Message from the Georgia Operations Director

Shea Johnson, MS

I serve as the Director of Georgia Operations in the Atlanta Regional Office, Office of Field Policy and Management (FPM). FPM is tasked with developing viable communities and expanding economic opportunities for low and moderate-income people. Under my leadership, the customer service program strives to make a difference during the pandemic and beyond. We execute locally driven strategies developed by community stakeholders with resources and support from federal partners (internal and external to HUD), to produce outcomes for communities. During this period of full-time telework, we shifted our interactions and quickly learned how to reach the public through alternate means. Although we look forward to interacting in person once again, we have effectively reached over 1000 stakeholders through webinars and phone calls. We are excited about our first newsletter this fiscal year and value your involvement as we advance our efforts to uplift communities.
Welcome the 18th Secretary of HUD, Marcia L. Fudge

We would like to begin by welcoming our eighteenth U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Marcia L. Fudge. Secretary Fudge was officially sworn in on the evening of March 10, 2021. Secretary Fudge provided [video remarks](#) after her swearing-in ceremony stating, “A good home shapes nearly every part of our lives. It’s where we start and end each day. It’s where we raise our families and come together in times of joy.”

President Joe Biden today announced his intent to nominate Adrianne Todman as Deputy Secretary for Housing and Urban Development.

On March 24, 2021, President Joe Biden announced his intent to nominate Adrianne Todman as Deputy Secretary for Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Adrienne Todman is currently the CEO of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO). Before joining NAHRO in 2017, Todman served as the Executive Director of the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) and served in several career positions at HUD. [Read more](#)
HUD Releases its 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report Part 1 to Congress-

Under the leadership of Secretary Marcia Fudge, HUD will support an evidence-based Housing First approach to ending homelessness

The report found that between 2019 and 2020, homelessness increased significantly among unsheltered populations and people experiencing chronic homelessness. Veteran homelessness did not decrease compared with 2019, and homelessness among family households did not decrease for the first time since 2010. The report also found that people of color are significantly over-represented among people experiencing homelessness. Read more

Click here to watch HUD Secretary Marcia L. Fudge’s video statement on 2020 AHAR: Part 1.
Region IV 2020 Homelessness Virtual Conference is Overwhelming Success!

As over 1150 registrants participate in the conference

On December 15, 2020; Region IV hosted the 2020 Homelessness Virtual Conference bringing together Over 1150 registrants who participated in the conference from throughout the southeast to learn about and share the latest innovations and developments concerning reducing and ending homelessness in the region.

"The extraordinary interest and importance of reducing and ending homelessness are evident in the unprecedented turnout of over 1100 attendees to the virtual regional conference," said Denise Cleveland-Leggett, former Regional Administrator. "It is imperative that we continue to collectively work together to eliminate homelessness for those we mutually serve so they may have hope of a brighter and more fulfilling future."

The conference was organized and made possible by Shea Johnson, Director of Georgia Operations, Sernorma Mitchell, Tennessee Field Office director, their staff as well as the support provided by other HUD state field office directors in the region, panel members, speakers and attendees. Read more

Between 2019 and 2020, the number of unsheltered veterans increased by 6%, offset by a 3% decline in sheltered veterans.

The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress
Part 1: Point-In-Time Estimates of Homelessness

If you are experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless, please visit the HUD's Find Shelter Tool.

HUD's Find Shelter tool provides information about housing, shelter, health care, and clothing resources in communities across the country. Click to get started
FEDERAL AGENCIES JOIN TOGETHER IN LAUNCHING NEW SE REGIONAL LEAD TASK FORCE

EPA’s Donnette Sturdivant, Chief, Chemical Safety Section of EPA’s R4 Redevelopment and Chemicals Branch, and HUD’s Shea Johnson, Director of Georgia Operations, oversaw the planning of the summit and facilitated the event. They were joined by Joseph J. Phillips, HUD Office of Public Affairs; OLHCHH’s Myia Egleton, Bruce Haber, and Kitt Rodkey. Youlanda Outin of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also supported.

The development of the new Lead Task Force strongly supports the Federal Lead Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Associated Health Impacts (FLAP). The key result was an agreement to establish the regional Federal Lead Task Force. Representatives of the summit and other federal agencies, aim to identify opportunities to connect resources, including outreach related, in support of community-based efforts to protect children. Another goal is to create opportunities for enhanced coordination for the understanding, prevention, and elimination of lead-based hazards and health risks. Read more

OLDER HOMES AND BUILDINGS

According to EPA.gov, If your home was built before 1978, it is more likely to have lead-based paint. In 1978, the federal government banned consumer uses of lead-based paint, but some states banned it even earlier. Lead paint is still present in millions of homes, sometimes under layers of newer paint. If the paint is in good shape, the lead paint is usually not a problem. Deteriorating lead-based paint (peeling, chipping, chalking, cracking, damaged, or damp) is a hazard and needs immediate attention. Read more

CDC’s Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention program states "No safe level of lead exposure in children has been identified." Exposure to lead can seriously harm a child’s health and cause well-documented adverse effects such as:

- Damage to the brain and nervous system
- Slowed growth and development
- Learning and behavior problems
- Hearing and speech problems

OLDER ADULTS HOME MODIFICATION GRANT PROGRAM WEBINAR

The Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) will be hosting the Older Adults Home Modification Grant Program Webinar on Apr 14, 2021 at 1:00 PM EDT. Click here to register
HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes will be announcing the availability of $385 million for the Lead Hazard Reduction and Healthy Homes grant programs. These programs help transform communities by fixing older housing, preserving affordable housing, and improving communities and the health of children and families in these communities.

The Lead Hazard Reduction and Healthy Homes grant programs make homes lead safe and healthy, specifically, these grants assist states, cities, counties/parishes, Native American Tribes, or other units of local government in undertaking comprehensive programs to identify and control lead-based paint hazards, and other housing-related health hazards, in eligible privately-owned rental and owner-occupied housing.

**What Can these Grants Do for You?**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Further Goals</th>
<th>Demonstrate</th>
<th>Promote</th>
<th>Create</th>
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<td>• Support the development and implementation of state and local “lead and healthy homes” programs that address health and safety hazards in the home.</td>
<td>• Further Affordable housing goals by improving existing local housing stock.</td>
<td>• Demonstrate that providing safe and healthy environments where children live is feasible, affordable, and beneficial.</td>
<td>• Public-private partnerships to align common outcomes.</td>
<td>• Create public and private-market demand to integrate health outcomes into housing and infrastructure projects and planning.</td>
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**There is No Better Time to Consider this Funding Opportunity!**

- The NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) application requirements have reduced substantially over the last 2 years
- Maximum award higher - Up to $5 Million dollars per award possible
- There is a set-aside for “never before grantees” so that the competitive pool is smaller for first time recipients
- Shorter application package requirements
- 42-month period of performance

Visit [www.hud.gov/lead](http://www.hud.gov/lead) to learn more, including upcoming webinars about applying
Anthony Kennedy, a low-income worker from Mississippi, changed his life trajectory for the better when he joined a little-known program called Section 3. As a resident of an area receiving HUD funding, he was an ideal candidate to find job opportunities and enhance his skills and income prospects. Kennedy shared his story with 400 attendees who participated in a Southeast virtual training held this week to increase awareness of HUD's Section 3 requirements, and Small Business Administration's (SBA) available programs and tools that can benefit small and minority-owned companies; through counseling, capital, and contracting.

The Section 3 program requires that recipients of HUD financial assistance, to the greatest extent possible, provide training, employment, contracting, and other economic opportunities to low- and very low-income persons, especially recipients of government assistance for housing, and to businesses that provide economic opportunities to low- and very low-income persons.

HUD Southeast Deputy Regional Administrator Michael Browder welcomed the audience and highlighted the opportunities that funding from the American Rescue Plan will bring to low-income residents and minority businesses. SBA's Southeast Acting Regional Administrator Janita R. Stewart and SBA Tennessee District Director Latanya Channel provided an all-encompassing discussion on how businesses can utilize SBA programs. Read more

Section 3

If you are a recipient of government assistance for housing or if your household income falls below HUD's income limits, you may qualify as a Section 3 resident or Section 3 business concern. Learn more about Section 3. Click here to learn more.
NEW CDC FUNDING FOR COVID-19
CDC Announces $2.25 Billion to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities in Communities that are at High-Risk and Underserved, a non-competitive grant program. Read more

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
SBA is currently implementing the American Rescue Plan Act signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021. Read more

HEALTH RESOURCES & SERVICE ADMINISTRATION
Engaging Federally Qualified Health Centers: Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program Expanding to 950 Health Centers. Read more

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION ADVISES TO IGNORE BOGUS COVID VACCINE SURVEY. Read more

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO EXPAND COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM TO 950 COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS. Read more
COVID-19 VACCINE: IT’S OUR TURN TO ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES AND GET VACCINATED!

It’s hard to imagine a time when we didn’t know COVID-19 existed. Now when people say “virus,” we know what they mean. The impact of COVID-19 on our lives, our activities, and our freedom has affected us all. The responsibility is ours, as a community, to help stop this virus. Now we have a new, safe, and effective tool to help us do that—COVID-19 vaccines.

It takes everyone.

We all need to step up to beat COVID-19. We ask you to join us in protecting yourself, your family and friends, and our community by getting vaccinated.

Getting vaccinated adds an important layer of protection for you, your family, and your loved ones. Here are some things you should know about the COVID-19 vaccine:

- All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States are very effective at preventing the disease.
- The most common side effects are pain in the arm where you got the shot, feeling tired, headache, body aches, chills, and fever.
- Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools we have available—wearing masks, staying at least 6 feet apart from people who don’t live with you, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, washing your hands frequently, and getting vaccinated.

We want everyone in our community to be safe and get back to hugging our families and friends and shaking hands with our neighbors.

“The COVID-19 vaccination is one of the strongest tools we can use to fight this pandemic together”
The Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination is a collaboration between the federal government, states, and territories, and 21 national pharmacy partners and independent pharmacy networks to increase access to COVID-19 vaccination across the United States. This program is one component of the Federal government’s strategy to expand access to vaccines for the American public.

**COVID-19 VACCINE RESOURCES**

Georgia eligibility is open to everyone 16 years of age and older for the COVID-19 vaccine. Please visit the Georgia Department of Public Health website to learn more about

- General Information
- Who is Eligible?
- Vaccination Appointment

**PARTICIPATING PHARMACY PARTNERS**

Use the links below to see participating pharmacy partners in Georgia:

- CVS Pharmacy, Inc
- Publix Super Markets, Inc
- The Kroger Co.
- Walgreens
- Walmart, Inc.
APRIL IS NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING MONTH!

Click here to watch Secretary Fudge's video statement on Fair Housing Month.

"Fair Housing Month is a time to recommit to our nation’s obligation to ensure that everyone has equal access to safe, affordable housing," said HUD Secretary Marcia L. Fudge.

This year, we celebrate the 53rd anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. This landmark law was signed into law on April 11, 1968, by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The Fair Housing Act prohibits housing discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, and family status. The Act furthers the beliefs advocated by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the other heroes of the Civil Rights Movement. For more information about your fair housing rights, visit our webpage.

Extended Request Deadline for Homeowners Seeking COVID-19 Forbearance

For homeowners with FHA-insured mortgages, FHA has extended the deadline to request a COVID-19 Forbearance—a pause or reduction in mortgage payments—from their mortgage servicer through June 30, 2021. Learn more

HUD HBCU Grant Program

In the latest trending article on “The Edge,” PD&R grant specialist Ophelia H. Wilson discusses the history of HUD’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities Grant program. Read more
LEARN MORE & STAY CONNECTED!

HUMANS OF HUD
The trials and triumphs of the men and women HUD serves.

HUMAN FOR HUD
Learn about the trials and triumphs of the men and women HUD Serves. Click here and select "Georgia" to read their stories.

"When I came back from Iraq, I felt disconnected from society. I was depressed so I turned to drugs, but I didn't let those challenges stop me. HUD VASH was a game changer for me. Sure, I received housing assistance, but it was much more than that. I set goals for myself – to obtain my Ph.D. and become a homeowner in five years. I'm grateful that I didn't let one flat tire stop me. The battle isn't over, but it gets easier when you have the right support, resources, and programs like this one."

Antonio
East Point, GA

"Low-income housing does not have to be your final choice, and the cycle of dependency and generational poverty can end now."

-Kristy Griffin, GA

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