



News of Note:

- [HUD awards \\$1M to bring jobs, revitalize 'Brownfields' in Taunton, MA](#)
- [HUD Secretary Announces Disaster Assistance for MA storm victims](#)
- [HUD Secretary announces disaster assistance for Vermont storm victims](#)

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Boston wins \$20.5M Choice Neighborhood grant



Above: HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan speaks to residents of Woodledge/Morrant Bay Apartments in Dorchester during a ceremony to announce that the city of Boston will receive \$20.5 million to redevelop the distressed housing and revitalize the Quincy Corridor in the city's Dorchester neighborhood. Boston was one of five cities nationwide to receive the first-ever [HUD Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grants](#). **Below:** Jeanne DuBois, Dorchester Bay EDC reviews a conceptual drawing with U.S. Senator John Kerry and Secretary Donovan.



In the News

- [HUD Awards \\$93M in grants to protect thousands of children from lead and other home hazards.](#)
- [Obama Administration prevented, ended homelessness for one million Americans.](#)
- [HUD Awards nearly \\$1M to promote jobs, self sufficiency, independent living](#)



Above: Regional Administrator Fields joined Boston Mayor Thomas Menino in the groundbreaking celebration of Hong Lok House in the city's Chinatown area, a \$33 million renovation and expansion project that will improve services to the city's low-income senior population with 74 new apartments as well as common area living spaces and an adult day health program.



Above: State and local officials celebrate the opening of Ellis Block in Springfield, VT. This \$3.4 million renovation brought back the Springfield Triplex Movie Theatre and nine affordable housing units. HUD funding for the project included \$165,000 in Community Development Block Grant, \$1.4 million in Neighborhood Stabilization Program funding, and a \$125,000 EDI Grant through U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy.

Right: From right, Bill Burney HUD Maine Field Office Director and Barbara Fields, HUD New England Regional Administrator tour Tedford Housing in Auburn, Maine; conversion of an abandoned school to provide six one-bedroom supportive housing units for homeless individuals. This will be permanent housing with support services. Development cost for the project is \$935,354 of which \$120,000 is from HUD HOME funds.



NOFA News

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Right: Regional Administrator Barbara Fields and the Regional Leadership team visited Holyoke, Massachusetts to discuss rural sustainability and future of Lyman Terrace Public Housing. The HUD team met with local officials and MA Congressman John Olver at the Holyoke Multimodal Transit Center, located in a former fire station and on a brownfield site. The Multimodal Center will contain a bus terminal waiting area, commercial space, Head Start, and the downtown campus for Holyoke Community College. Situated a few hundred yards away is Lyman Terrace, a public housing development, and the Canal walk. Several sites in the area have received EPA funding for assessment and clean-up of contaminants. In addition their sustainability plans call for an upgrade of a nearby Amtrak rail line using High Speed Rail Funds from DOT that will reconnect Holyoke to the New Haven–Montreal Line. The city expects to link the Multimodal Center by bus to a new Amtrak station less than a mile away.



Assistant Secretary Márquez tours Providence's Broad Street area



Mercedes Márquez HUD Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development tours Providence's Broad Street revitalization efforts with Providence Mayor Angel Taveras, U.S. Congressman David Cicilline, Regional Administrator Fields and several local, state leaders. The Broad Street area has been revitalized using HUD HOME funding.

The Assistant Secretary met with Rhode Island partners following the tour at the Friendship Café. The Café is operated by Amos House, a soup kitchen and social service agency in south Providence. (Photos by Gretchen Ertl Photography)

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Left: Stephen Kurtz recently moved into his new home in Rochester, NH, one of five homes rehabilitated by the City of Rochester and The Housing Partnership under HUD's-Neighborhood Stabilization program. Mr. Kurtz retired after twenty years in the Navy and is currently a Corrections Officer in the York County, ME Sheriff's Office.

The Wonder of HOME

I wondered what would happen to this neighborhood without HOME

I wondered what would happen to low income families without HOME

I wondered what would happen to special needs residents without HOME

I wondered what would happen to the elderly without HOME

I wondered why anyone would want to change or eliminate a program that has been so effective here

This is what I know....

I know that healthy cities and their neighborhoods are critical to a healthy America.

I know that urban neighborhood revitalization is really, really challenging and difficult and have yet to meet a private developer willing to do the hard work and stay with it for the years it takes to rebuild.

I know that SWAP has built and renovated 135 homes for low income families with HOME funds in the past 15 years in an area of less than 1 square mile and a stones throw from where we stand. I know that the foreclosure rate for these families is well under any published data from local and national sources because HOME allowed us to price houses to meet the income of families and not the crazy housing market.

I know that SWAP has built nearly 300 family rental apartments and that HOME was critical to the financing structure to make it happen and so 300 low income families have attractive, safe and affordable homes to raise their children

I know that SWAP built a 22 unit Elderly Housing 201 development with HOME providing critical gap financing to make the building more energy efficient and to make the residents feel safe because of state of the art security systems.

I know that SWAP has been able to target foreclosed houses for renovation that would otherwise become a blight on the neighborhood without HOME

I know that the way affordable housing finance works that HOME can be the first dollar into a project that can then become the catalyst for all the rest of the funding needed to build a project

I know that HOME can also be the last piece of funding into a project that allows the project to move ahead

I know that sometimes it takes as long as three to five years to complete a project funded with HOME and no one is happy about that

I know that my colleagues at Community Works, West Elmwood Neighborhood Housing, Olneyville Housing and Omni Development are all using HOME and doing great things with it to revitalize their neighborhoods.

Remarks by Carla DeStefano, Executive Director, SWAP, Inc., delivered during the Providence Broad Street Neighborhood tour with HUD Assistant Secretary Márquez