



HUDLines

HUD's Region III
e-News Brief



First Quarter 2020 - HUDLines, HUD's Region III e-News Brief provides you with a snapshot of what's new in the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development's Mid-Atlantic region. You'll find periodic updates on HUD activities in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. So, read on to find the latest stories, research and announcements on housing and community development initiatives throughout the region.

A Message from the Regional Administrator



To our Friends and Community Partners:

Across our nation, **Americans are working to overcome the challenges presented by the coronavirus known as COVID-19.** During this time, communication between federal, state and local partners is crucial.

As you know, I am responsible for coordinating and directing HUD's activities in the states of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. **I want you to know that our team is prepared to support you as members of your community look to you for information and guidance on important developments.**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the virus taskforce chaired by the Vice President are the national leads in responding to this challenge. **HUD has been assigned a supporting role with Secretary Ben Carson lending his expertise as a long-time medical professional to further support response efforts for the safety, security and health of the American people.** I am writing to assure you we are doing everything we can to assist our customers and stakeholders during this time.

An important source of information is on our national webpage, hud.gov/coronavirus.

There you will find guidance to our grantees and stakeholders from the Deputy Assistant Secretaries for all HUD program areas—Public and Indian Housing, Community Planning and Development, the Federal Housing Administration, Fair Housing and Multifamily Housing, among others. It will be continuously updated.

Going forward, **HUD Region III will work to provide you up-to-date information relating to COVID-19 and HUD programs.** My team has an open-door policy when it comes to you and those we serve. If you think we can be of assistance, please reach out at any time. Together, we will get through this challenge. Stay well.

Joseph J. DeFelice, Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator

HUD Mid-Atlantic continues to serve.



For assistance, please contact the field office near you Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EDT. No walk-in visitors at this time.

Delaware:	Phone: 302.573.6300 / TTY: 302.573.6058 / DE_Webmanager@hud.gov
District of Columbia:	Phone: 202.275.9200 / TTY: 202.275.6388 / DC_Webmanager@hud.gov
Maryland:	Phone: 410.962.2520 / TTY: 800.877.8339 / MD_Webmanager@hud.gov
Philadelphia:	Phone: 215.656.0500 / TTY: 800.877.8339 / PA_Webmanager@hud.gov
Pittsburgh:	Phone: 412.644.6428 / TTY: 800.877.8339 / PA_Webmanager@hud.gov
Virginia:	Phone: 800.842.2610 / TTY: 800.877.8339 / VA_Webmanager@hud.gov
West Virginia:	Phone: 304.347.7000 / TTY: 302.573.6058 / WV_Webmanager@hud.gov

For Up-to-Date News on COVID-19

We continue to serve across our region. For assistance, please contact the HUD Mid-Atlantic field office near you. Offices are temporarily inaccessible to walk-in visitors. **Help us spread the word and follow us** on Facebook [@HUDMidAtlantic](https://www.facebook.com/HUDMidAtlantic) and Twitter [@HUDMidAtlantic](https://twitter.com/HUDMidAtlantic) & [@JoeDeFeliceHUD](https://twitter.com/JoeDeFeliceHUD).

Highlights from Around the Region



In Wilmington, Delaware HUD and Local Officials Designate Delaware's First EnVision Center

Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator (RA) Joe DeFelice joined U.S. Senator Chris Coons (D-DE), City of Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki and Wilmington Field Office Director Maria Bynum to announce a newly designated HUD EnVision Center demonstration in the City of Wilmington, joining dozens of communities across the country taking this vital step to offer support services for the benefit of its residents. In addition to the EnVision Center demonstration designation, Wilmington Housing Authority Executive Director John Hill accepted a "big check" for \$142,000 for a Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program grant. The event included inspiring personal success stories from Nakia Wallace, Leola Lightfoot and Sherita Jackson—all who credited their self-sufficiency program coordinators with providing a welcomed hand-up in each one's quest to become economically self-sufficient. To see photos of the event, [click here](#).



In the District of Columbia District of Columbia Field Office Hosts Japanese Housing Officials

On January 28, RA Joe DeFelice joined District of Columbia Field Office (DCFO) Director Marvin Turner as he hosted representatives from the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism to discuss federal housing policy and how each country can learn from each other's work. Arranged on behalf of HUD's Office of International and Philanthropic Affairs, District of Columbia Housing Authority's Tyrone Garrett, DC Housing Finance Agency's Chris Donald and DC Department of Housing and Community Development's Danilo Pelletiere joined in the discussions in the District and Alexandria, Virginia.





In Salisbury, Maryland
New Affordable Housing Opens in Maryland Opportunity Zone

Baltimore Field Office Director Carol Payne recently attended the grand opening of Square at Merritt Mill, along with HUD partners at the Wicomico County Housing Authority, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and Pennrose Companies. “This beautiful property offers high-quality housing and support services for seniors and persons with disabilities, and it’s in an Opportunity Zone,” said Payne. The Square at Merritt Mill provides 75 units of affordable and workforce housing, with many of the units designated for housing authority residents through the Rental Assistance Demonstration program.



In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
New Veterans’ Housing Commemorates Those Who Served

HUD celebrated the grand opening of the Veterans Multi-Service Center’s Edison 64 Veterans Community in North Philadelphia. The new development is providing permanent supportive housing to 66 formally homeless veterans and is a living memorial in tribute to the 64 Edison High School students who did not return home from the Vietnam War. The former high school was converted into affordable housing with help from many federal, state and local agencies, including the private sector. HUD is proud to be funding half the units. Check out the celebration photos on our [Facebook page](#).

In Johnstown, Pennsylvania
Veterans Leadership Program Highlights Work During Southwestern Commonwealth Tour

During their two-day swing through southwestern Pennsylvania, RA DeFelice and Acting Deputy Regional Administrator Jane Miller met and toured with Veterans Leadership Program Chief Operations Officer Christine Pietryga at the nonprofit’s Johnstown location. Veterans Leadership Program (VLP) provides supportive services and programs for nearly 4,000 Veterans and their families annually in 20 counties throughout Western and Central Pennsylvania. With offices in Pittsburgh and Johnstown, VLP receives HUD funding through the Allegheny County Continuum of Care as well as funding from the U.S. Departments of Labor and Veterans Affairs.



In Portsmouth, Virginia
HUD Announces Foster Youth to Independence Initiative in Portsmouth

RA Joe DeFelice joined Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority Executive Director Edward Bland and local partners to announce a special new initiative, the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative, targeting vulnerable young adults who have aged-out of the foster care system. The event included a “big check” for \$113,170. The funding will provide housing assistance for 14 young people aging out of foster care who are at risk of experiencing homelessness. “This is the third award of vouchers in the Mid-Atlantic region as well as the third award in the Tidewater area of Virginia,” DeFelice remarked. “That says a lot about the focus of area agencies assisting youth who are exiting foster care—they understand the importance housing plays in getting a good start in life.”

Opportunity Zones in Your Community

As RA DeFelice has been making his way around the Mid-Atlantic region, he’s been touring Opportunity Zones. Here are a few highlights of visits so far this year.



In Charleston, West Virginia
Five County Tour Includes Meeting with the Governor

Mid-January, RA DeFelice joined Charleston Field Office Director Julie Alston for a tour in southern West Virginia to meet with federal, state and local officials in Fayette, Greenbrier, Pocahontas, Webster and Nicholas Counties. While in Charleston, they met with Governor Jim Justice to discuss HUD investments in the state, Opportunity Zones and disaster recovery. Pictured from left to right: RA DeFelice, Governor Jim Justice, Director Alston and HUD Senior Advisor Bob Coffin.



In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

RA DeFelice spent a rainy afternoon touring the new Fishtown Kensington Business Improvement District (BID). BID leader Marc Collazzo and his operations director, Kaelyn Anderson, led the tour, highlighting potential areas for development and rehabilitation. HUD’s Philly team and the Philadelphia Department of Commerce joined the Opportunity Zone tour. The area has received \$600,000 in HUD funding over the last three years. A BID is a formal entity that allows property and business owners to make a collective contribution to the improvement of their commercial district. [Click here](#) for photos.

Humans of HUD Profiles



Ray and Rene' Raysor, residents of Prince George’s County, Maryland, share their story of how they, at one time, experienced homelessness and how HUD-funded Continuum of Care (CoC) programs and Prince George’s County officials helped them get back on their feet after suffering some significant financial challenges—including the loss of their home. [Listen to the Raysors story.](#)



In Coatesville, Pennsylvania

White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council Executive Director Scott Turner joined RA DeFelice to host a federal agency roundtable on local Opportunity Zone projects. Director Turner invited representatives from each of the 14 participating federal agencies to discuss their programs specific to Coatesville’s endeavors.



Meet Gregory Scott. For more than 20 years, he experienced homelessness, but through a combination of HUD assistance and services provided by the District of Columbia Housing Authority, he found a good job and a safe and affordable place to live. After moving into his new apartment, he worked towards self-sufficiency and eventually became a first-time homeowner. [See Gregory’s compelling story.](#)



In Wilmington, Delaware

RA DeFelice, Wilmington Field Office Director Maria Bynum and other members of the HUD team saw firsthand how Second Chances Farm nurtures plants and people, as they toured the 47,000+ square foot facility in Wilmington’s

Local Research:

[HUD PD&R Regional Reports](#)

[Region III: Mid-Atlantic](#)

By Wendy Ip | 4th Quarter 2019

The economic expansion in the Mid-Atlantic region that began in the second quarter of 2010 continued during the fourth quarter of 2019.

The pace of economic growth in the region was moderate, and despite a contraction in jobs in West Virginia, growth continued at the same pace as during the fourth quarter of 2018.

[HUD PD&R Housing Market Profiles](#)

[Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia-North Carolina](#)

By Tomasz Kukawski | As of November 1, 2019

In 2019, the direct impact of defense spending in the metropolitan area is estimated to reach \$22.1 billion, representing approximately 40 percent of economic activity in the metropolitan area (The Dragas Center for Economic Analysis, Old Dominion University).

[HUD PD&R Housing Market Profiles](#)

[Hagerstown-Martinsburg, Maryland-West Virginia](#)

By Kevin P. Kane | As of November 1, 2019

The city of Hagerstown in Washington County, Maryland is known as “Hub City” because of its location near two major interstates as well as serving as a commercial and retail center for western Maryland, the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, and parts of south-central Pennsylvania.

Funding Opportunities

[Authority to Accept Unsolicited Proposals for Research Partnerships due December 31, 2020](#)

Quick Links

[The Federal Register: Housing and Urban Development Significant & Recently Published Documents](#)

[GRANTS.GOVSM Opportunities with the Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

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We welcome your feedback and invite you to share your news with Lisa A. Wolfe at lisa.a.wolfe@hud.gov. If you know anyone who would like to receive HUDLines, please feel free to share. We safeguard and do not rent, sell or permit the use of our lists. To subscribe, visit [HUDLines](#). You may also [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

Riverside neighborhood—one of the city’s Opportunity Zones. Ten returning citizens shared their personal stories and how the hydroponic, indoor vertical farm is leading to new opportunities in their lives. Founder Ajit George spoke of how the vision for the farm is twofold: to reduce the carbon footprint by growing food locally 365 days a year, while replacing recidivism with compassionate capitalism and turning entrepreneurs-in-residence into “Agripreneurs.”

Top Tweets for First Quarter 2020



Joe DeFelice
@JoeDeFeliceHUD

In [@cityoflanpcpa](#) w [@LancCityHousing](#) proud to announce grant from [@HUDgov](#) in the amt of \$239k for ROSS; a program to help residents achieve self sufficiency & hopefully move out of pub housing into their own home Special thank you to [@MayorSorace](#) [@RepSmucker](#) [@RepMikeSturla](#) #HUDR3



HUD Mid-Atlantic
@HUDMidAtlantic

“It is my pleasure to announce HUD is launching an EnVision Center demonstration site here in Wilmington. This is the first #EnVisionCenter in the First State.” -Regional Administrator Joe DeFelice #WilmDE #NetDE #HUDR3

