



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development NEWS FROM REGION V January 2013

From the Regional Administrator



I wish you all a Happy New Year and a successful 2013. The New Year gives us the opportunity to take a look at where we have been, but more importantly, where we are headed. I know you are familiar with the policy directions that Secretary Donovan and President Obama have taken in these last 4 years – the new approach we're embracing, and what that means to you as our partners and customers -- efforts like Choice Neighborhoods, our new Rental Assistance Demonstration, and Strong Cities Strong Communities. At a time when the need for affordable housing has never been greater and for many, the economic recovery is still coming slowly, these efforts are central to rebuilding our neighborhoods, communities and regions. But as we start this New Year, I want to take a little time away from discussing policy initiatives to talk about the Departmental changes we are making to ensure every HUD dollar is creating opportunity in your communities. You can't manage your housing stock and operations on the ground without strong partnership from HUD. We've accomplished a lot these past 4 years and we can do even more. Deputy Secretary Maurice Jones is leading the charge on HUD's transformation and we are all working hard to make the Department a world class operation – in other words, the partner you deserve.

HUD's transformation is based on three pillars: **Vision, Values and Performance.**

Vision: The first pillar is what our vision of success looks like. And that starts with a standard of excellence – one standard that we all aspire to and that starts with excellence in operations. We need to create a sense of urgency in our work -- a sense of urgency within a monopoly. We can do that because what we do literally can mean life or death when it comes to getting a homeless person off the street during one of our cruel Midwest winters. Our mission drives our sense of urgency. And when it comes to accomplishing our mission excellence means we need to make sure we have the right people in the right places and that we right-size jobs to capacity in order to do them well. Other areas we are looking at under vision are: having the courage to make hard choices; adopting a business mentality; staying relevant (At HUD, we have programs that haven't been updated in years, regulations and statutes that have existed since before Google was a company) and creating teams across silos.

For an organization to be successful people can't hoard resources and information – they need the tools to work collaboratively and a culture that supports it. And finally we need to continue building strong relationships. Whether it's with Capitol Hill, the media, stakeholders, or the White House, being successful in government requires a collaborative attitude. At the regional level, we have always felt the keystone to success is good relationships with our partners and we will continue to nurture those bonds.

Core Values: Even when we have a good idea of what success looks like, if we don't understand our core values as an organization, we won't be able to build the foundation for sustainable excellence. That's why the second pillar of our transformation is to establish our core values. If you look at great American institutions, from Apple to the Rockefeller Foundation, they hold in common, enduring values that they aspire to live up to – and have for ages. Deputy Secretary Jones has been heading up an effort both within HUD and with our stakeholders to identify the core values of HUD.

Performance: If you are thinking nothing ever changes at HUD, I can tell you that our leadership is absolutely committed to the third pillar of transformation and in some ways the most important—performance. Performance means executing on our vision and maintaining faith with our values. For our customers, it is about ensuring that when you call with questions, you can get the right person to help and getting funding from us on time and without exception. It also means overhauling HUD's IT systems so you have less paperwork and more cutting edge tools that are customized to the job. We are all proud of what HUD has achieved with your partnership under the leadership of Secretary Donovan and President Obama:

- Providing a pathway to the middle class through FHA that has kept the American Dream alive for 1million African Americans and Latinos
- Providing housing counseling to 8 million people
- Saving 1.3M people from homelessness, including 1-in-5 veterans
- Saving the market for the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit with the Recovery Act.

And we're excited about the early results and the promise of efforts like:

- Choice Neighborhoods – which brings the HOPE VI model to privately-owned affordable housing,
- Rental Assistance Demonstration that begins to winnow the 22 different rental assistance programs we have – each with their own financing, rules and delivery systems
- Sustainable Communities which helps cities and suburbs plan their futures not in competition but together as a region

I hope you know that I value our partnerships as the only path to success in creating strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality, affordable homes for all. My Region V New Year's Resolution to you is that we will continue to embrace these pillars of transformation to become the world class partner you deserve.

Follow us on [Twitter @HUDMidwest](https://twitter.com/HUDMidwest)

HUD launches groundbreaking [Rental Assistance Demonstration](#) to preserve and strengthen public, other HUD-assisted housing: To stem the loss of critically needed public and other forms of subsidized housing as a result of the severe backlog of capital needs, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) today officially launched its [Rental Assistance Demonstration \(RAD\)](#), the Obama Administration's groundbreaking strategy to preserve tens of thousands of public and HUD-assisted housing units. In the near term, RAD is expected to preserve and enhance more than 13,000 units of affordable housing and generate more than \$650 million in private capital to address the estimated \$26 billion backlog in capital needs faced by public housing authorities in the U.S. This additional capital will also stimulate employment in the construction trades across the country.

"This innovative and cost-effective approach greatly enhances our ability to confront the decline of our public housing and older assisted housing stock," said HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan.

"With the initial implementation of RAD, the Obama Administration has begun to demonstrate that public-private partnership can help preserve our nation's affordable housing and create jobs in the process."

[HUD awarded 112 initial commitments to 68 public housing authorities \(PHAs\)](#), allowing these local housing agencies to seek private financing to rehabilitate units that are otherwise at risk of being lost from the affordable housing inventory. In addition, HUD approved 11 requests from private owners of assisted housing projects to convert and extend rental assistance contracts for 1,100 units (see attached list of private developments). Combined, the commitments announced today are projected to preserve more than 13,000 public and other HUD-assisted housing units for the next 20 years. Nearly 2,000 units in the Midwest will be affected.

HUD-VASH program report: For Fiscal Year 2012, the Senate Committee on Appropriations asked the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) to provide an assessment of the progress of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and Department of Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program and of efforts to address homelessness experienced by Veterans in rural communities and on Native American reservations. USICH is pleased to present the resulting report: [USICH Report to Congress on Homeless Veterans](#). The report credits the recent 17 percent reduction in homelessness among Veterans since 2009 to increased collaboration between HUD and VA at the federal and local level and federal investment in innovative programs and practices for Veterans experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. One of the most effective programs for Veterans is the HUD-VASH program, which as of September 30, 2012 has provided over 40,000 Veterans with permanent supportive housing through rental vouchers provided by HUD and case management provided through VA.



COC GUIDANCE: HUD posted the interim [Continuum of Care Rules and Guidance](#) on their website. This interim rule focuses on regulatory implementation of the new CoC program, including guidance on the CoC planning process. To assist CoC programs in successful implementation of the consolidated program, HUD has provided resources on these changes.

PIT Count: During the last full week of January, thousands of volunteers will brave the wind, the wet and the cold to conduct the annual point-in-time count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless in the Midwest. It's the single best way for HUD and its partners in our effort to end chronic homelessness to have a clear, accurate idea of how many people need our help. The organizations coordinating these counts – generally, HUD-funded Continuums of Care – are always looking for more volunteers. If you want to donate your services, you can find contact

information for the Continuum of Care in your community by visiting HUD's [Homeless Resource Exchange](#). Region V's RA helped count in Milwaukee last January and will help in Chicago this year. HUD employees throughout the country will be helping make this count.

NOFA NEWS: HUD sets January 18th deadline to apply for \$1.61 billion in [Continuum of Care Funding](#). **Anticipating Congressional funding, HUD accepting application for Public and Indian Housing Resident Opportunity and Self Sufficiency Service Coordinators (ROSS-SC) program grants.** These grants to public housing agencies (PHAs), tribes/tribally designated housing entities (TDHEs), Resident Associations (RAs), and tax-exempt nonprofit organizations (including grassroots, faith-based and other community-based organizations) are for the provision of a Service Coordinator to coordinate supportive services and other activities designed to help Public and Indian housing residents attain economic and housing self-sufficiency. [Read more here.](#)

The Department of the Treasury has opened the competition for \$152 million in CDFI – Community Development Financial Institutions – funding in 2013 to create community development impacts through “community development impact through “deployment of credit, capital, and financial services .” Only certified CDFI organizations may apply and the deadline is February 28th. For more, visit [grants.gov](#)

February 28th also is the deadline for organizations that are or can be certified as Native CDFI organizations to apply for \$12 million in NACA – Native American CDFI Assistance. [Get details here.](#)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Housing Service has set a February 28th deadline to apply for some \$19.9 million in grants and loans to help owners of rural multi-family and farm labor housing make repairs to rental properties financed by USDA. This financing is provided through a demonstration program that will help owners address the property's immediate physical needs and ensure the property has the capital reserves necessary to address future needs. Under the demonstration program, some owners also may be able to defer their loan payments to provide funds to address property repairs needs. Learn more [here](#)

DOJ Office of Violence against Women sets February 26th application deadline for \$10.5 million to end violence against women with disabilities. Get info [here.](#)

HUD Receives Favorable Financial Audits: For the 13th consecutive year, HUD received an unqualified, or 'clean,' audit opinion. FHA and Ginnie Mae also received unqualified opinions on their financial statements. These favorable financial audit results affirm our continued commitment to financial and management excellence. [Learn more about the audit opinion.](#)

Federal Policy meets grassroots innovation in new HUD initiative: A regional transit-oriented development collaborative, a small-business incubator, and reusable post-disaster housing materials — all are examples of entrepreneurial housing and community development ideas submitted to HUD's [Innovation of the Day](#) (IOD), an initiative of the Office for International and Philanthropic Innovation with support from the Research Utilization Division. Launched in August 2012, IOD is an online tool created to collect and disseminate innovative housing, community development, and built environment practices from around the world. Since its launch, the initiative has received submissions from entrepreneurs, nonprofits, local governments, multilateral organizations, and the general public. Approximately one-quarter of these submissions have come from abroad.

Mortgage Settlement: Last February HUD, the Department of Justice and 49 state attorneys general reached a settlement with the nation's five largest mortgage servicers –

Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Citigroup and Ally Financial – to provide, under the National Mortgage Servicing Settlement, direct relief such as principal reduction or debt forgiveness to borrowers who’d been victimized by “mortgage loan servicing and foreclosure abuses.” To date, Settlement administrator Joseph A. Smith reported in November, the servicers have provided some \$26.1 billion in relief to “nearly 310,000 homeowners” nationwide. For state-by-state details, visit HUD’s [Mortgage Servicing Settlement](#); Those who lost homes to foreclosure between January 1st, 2008 and December 31st, 2011 and had a mortgage serviced by one of these five servicers, need to file a claim as partial compensation. Claims have to be filed by January 18, 2013th. So, if you think you’re due, file today by visiting <https://nationalmortgagesettlementclaim.com>. And if you’re not sure if you’re eligible, call the National Mortgage Servicing Settlement administrator at 866-430-8358. Don’t forget -- the **deadline is January 18, 2013**.

Obama Administration releases [December Housing Scorecard](#): housing market is continuing to show important signs of recovery ...

HUD publishes income limits for HUD-assisted properties effective December 11th.
[Read more here](#).

HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) has released the U.S. Housing Market Conditions Report for the third quarter of 2012. The report provides updated information for the country on housing construction, marketing, affordability, homeownership, foreclosures, and multifamily housing performance. Profiles of regional activity, selected housing markets, and updates of historical trends in national and regional markets are presented. The title of this issue's feature article is "[Housing in America: 2011 American Housing Survey Results](#)." **Read PD&R's e- newsletter, [THE EDGE](#)**, to keep current on policy development and research breaking news.

FHA NEWS: January 17th Webinar: 203(h) Home Mortgage Insurance for Disaster Victims and 203(k) Rehabilitation Mortgage Insurance

Date/Time: Thursday, January 17 from 1:00 to 3:30 PM Eastern

REGISTRATION REQUIRED - Registration Link:

<http://www.visualwebcaster.com/event.asp?id=91458>

Description of Webinar: FHA 203(h) Home Mortgage Insurance for Disaster Victims (1:00 PM to 1:30 PM). This 30-minute session will cover the purpose of the 203(h) Home Mortgage Insurance for Disaster Victims Program. Specific topics will include: a description of the Section 203(h) program, how the program can be used, the eligibility requirements, maximum insurable mortgages, closing costs, prepaid expenses, minimum borrower cash investment, mortgage terms, MIP payment, and refinancing policy. This basic-level course will take a look at the features and strategies needed to successfully determine if the program will fit previous homeowners' who have been victims of a disaster. Participants will leave the course with a comprehensive understanding of the program requirements. **FHA 203(k) Rehabilitation Mortgage Insurance Program (1:40 PM to 3:15 PM).** This 90-minute session will review the components of the FHA 203(k) Rehabilitation Mortgage Insurance Program and discuss the features, as well as strategies needed to successfully underwrite these transactions. This basic-level course is designed for loan officers, processors, brokers, agents and anyone new to FHA or seeking a basic and general overview of FHA/HUD's mission and single-family insured loan programs. Participants will leave the course with a comprehensive understanding of the program. **If you missed a recent FHA webinar**, please visit their [webinar archive](#) to view.

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

Workshop on Strategies for Creating Successful Mixed Tenancy Developments: sponsored by the Illinois Housing Council and the Metropolitan Planning Council on **Tuesday, January 22nd from 8:30am - 1pm** at 140 S. Dearborn, 14th floor. The topics will focus on the need for - and structures of - service partnerships for supportive housing, State Referral Network processes and performance, and when and how to consider and align Regional Housing Initiative (RHI) rental assistance in developments seeking Low-Income Housing Tax Credit funding. The workshop is designed for developers looking to integrate supportive housing units in existing or new developments. The workshop will feature Corporation for Supportive Housing and Dan Burke of the Governor's Office for a half day of technical assistance, in-depth information, and peer discussion to help current and prospective projects prepare upcoming funding applications to the Illinois Housing Development Authority. [Register](#) by **Thursday, January 17th**. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

HUD recently unveiled a new Tribal Directory Assessment Tool: an improved online data tool to help HUD, state and local planning agencies, and others more clearly identify federally recognized Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and Alaska Natives so they can consult with them on development projects in places that have tribal historic, environmental and cultural significance. HUD's announcement comes as the White House this week hosted the 2012 Tribal Nations Conference, a gathering of representatives from hundreds of federally recognized American Indian tribes, and Alaska Native Villages [HUD's Tribal Directory Assessment Tool \(TDAT\)](#) is an online database that contains information about federally recognized Indian tribes and their geographic areas of current and ancestral interest down to the county level. It lists names and contact information for tribal leaders and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) allowing users to query by street address, county, state, and tribe. Information generated from TDAT can be exported in spreadsheet format for use in other programs. "This tool is a vast improvement in how we approach federally funded development to ensure the full participation of tribal communities," said Mark Johnston, HUD's Acting Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development. "With just a few clicks, planners will literally be building a bridge to those stakeholders with a deep, even spiritual interest in how these lands are developed."

New Partners for Growth Conference: Building Safe, Healthy, Equitable and Prosperous Communities, Feb 7-9, 2013, Kansas City, MO. Do your streets need a diet? Are you experiencing unwanted growth? Or maybe a population hemorrhage? Do you need an infill transplant? Have any other built environment ailment? EPA, along with a team of national smart growth experts, has created the elixir to your planning and development health ills. It comes not in form of a pill, patch or balm, but rather a Toolbox — a toolbox of smart growth related concepts and strategies that can assist you and your community in creating better public spaces, more vibrant mixed-use districts, and a healthier attitude toward what it means to be a sustainable community. This toolbox contains dozens of resources that can assist communities of all sizes and shapes. During the course of the conference, Kevin Nelson, AICP, from EPA's

Office of Sustainable Communities will be holding 20-minute “office hours” to match your ailment with a prescription from the Building Blocks toolbox. The “Doctor’s Office” will be located in the Sponsor Display Room during the conference. [Read more here.](#)

RURAL NEWS: Check out the [Housing Assistance Council](#) (HAC) website for their December, 2012 Newsletter and latest news on rural affordable housing.

HUD's OneCPD Resource Library and the redesign of the **OneCPD Resource Exchange** are now live! Community Planning & Development grantees and partners can now go to the OneCPD Resource Exchange to search for resources across all CPD programs. The library contains resources from the NSP Resource Exchange (hudnsphelp.info), Homelessness Resource Exchange (hudhre.info), HOMETA.info, HUD.gov, Comcon.org, and other sources.

Environmental Reviews: You may have missed HUD's Office of Environment and Energy's authoritative and comprehensive webinar series entitled **Understanding HUD Environmental Reviews**, but you'll find all of the training sessions are available [online](#). Answer all your questions, or simply refresh your skills!

HUD webinar series: Rural Community Assistance Corp. (RCAC) has posted archival copies of their recent **HUD Compliance Webinar Series**. Topics for Housing Counselors include: 9902 training, Reporting - Quarterly & Draws, Counseling - Group & Individual, Housing Counseling Work Plan, QCP, Data Security, CMS Systems and HCS, FHA HAMP & FHA Loss Mitigation. Registration is not required, no fee. Links to these FREE archival webinars and supporting materials are now posted [here](#).

IN THE NEWS

New York Times editorial: [The Affordable Housing Crisis](#): According to [an analysis by the Department of Housing and Urban Development](#), it would take about \$26 billion to repair the public housing developments that shelter more than two million of the nation’s most vulnerable people. The department is currently engaged in a pilot project under which a small subset of public housing authorities will be allowed to leverage private capital to make the needed repairs on their properties. Meanwhile, Congress could help reduce costs for affordable housing units by passing the [Affordable Housing and Self Sufficiency Improvement Act](#), a sound proposal in which core provisions have bipartisan support. The act would save money by streamlining a whole range of rules that are now redundant or excessively complicated — allowing agencies to more efficiently screen applicants, cutting the frequency with which housing authorities are required to inspect units, and simplifying the setting of rental rates...

Rebuilder in Chief (HousingFinance.com)

[HousingFinance.com](#) (Donna Kimura)

As former commissioner of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, Shaun Donovan is a logical choice to oversee storm recovery of his home state and the surrounding region. And the valuable experience he’s gained at HUD will most certainly aid in that effort. Of his first term at HUD, Donovan is most proud of his work with three initiatives he feels have been critical to the country’s post-recession health: the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), and the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program. The Recovery Act, he says, created

“not just jobs but a set of longer-term priorities in housing and community development,” an aspect of the legislation Donovan says has been “underappreciated.” And the NSP, he notes, has proved that rehab investments not only create construction jobs but revitalize neighborhoods, raise housing prices, and help restore equity, as well. Of the Re-Housing Program, Donovan says simply, “It has begun to fundamentally change the way communities and ... governments respond to homelessness, in a way I think will have powerful, lasting impacts.”

Chief among Donovan’s goals at HUD has been to “bring a team here that’s respected and seen as leaders in affordable housing, not just regulators.”

New HUD Research Tool Offers a Wealth of Housing Data: [Mortgage News Daily](#)

Writers, researchers, and those interested in housing market data have a great new tool to work (or play) with, courtesy of the U.S. Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The [American FactFinder](#) data access tool, an interactive source of information gathered from the 2011 American Housing Survey (AHS) has a wealth of information on the nation's homes and how their occupants live in, finance, and feel about them. A wide range of specific topics is available in the database including the age of the nation's housing stock, home size and features including those for accessibility, socio-economic characteristics of the householder, purchase price and type of mortgage, housing problems, and recent home improvement activity.

The tool is easy to use and to customize for specific searches.

Twenty-three year old woman has a dream about [special coats](#) for the homeless. Veronika Scott has invented and is making a special coat to give away to the downtrodden of Detroit -- and perhaps even the world -- her patent-pending coat converts in seconds into a sleeping bag. For those among the homeless population who cannot find shelter, or refuse to accept it, her EMPWR coat -- as in "empower" -- could be a lifesaver. So far, Scott has made and handed out about 200 coats. But this fall, Scott is gaining the support and recognition that could boost her fledgling nonprofit enterprise into Detroit-style mass production. General Motors recently gave her 2,000 yards of scrap sound-deadening material, used inside the doors and dashboards of the Chevrolet Malibu and Buick Verano. That's enough to make 400 coats. It turns out that the scrap insulation, once quilted into fabric, is perfect for repurposing in Scott's coat, making it warmer than her original design, she said. And on Nov. 19 in Boston, Scott became the youngest person to receive the New Frontier Award from the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation. "Detroit gave us the automobile and now Detroit's giving us this outstanding young person who is using technology to address a humanitarian need," said Tom McNaught, executive director of the foundation. Caroline Kennedy, president of the foundation that bears her father's name, saw a CNN documentary about Scott last year, which led to the committee choosing her for the award, McNaught said. Scott's hope is that this is a turning point -- that the GM link, together with the award, will help her land a breakthrough donation to double or triple production of the coats...

From-homeless-teen-to-Oscar-nominated-film-subject, read more [here](#).

January is [Radon Action Month](#). Find out how to protect your home.

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Field Office Happenings

To read all press releases announcing grants and other HUD news in your area, check out the state pages on the HUD Website here: [Illinois](#); [Indiana](#); [Michigan](#); [Minnesota](#); [Ohio](#); and [Wisconsin](#).

Chicago

PIH employees receive financial analysis training: Recently, the Chicago office of the Departmental Enforcement Center (DEC), a division of HUD's Office of General Counsel, provided financial analysis training to staff from HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing. The majority of attendees were Public Housing Revitalization Specialists from various field offices throughout the nation. The focus of the two-hour Live Meeting broadcast was on analyzing financial activities of Public Housing Agency (PHA) Asset Management Projects (AMPs) within Public Housing's asset management framework. The DEC demonstrated to attendees how the financial operations of a single AMP can affect the overall performance measurements of an entire PHA. The training module conducted by the DEC is the first of a number of planned training initiatives that PIH has engaged the DEC's assistance.

Placed Based Forum, Tech Assistance & Community Dialogue in Rockford, Illinois: In early November, Antonio Riley and Program Directors visited Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey and his leadership team to discuss annual resources allocated to the City of Rockford from the U.S. HUD being used for a broad range of housing, community, and economic development activities to give Rockford officials an enhanced awareness of HUD programs, requirements, and other resources. Additionally, Rockford officials provided responses regarding the impact of HUD resources within the context of Mayor Morrissey's vision for the future of Rockford. At the end of the day, HUD and Rockford officials had a greater understanding of local needs and the opportunities available for improved coordination of HUD resources – in other words a productive partnership discussion of vision and resources.

Cleveland

Reduction in hospital time for children with asthma: Cleveland National asthma and housing experts gathered at Case Western Reserve University on Friday to pitch a plan that could drastically reduce childhood hospitalizations. The invitation-only session highlighted a small, grant-supported research study in Cleveland during which asthmatic children were visited in their homes. Hospitalizations for those children dropped 58.6 percent year-over-year. "We know that home visits work but we can't support them on just grants," said [Dr. Dorr Dearborn](#), a Case professor who helped the U.S. Centers for Disease control combat pulmonary hemorrhage incidents and lead researcher on the project. The audience included a state and national housing official, leaders from local hospitals and representatives from managed care companies. The Cleveland study focused on 29 children who had been hospitalized at University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children. Workers from the nonprofit [Environmental Health Watch](#) visited the children's homes to evaluate the environments and talk to the family about risk factors, such

as mold, cockroaches and smoking. Smoking in the home was the biggest risk factor for children in the study. "The families need assistance in problem-solving," Stuart Greenburg, senior advisor for Environmental Health Watch told those gathered. "Everybody knows you're not supposed to smoke inside but how do you negotiate that with other household members?" The group has given away vacuum cleaners, provided allergen-impermeable bedding covers and pest management tools. Work done under the study was funded by U.S. Department of Housing grants. When officials at the federal agency saw the results, they called for the meeting. "Children are more likely to be living in conditions that trigger asthma if you live in poverty," said [Maurice Jones, deputy secretary of HUD](#). "Twenty percent of children in this city live in poverty." In the past two years, HUD has provided \$30 million in grants nationwide for asthma prevention programs. The agency hopes in the future that the results of the Cleveland study and work elsewhere will provide enough financial incentive for managed care companies to adopt the program. Managing asthma symptoms could save the national health care system \$5 billion annually, according to figures the Massachusetts-based Asthma Research Council presented at the meeting. The average emergency visit for asthma cost \$691, and the average hospital stay of a child for asthma cost \$7,987. Adam Anderson, who attended the meeting as a representative of Ohio's Office of Health Transformation, said he would take the information back to state officials who oversee the state's Medicaid programs. "The administration is incredibly active in this kind of collaboration," Anderson said. During a break in the meeting, HUD's Jones was clear in his intentions, saying that the program saves money and he hoped that managed care companies would pay for home visits in the future. "We need to seize this opportunity to improve the health of our children," Jones said.

Cincinnati

Wednesday, Dec. 5, HUD, The Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority and Village of Mt. Healthy Officials celebrated the grand opening of The Reserve on South Martin with a



ribbon cutting, reception and tours of the new senior living community. Mount Healthy Mayor Joe Roetting described how The Reserve will improve the neighborhood, saying, "We're just so happy with the partnership of the city and CMHA to develop the city of Mount Healthy. It's just a good fit for the community," Roetting said. "We're excited to see what this brings." The Cincinnati-Hamilton County NSP2 Consortium (CHCNC) received a Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2

(NSP2) grant from HUD to fund the development of The Reserve. The funds removed 15 blighted multifamily properties and replaced them with 60 units of one- and two-bedroom apartments for adults 55 or older.

Secretary Donovan Unveils Villages at Roll Hill

Largest Green Renovation of Affordable Housing Community in the Nation

\$36 Million Rehabilitation Spurring Significant Economic Development

U.S. Secretary of HUD Shaun Donovan, Cincinnati Vice Mayor Roxanne Qualls and others marked the Villages at Roll Hill's grand reopening with a ribbon cutting celebration on December 4.

"I'm thrilled to be here today with all of you to celebrate the exceptional work that's been done on this project. Real change requires not just new buildings, but a broader transformation built on partnership with and leadership and capital from the private sector – and that's what we're seeing here today at the Villages at Roll Hill," said Secretary Donovan.

"As one of HUD's most respected property developers and owners, The Wallick Companies are leading the way toward a more sustainable, affordable future for housing," he added.



Resident - Carrie Turnbow



Grand Reopening Ribbon Cutting



Secretary Shaun Donovan

Grand Rapids

HUD OSHC Director Shelley Poticha conducted a Roundtable on Energy, Environment and Conservation with several Michigan partners in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on October 19, 2012. A review of the current issues, accomplishments and challenges related to the Administration's energy, environment and conservation portfolio was provided. It was one of a number of EEC Roundtables that have been conducted around the country and in Region V.



OSHC Director Poticha greets participant as Michigan Sustainability Officer Anthony Martin and others look on

Minneapolis

Three Minneapolis field office employees traveled to areas in New York and New Jersey that were devastated by Super storm Sandy. Tom Koon (CPD), Mary Burbank (CPD), and Anthony Landecker assisted FEMA to begin the recovery process. Tom

Koon, Program Manager with the Minneapolis Field Office of CPD, spent 3.5 weeks working on disaster duty in New Jersey as a result of Hurricane Sandy. Most of his time was at the Toms River Disaster Recovery Center, New Jersey's busiest center, working in coordination with FEMA, local social service agencies, and the Small Business Administration. Each day, he assisted individuals with housing related issues including referrals to HUD housing counseling agencies regarding for mortgages or credit counseling, housing authorities, affordable housing developments,



conducting searches for rental housing, suggesting tactics for obtaining housing, and addressing other barriers to obtaining housing. Often, there were very stressful moments as many survivors were dealing with a lot of emotional issues about major decisions moving forward in their lives. He worked closely with social workers, SBA and FEMA officials whose clients had multiple issues that were exacerbated by the storm or individuals who needed additional assistance and could not be served by one agency. Mr. Koon said it was a very rewarding experience to provide more direct information to clients and see the importance of government in the lives of those recovering from the impact of a disaster. He wishes to thank those coworkers who stepped in to help with his regular duties in Minnesota and commends his supervisor for allowing him to have the opportunity to serve on disaster duty. We are very proud to work with such dedicated public servants who volunteered their time to travel across the country to help those in need.

Sincerely,

Antonio R. Riley

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