



# HUDLines

HUD's Region III  
e-News Brief



**April 2019 - 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 monthly 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



**Each April, the nation observes Fair Housing Month**—offering an opportunity for us to renew this country's commitment to equality in housing and the critical role the Fair Housing Act has played in giving every person an equal chance to obtain the housing of their choice. Last month, as he testified on Capitol Hill before both the Senate and House Appropriations Committees, HUD Secretary Ben Carson pledged his support of continuing HUD's fair housing mission—fighting housing discrimination, increasing awareness of people's rights, and enhancing economic opportunity for all. He spoke of the significance of HUD's only Secretary-initiated fair housing complaint filed in 2018—the one that led to charging Facebook, the nation's second largest advertiser for violating the Fair Housing Act by encouraging, enabling and causing housing discrimination through the company's advertising platform. Twitter's and Google's ad platforms are also under review by this agency.

Secretary Carson commended HUD's Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) team for doing a yeoman's job investigating, conciliating and resolving housing discrimination cases. Here in the Mid-Atlantic, under the direction of FHEO Regional Director Melody Taylor, our team completed a record 78 investigations in Fiscal Year 2018—that's more than double the number of cases completed the year before at 35. Since Fiscal Year 2016, our FHEO team has investigated an additional 237 cases involving Civil Rights violations and negatively impacting individuals living with disabilities.

I think we all agree this is important work—and I thank you and all our stakeholders and partners throughout Region III for the support you have provided to the members of our team. I believe the goal of everyone who advocates for fair housing is to prevent discrimination in housing from even happening in the first place. And though we all acknowledge much work remains to be done, our united efforts are showing results.

So, thank you for the good work you are doing.

Joseph J. DeFelice, Esq.  
Region III Regional Administrator



**In the District of Columbia:**

**[It's All About Opportunities & Partnerships](#)**

Providing opportunities for residents to gain self-sufficiency and creating public/private partnerships are both top priorities for HUD, especially when it comes to Secretary Ben Carson's signature initiative, the EnVision Centers. So, in late March when a team from the soon-to-open Spokane Resource Center in Washington State traveled nearly coast-to-coast to the other Washington, a visit with the District of Columbia Housing Authority's EnVision Center team made perfect sense.



**In Maryland:**

**[The University of Maryland, College Park wins HUD's 2019 Innovation in Affordable Housing Student Design and Planning Competition](#)**

Graduate students from University of Maryland won HUD's sixth annual Innovation in Affordable Housing Student Design and Planning Competition. One of four finalists, the team designed a new mixed-use development for low- and moderate-income residents situated along the San Antonio Riverwalk. This is the second year in a row the University of Maryland has won the competition.



**Social Media Update:**

**[HUD Mid-Atlantic Facebook Page Celebrates One-Year Anniversary!](#)**

The HUD Mid-Atlantic Facebook page has hit a milestone—the regional page has been up and running for one year! Mid-April marked one year of sharing regional initiatives, activities and news on the region's Facebook page. The page's followers, nearly 500, are growing daily.

**Local Research:**

**[HUD PD&R Regional Reports Region 3: Mid-Atlantic](#)**

By Patricia Moroz | 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2018  
The economy of the Mid-Atlantic region expanded at a faster rate than during the past 2 years, with job growth of 1.4 percent during the fourth quarter of 2018. The professional and business services sector led payroll increases in the region and accounted for the highest gains in several states. As a result of continued employment growth, unemployment rates declined in all states in the region and the District of Columbia from a year earlier. Sales housing market conditions in major metropolitan areas in the region ranged from slightly tight to tight.

**On Deadline:**

**[Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program due May 15, 2019](#)**

**[Research and Evaluation, Demonstrations and Data Analysis and Utilization Program due May 24, 2019](#)**

**In Your Community**

Whether it's *Crisscrossing the Commonwealth* or on the *DelMarVa Coastal Tour*, Regional Administrator Joe DeFelice has been making his way around the Mid-Atlantic region. Here are a few highlights!



**In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

Regional Administrator Joe DeFelice joined the Philadelphia Housing Authority and elected officials in celebrating the grand opening of a 13-story affordable housing high-rise for seniors in Philly's Sharswood/Blumberg neighborhood. Through HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration program, the property's 94 units were completely rehabilitated, with more than \$27 million in public-private construction investments. See the [media coverage](#) and social media [postings](#).



**In Havre de Grace, Maryland**

Joining Baltimore Field Office Director Carol Payne and members of the BFO team, Regional

[HUD's FY 2018 and FY 2019 Distressed Cities Technical Assistance Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\) due May 29, 2019](#)

[Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants Program due June 10, 2019](#)

**Quick Links:**

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

[GRANTS.GOV<sup>SM</sup> Opportunities with the Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

[Fiscal Year 2019 Income Limits are available, effective April 24, 2019](#)

**HUDLines, HUD's Region III e-News Brief:**

We welcome your feedback and invite you to share your news with Lisa A. Wolfe at [lisa.a.wolfe@hud.gov](mailto: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.

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Administrator Joe DeFelice enjoyed a visit with Havre de Grace Housing Authority officials and residents. Discussions ranged from the agency's successful Family Self-Sufficiency Program to the need for safe play areas for children. BFO offered to connect the housing authority with the KaBOOM playground organization.



**In West Chester, Pennsylvania**

Regional Administrator Joe DeFelice and Regional Senior Advisor Elvis Solivan and several members of the Region III team met with Rep. Chrissy Houlahan's (PA-06) District Director Sue Walker in their West Chester, Pa. office to give an overview of HUD's mission, programs and initiatives.



**In New Castle, Delaware:**

Regional Administrator Joe DeFelice joined New Castle County Executive Matthew Meyer and Housing Opportunities of Northern Delaware, Inc. Executive Director Gladys Spikes as they welcomed Fair Housing advocates from across the First State for the 36th Annual Fair Housing Proclamation Reading Ceremony in New Castle, Del. on April 4.