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki to supply housing and case management for homeless veterans. This funding is part of a total \$75 million the Obama Administration is investing in HUD's [Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program \(HUD-VASH\)](#), this year to provide permanent housing with case management and other supportive services for homeless veterans who might otherwise be living on the streets. Read the press release [here](#).

Housing Counseling Services of Maryland and the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania are two of the fifteen nonprofit agencies selected to receive funding through HUD's new Tenant Resource Network (TRN), an effort to help low-income tenants receiving Section 8 project-based rental assistance and to preserve affordable housing. Grants will be used to assist, inform, educate and engage tenants who live in Section 8-assisted properties that are at risk of losing affordability. Read more about TRN [here](#).

Homeless Management Information Systems Technical Assistance awards were made to five providers, three of whom are from Region III. ICF International (VA) will receive \$1,782,000, the National Center on Family Homelessness (VA) will receive \$877,800, and Cloudburst Consulting Group (MD) will receive \$1,482,000 to

provide technical assistance with data collection, reporting and research, including developing the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR). Read the Federal Register announcement [here](#).

One CPD and Core Curriculum Technical Assistance awards were made to 18 providers, eight of whom are in Region III. The awards will be used to conduct technical assistance and capacity building activities for recipients, including state and local governments and non-profit organizations receiving funds from HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD). The awardees will also develop, deliver and enhance Core Curricula in the areas of Development Finance, Environmental Review and Compliance, Asset Management and Preservation of HUD-Assisted Projects, and Construction and Rehabilitation Management. Read the Federal Register announcement [here](#).

HUD FUNDING RESOURCES...

- [FY 2012 Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Demonstration Program](#) applications are due July 31.
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OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES...

- **July 6** – Applications are due for the Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use Grant. For more information, click [here](#).
 - **July 9** – US Department of Health and Human Services' Family and Youth Services Bureau Basic Center Program applications are due. For more information, [click here](#).
 - **July 16** – RSVP cards are due back for Bloomberg Philanthropies Mayors' Challenge. Click [here](#) for more information.
 - **July 24** – Applications are due for the US Department of Agriculture Small, Socially Disadvantaged Producers Grant Program. For more information, click [here](#).
 - **July 30** – Applications are due for US Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families "Partnerships to Demonstrate the Effectiveness of Supportive Housing for Families in the Child Welfare System." There are also 4 national foundations that have signed on as collaborators for this program. They are the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#), the [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#), [Casey Family Programs](#), and the [Edna McConnell Clark Foundation](#). For more information about this new grant program, click [here](#).
 - **August 2** – Applications are due for the U.S. Green Building Council and Bank of America Affordable Green Neighborhoods grant program. For more information, click [here](#).
 - **August 13** - Home Depot Foundation's Community Impact grant applications are due. [Click here](#) for application and details.
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FHA LEADS THE WAY...

Webinars: FHA Loss Mitigation Series: Loss Mitigation webinars designed for FHA approved servicing lenders and housing counseling agencies – Wednesdays, 2:00 pm EST. Schedule from August 1 - September 12:

- **August 1** - Webinar I: Overview HUD Early Delinquency Activities and Loss Mitigation Program. Register [here](#).
- **August 8** - Webinar II: HUD Loss Mitigation – Home Retention Options. Register [here](#).
- **August 15** - Webinar III: HUD Loss Mitigation Disposition Options – Pre-Foreclosure Sale & Deed in Lieu. Register [here](#).
- **August 22** - Webinar IV: SFDMS - Default Reporting. Register [here](#).
- **August 29** - Webinar V: HUD's Neighborhood Watch System – Servicer Tools. Register [here](#).
- **September 12** - Webinar VI: FHA Claims. Register [here](#).

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>.

FHA has posted new Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Streamline Refinance Transaction Indemnification. To view the new FAQs click [here](#). For technical support on this or any other FHA issue, search the FHA online knowledge base at www.hud.gov/answers, or contact the FHA Resource Center at answers@hud.gov or toll-free from 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET at: (800) CALLFHA or (800) 225-5342. (TDD users call 877-TDD-2HUD or 877-833-2483).

HUD has launched an online application for lenders who wish to become FHA-approved. All lenders seeking new FHA approval must submit their application package [online](#). Paper applications will be not be accepted.

New Mortgagee Letters:

2012-10 – discusses FHA rescission of the new guidance on policies concerning Disputed Accounts and Collection Accounts discussed in Mortgagee Letter (ML) 2012-3, which was to become effective July 1, 2012.

2012-11- provides changes relating to title approval at conveyance.

2012-12 - clarifies that FHA policy does not exempt mortgagees from adhering to state and local laws relating to the protection and preservation of properties that were secured by an FHA insured mortgage.

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

SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERS AT WORK...

On June 7, the New River Center for Energy Research and Training, a division of Christiansburg, VA based Community Housing Partners, became the first U.S. Department of Energy weatherization training center in the nation to obtain Interstate Renewable Energy Council Institute for Sustainable Power Quality Training Program accreditation. This accreditation allows NRCERT to teach its national Retrofit Installer curriculum for weatherization and home performance professionals. In addition, NRCERT is the first training provider to become accredited for an energy efficiency/weatherization program. Read more about it [here](#).

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

July 16 – Comments are due on HUD's Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) [National Resource Network Pilot](#) program. Read more of the latest SC2 news [here](#).

NEWS YOU CAN USE...

During the Annual meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, HUD Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research Erika Poethig and Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Matt Erskine announced that the [Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative \(SC2\)](#) will allocate \$11 million in grants to help economically challenged municipalities create long term economic development plans, and will fund the establishment of the SC2 National Resource Network. The U.S. Economic Development Administration will launch a groundbreaking \$6 million SC2 Challenge to help economically challenged cities leverage innovative strategies to spur local economic and job growth. The application deadline for the challenge is July 23. [Click here](#) for more information about the competition.

Hope LoanPort® is offering [training for new users](#) every Tuesday. New User training classes are also open to new employees of agencies that are using the portal or anyone who would like general refresher training. Classes are held every Tuesday. [Advanced Topics Training](#) will be available the third Thursday of every month for experienced users to discuss user administration, reporting, and other process or procedural concerns that fall outside of the scope of New User training. For more information [click here](#).

HUD has released new resources to keep partners up to date with regard to the new [Definition of Homeless](#) and its application to the administration of HUD's homeless services programs. The following new documents are now available:

[The Homeless Definition and Eligibility for SHP, SPC, and ESG](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

The following presentation slides and recordings of previously broadcasted webinars are now available for viewing on the HUD Homelessness Resource Exchange:

[Homeless Status: Recordkeeping Requirements](#) – This webinar describes recordkeeping requirements for the Final Rule of the Definition of Homelessness.

[At-Risk Status and Income: Recordkeeping Requirements](#) – This webinar describes recordkeeping requirements for the At-Risk of Homelessness Definition and Income.

HHS has created a new organization, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to increase access to community supports and full participation, while focusing attention and resources on the unique needs of older Americans and people with disabilities. The ACL will incorporate the Administration on Aging, the Office on Disability and the Administration on Developmental Disabilities into a single agency, with enhanced policy and program support for cross-cutting initiatives and efforts focused on the unique needs of children with developmental disabilities, adults with physical disabilities, and seniors, including seniors with Alzheimer's. [Read the Secretary's statement on the ACL.](#)

HHS's Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued new guidance relating to implementation of the Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* More guidance will be issued in the near future, but meanwhile, the CMS bulletin (click [here](#)) provides a helpful overview of the way HUD programs may be used to support deinstitutionalization efforts.

The US Small Business Administration (SBA) has announced the Patriot Express Pilot Loan Initiative for veterans and members of the military community who want to start or expand small businesses. The SBA and partners are offering additional counseling and training with this loan initiative, which will make it more accessible and easy to use. Patriot Express loans feature the SBA's lowest interest rates for business loans, generally 2.25 percent to 4.75 percent over prime depending upon the size and maturity of the loan. Your local [SBA district office](#) will have a listing of Patriot Express lenders in your area.

An article in the June 20 issue of the Tampa FL TransWorld News contains some information about different kinds of mold, how to tell them apart, and each one's toxicity. To read the article, [click here](#).

The HHS Partnership Center continues its series of interactive conference calls to discuss the benefits and provisions of the Affordable Care Act. All calls are open to the public and include a question and answer session about the Affordable Care Act. Questions may also be submitted prior to the calls to ACA101@hhs.gov. A tour of the www.HealthCare.gov website will be part of the calls, including how to access private and public insurance, when parts of the law will go into effect, and how to access care if uninsured. The call schedule is:

- [July 19 at 12:30 pm ET](#) - The Health Care Law 101 (in English)
- [July 24 at 2:00 pm ET](#) - The Health Care Law 101 (in Spanish)

For more information contact www.HealthCare.gov.



The Common Cents Conference is hosted by free tax preparation and asset building coalitions from Maryland, the District of Columbia, Virginia and West Virginia. These coalitions, serving more than 40,000 residents each year, conduct critical outreach to insure that low-income individuals and families receive the Earned Income Tax Credit, provide free or low cost tax preparation services and connect households to financial services and education. The 2 day regional conference, August 28 – 29 in Bethesda, MD, offers participants the opportunity to learn about financial stability issues, prospects, and program models to empower practitioners who help individuals and families achieve their financial dreams. Registration deadline is August 17. For more information, click [here](#).

DON'T BE SORRY - BE READY...

FEMA and other government organizations, including USA.gov and GobiernoUSA.gov, the official web portals of the U.S. government, offer ways to connect with information to help you prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

- [Sign up in one-click to receive Disaster and Emergency updates and featured updates from USA.gov.](#)
- En Español - [Suscríbese con un clic para recibir información sobre desastres y emergencias y otras actualizaciones de GobiernoUSA.gov.](#)

FEMA also encourages you to explore and participate in their online communities:

- [Pledge to Prepare](#) by joining the National Preparedness Coalition.
- [See all of FEMA's social media options.](#)
- [Update your e-mail subscriptions.](#)

In light of last summer's surprising earthquake, Virginia, the District of Columbia and Maryland are in discussions with FEMA and other southeastern states (Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina) to be first-time participants in an earthquake drill. "ShakeOut" drills have been held in the past in California and in the central U.S., but this is the first time the southeastern states have expressed interest in joining a national effort. The "ShakeOut" date is scheduled for October 18 at 10:18 am. The time is the same regardless of the time zone a state or country is in, to give the effect of a rolling drill, from Guam to Hawaii to California to central U.S. to the southeastern U.S. For information on earthquake drills, click [here](#).

July 31 - Submissions are due for the [2012 Individual and Community Preparedness Awards](#) to recognize outstanding individuals, organizations, [Citizen Corps Councils](#), and programs working to make communities safer, stronger and better prepared for any disaster or emergency event. Winners of the 2012 FEMA ICP Awards will be announced at a community preparedness roundtable event in Washington, D.C. in September, during [National Preparedness Month](#). Find more information at citizencorps@fema.gov.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND REGION III...

HUD EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA/ REGIONAL OFFICE



HUD Deputy Secretary Maurice Jones visited Chester and Philadelphia PA to see HUD's impact on the people, partners and places that benefit from our programs. Chester is one of six SC2 (Strong Cities, Strong Communities) that HUD and other federal agencies are working with to improve economic and community development. The Deputy stopped by the community garden at Bennet Homes in Chester and was warmly greeted by volunteers of all ages, who were eager to show him the abundance of their garden. Read the Delaware County Daily Times' story about Deputy Secretary Jones' visit to Chester [here](#). In Philadelphia, the Deputy Secretary saw first-hand

the work that Sister Mary Scullion of Project H.O.M.E is doing to help residents of the community move toward greater economic independence by increasing educational and employment opportunities. The Honickman Learning Center & Comcast Technology Labs help adults and students get the skills and training they need to succeed. Pictured (right) with the Deputy Secretary is Sister Mary Scullion and Janet Moody. Sister Mary Scullion also showed off Rowan Homes and St. Elizabeth's Recovery Residence, which provide safe, secure housing for families and individuals who were homeless.



In North Philadelphia, Paseo Verde, a new transit-oriented development project that broke ground in April, has the potential to become a model for green revitalization. Paseo Verde, which translates as “Green Way” in Spanish, is designed to be a sustainable, mixed-use development that will offer neighborhood residents and Temple University students and employees a place to live, shop, and access community services. Scheduled for completion in Spring 2013, the project will consist of [120 rental units](#) (67 market-rate and 53 affordable units) for low- and moderate-income families that are expected to benefit from greater public transit access. In addition, Paseo Verde will apply for certification through [LEED for Homes](#) and [Neighborhood Development](#). Read more about Paseo Verde in the latest issue of HUD’s Policy Development and Research Division’s webzine, [The Edge](#).

- **August 2** – Free training about the 7 design and construction requirements of the Fair Housing Act will be hosted by the Fair Housing Council of Suburban Philadelphia, in cooperation with the Accessibility Services Division of United Spinal Association, in Breinigsville. Pre-registration is required. [Click here](#) for information and online registration or contact [Megan Bolin](#) - (267) 419-8918 x2.

HUD DELAWARE

- **July 3** –Delaware Council on Faith-Based Partnerships meeting at the Islamic Society of Central Delaware, in Felton. For more information call Flora McConkie at (302) 633-4825.
- **July 11** – “Keys to Homeownership” workshop in Wilmington. Contact Jill Dempsey of Clarifi at (215) 680-7139.
- **July 18** – Seminar in Wilmington “Home Sweet Home Ownership: Own vs. Rent – Is Buying the Option for Me?” Call Denise Freeman (302-678-9400) of NCALL Research for details.
- **July 19** –Foreclosure Prevention workshop in Wilmington. For more information call Mary Rammel (1-800-640-2227) of CCCS of MD and DE
- **Throughout July** - Delaware Community Legal Aid Society will be recruiting Fair Housing Testers. Contact Linda Jackson at ljackson@declasi.org or 1-800-292-7980.

HUD MARYLAND

The Maryland Mortgage Program has announced a reduced interest rate of 2.875% (APR 3.675%) in targeted areas around the state, including the entire jurisdiction of Baltimore City, in order to increase homeownership. In June, Mayor Rawlings-Blake announced the launch an additional \$500,000 for the [Vacants to Value](#) Homeownership Program, making a total of \$1 million available to for the first 100 buyers of “Vacants to Value” eligible homes. [Click here](#) to read about other Baltimore City homeownership programs.

Other Maryland Homeownership programs of note:

- [Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc.](#) (HNI) helps strong but undervalued neighborhoods increase home values, market their communities, create high standards for property improvement and build strong connections among neighbors.
- Maryland’s flagship mortgage purchase program is administered by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development’s Community Development Administration. For more information and details on income, purchase price limits and a map of targeted areas, [click here](#) or contact the [Community Development Administration](#) (410-514-7535).

Based on Governor Martin O’Malley’s recognition of the need to bring “efficiency and transparency to the mediation process,” Hope LoanPort® (HLP), has announced the launch of the Maryland Mediation Portal (Portal) as the first statewide mediation portal in the country. Read the press release [here](#).

Historic statues have been removed from Baltimore Housing’s [McCulloh Homes](#) public housing development for a much-needed facelift, and residents and community leaders were all present to see the event. After more than 70 years’ exposure to the elements, the fragile works of art had deteriorated. In an effort led by residents Monique Yates and June Johnson, the agency was awarded \$80,000 in preservation funding from the [Baltimore City](#)

[Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation](#) (CHAP), for the replication of the statues designed by Henry Berge. The time worn statues have been carefully removed and transported to the Steve Tatti Fine Arts Conservator studio where replication work will take place over the approximately six months.

- **July 26** – FHA Loss Mitigation training for Housing Counseling Agencies in Baltimore County. To register, contact [Teresa Stovall](#), 410 / 209-6593

HUD WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia Parent Training and Information, Inc. (WVPTI) is the recipient of Affordable Care Act funding from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to support families of children with special health care needs. For more information please contact: Pat Haberbosch, Executive Director at (800) 281-1436 or (304) 624-1436, wvpti@aol.com.

- **July 3** - Huntington VA Medical Center Homeless Veterans Stand Down. Contact Robin Mannon, (304) 529-9142, robin.Mannon@va.gov.
- **July 10 and 12** - The National Housing Law Project's Resident Training Academy "A Closer Look: Enforcement Tools for Residents." Contact ResidentAcademy@nhlp.org or call 415-546-7000, EXT. 3110.
- **July 11-12** - 16th Annual Civic Life Institute, "Connecting People with Public Issues" at the University of Charleston. For more information contact [Jean Ambrose](#) (304-679-3970) or [Betty Knighton](#) (304-344-3430), or visit www.wvciviclifecollege.org.
- **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 held a [graduation ceremony](#) for 24 senior residents at Garfield Terrace on June 5. The seniors were the first graduating class of the [Connected Living®](#) program, which provides training and offers seniors living at the community access to technology, programming and support. The goal of the program is to help seniors stay connected and engaged, narrowing the digital divide that isolates many senior citizens. Connected Living launched the Garfield Terrace program on April 10 with a group of twenty-four residents, providing them with access to computers and helping them to live richer, more connected lives through the use of technology. The graduation ceremony included a welcome address given by D.C.

Housing Authority Executive Director Adrienne Todman (left, with graduates), followed by a video showing the positive impact Connected Living has had on the lives of the residents at Garfield Terrace.

On May 16, the HUD Capital District Office provided training to the [DC Metropolitan Association of Housing Counselors](#) (DCMAHC) on the recent changes to the Making Home Affordable Programs; specifically on the Home Affordable Modification and Refinancing programs (HAMP and HARP). The training also provided an overview of the National Mortgage Settlement Agreement and President's Obama's program to assist service members and veterans. The HUD Capital District Office renewed its partnership with DCMAHC by committing to provide "news alerts" and press releases on these and other programs to ensure that the housing counselors receive timely information to better serve their clients.



Mayor Vincent Gray, the DC Housing Authority (DCHA) and Zipcar have announced that Zipcar, the world's leading car sharing network, is expanding the availability of car sharing to DCHA housing sites across the District, to provide transportation options for local residents. Zipcar plans to place nine new car-sharing vehicles at DCHA locations in Wards three, six, seven and eight. Read more about it [here](#).

- **July 9** - [Enterprise Community Partners](#) will host a webinar discussing the major barriers to homeownership in destabilized neighborhoods. [Register](#) for this session.
- **July 17-18** – “Apps for Grants – Your Connection to Success” training, hosted by HUD, Internal Revenue Service, State of Maryland, District of Columbia, Housing Counseling Agency and The Write Group. Registration is free, but space is limited. Bonuses for participants in this training include:
 - ✓ #1- IRS will discuss common mistakes made when filling out the non-profit application and the specific requirements for organizations involved in various housing activities.
 - ✓ #2 - A discussion on how faith-based organizations can obtain funding for affordable housing projects.
 - ✓ To register by July 13, click [here](#).
- **July 26** – FHA Loss Mitigation training for Housing Counseling Agencies in Prince Georges County. To register, contact [Jerry Jones](#), 202-275-6326

HUD WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA



The Housing Authority of the County of Butler scholarship fund helps qualified residents reach advanced education or training goals. Those scholarships, along with scholarships from Robert Hartnett Memorial, PNC Bank, Northwest Savings Bank, Nextier Bank, Excalibur, Armstrong-Jud Sedwich, Affordable Accountants LTD, Pepper Hamilton LLP, and the Center for Community Resources, Alliance for Nonprofit Resources, and Nonprofit Development Corporation, will help residents Jonathan Karenbauer, Deborah Carter, Alecia Norfleet, Beau Hudson, Kimberly Rape, Stanley Stevens, Tyler Lynch, Don Kriebel and John Anderson, attend colleges or vocational/trade schools as they work toward achieving economic independence.

[Accessible Dreams](#) and [Action Housing](#) Homebuyer Assistance Programs held a ribbon cutting in Canonsburg on June 18 to celebrate ownership of a new, fully accessible home by a family whose household includes someone with mobility impairment. The Liadis family also received help through the Redevelopment Authority of Washington County's Home Buyer Assistance Program for Persons with Disabilities. The construction and homeownership outreach was funded in part by the Washington County Board of Commissioners through HUD's HOME program.





HUD's partner, the Housing Authority City of Erie (HACE) has much of which to be proud. This year residents and staff raised \$17,205 dollars to assist the March of Dimes reach their campaign goals to assist vulnerable children and youth. For the last three years, the Housing Authority has placed in the top three teams among a large field of contenders. Out of 250 teams, only General Elector and Erie Insurance have raised more funds than HACE. "Giving back to the Community" seems to be the rallying cry for HACE residents and staff alike.

- **July 7** – Free Homebuyer Education Workshop in Pittsburgh, sponsored by NeighborWorks. To register call 412-281-9773.
- **July 10 and 17** – 2-part webinar, "Understanding Asset Building & Benefits for People with Disabilities" conducted by Sharon Brent, Director of Training & Technical Support at National Disability Institute. [Register here.](#)
- **July 27** - Project REACH Mobile App (for shelter resources) challenge closes. [Click here for details.](#)

HUD VIRGINIA

A new research tool recently added to Housing Virginia's [SOURCEBOOK](#) provides information on the combined costs of housing and commuting for each locality in Virginia. This information shows that a modest income family can spend over half of its income on commuting and housing costs. The national standard for combined housing and commuting costs is 34% of household income. [Read more here.](#)

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services and more than 40 employers joined to announce the "Virginia Values Veterans (V3) initiative to help recruit and retain military veterans. Representing companies ranging in size from 20 employees up to corporations such as Anthem, Dominion Resources and Amazon.com, hiring managers and senior executives had two essential qualifications in common: they are all hiring in Virginia and are committed to hiring military veterans. The V3 initiative will work to develop a Commonwealth-wide approach to reducing veteran unemployment, and represents an economic investment to re-capitalize Virginia's workforce. Read more about V3 [here.](#)

On June 19, Governor Bob McDonnell announced more than \$6.2 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for nine projects in Virginia. "The Community Development Block Grant program is a long-standing, competitive program that improves the lives of Virginians," said Governor McDonnell. "These grants truly help improve communities across the Commonwealth, whether it is through revitalization to a business district, improved water systems, housing rehabilitation or providing healthcare." Read the Governor's press release [here.](#)

The United States Chamber of Commerce commended Virginia as America's "Most Livable State" in its annual ["Enterprising States: Policies that Produce"](#) ranking. The report noted that Virginia ranks #1 nationally in median family income, STEM job concentration and in the high-tech share of all businesses. Among other things, the report attributes Virginia's success to its low tax and regulatory environment, its highly educated workforce, potential as a transportation and industrial hub, Governor McDonnell's 'forward-looking' Top Jobs of the 21st Century higher education legislation, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership's aggressive job creation efforts, the Port of Virginia, the governor's \$4 billion transportation funding program and the governor's "Year of the Entrepreneur" effort.

- **July 18-19** - Virginia Main Street Summer Toolkit: "Creating Healthy, Vital Communities," in Warrenton. Contact mainstreet@dhcd.virginia.gov or call (804) 371-7030.

- **July 19-20** - 2nd annual Symposium on Homeland Security: Enhancing Public-Private Partnerships and Coordination, to be hosted on the Christopher Newport University campus. For information and registration [click here](#).
- **August 2** – Virginia Wounded Warriors and Peninsula Worklink “Hiring our Heroes” work fair in Hampton. For more information contact Charmion M. Anderson at cm_anderson@ymail.com.

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We welcome your feedback and invite you to share your news with editor Anne Davis at anne.davis@hud.gov. If you know anyone who might like this news, please feel free to share it with them and let them know they can subscribe by emailing Anne Davis, or by sending a message to REGION-III-NEWS-L@hudlist.hud.gov.

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