

HUD HERALD

The official newsletter of the
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - Region IX



Photo Credit: Phoenix Housing Department

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Secretary Carson visits the Phoenix EnVision Center

by Ed Cabrera

On Tuesday, June 16th, Secretary Ben Carson, Regional Administrator Chris Patterson, and Field Office Director Stephanie Smelnick joined Mayor Kate Gallego and other leaders to tour Arizona's first EnVision Center, the Aeroterra Community Center in Phoenix, as the HUD Office of Field Policy and Management in Region IX works to expand the number of designated centers across the region.

"To help the residents in the Phoenix Opportunity Zone succeed, the Aeroterra HUD EnVision Center has a computer lab where residents can work on resumes, take classes, and even learn how to code," said Carson. "Education is key to providing the long term tools to achieve self-sufficiency."



Photo Credit: @SecretaryCarson on Twitter

The surrounding area, a designated Opportunity Zone and Choice Neighborhood, has a median income of \$13,431 with 73 percent of residents living in poverty and half of the residents lacking a high school diploma.

The EnVision Center demonstration aims to empower people to leave HUD-assisted housing to become responsible and self-sufficient homeowners or renters.

HUD Funds to Prevent Native Hawaiians From Homelessness Due to COVID-19

by Ramona Mullahey and Ed Cabrera

Indigenous people are at an increased risk for contracting COVID-19 and also suffer from high rates of chronic disease, poor access to healthcare, and over-representation among those who are incarcerated and homeless. As thousands of Native Hawaiian families struggle financially due to the impacts of COVID-19, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), the sole grantee of HUD's Native Hawaii Housing Block Grant (NHHBG), launched a new program in May to provide rental relief for Native Hawaiian families on its waiting list for housing.



Photo Credit: Aloha United Way

Using \$7 million in NHHBG funds, DHHL partnered with Aloha United Way to create a COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Families who have lost or income due to COVID-19 business closures may qualify for assistance to pay their security deposit and/or rent on a month-to-month basis for up to six months. DHHL estimates that this program will save more than 2,500 households from eviction and prevent Native Hawaiians from becoming homeless.



Photo Credit: Hawaii Public Housing Agency and National Guard

Additionally, the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) has waived minimum rents and late fees for its 40,000 residents living in all of its 6,200 federal and state-funded public housing units on all five Hawaiian islands. They distributed thousands of masks and hand sanitizing and cleaning supplies, while also making free WiFi available to all to facilitate in-home learning.

HPHA launched hphaishereforyou.org to offer residents resources and information to support them until this pandemic ebbs.



Photo credit: Laurie Cannady Udit

Laurie Cannady Udit to be Los Angeles Area Field Office Director

by Wayne Sauseda

I am pleased to announce the selection of Laurie Cannady Udit as HUD's Los Angeles Area Field Office Director.

Though new to the Department, Laurie is no stranger to federal service. With more than 10 years of leadership, strategic planning, and policy development experience and experience initiating and strengthening strategic alliances with key community stakeholders, Laurie has also provided programmatic and fiscal oversight of a federal grant portfolio supporting service and volunteering through AmeriCorps VISTA and Senior Corps for over 15 years. Most recently, she partnered with HUD's designated Promise Zone in Los Angeles and with San Diego's EnVision Center, in her previous capacity as Deputy Regional Administrator for the Corporation for National and Community Service's West Region. In addition, Laurie has served in USDA's Summer Food Service Program and, in 2001, earned a Master of Public Policy degree from UCLA's School of Public Policy and Social Research. In 1997, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Planning, Public Policy and Management from the University of Oregon.

Laurie joins HUD's leadership team in the region at a time of great challenges and opportunities. As residents in the Los Angeles area and Southern California grapple with an acute homelessness and housing affordability crisis, it is compounded by the deleterious public health, social, and economic impacts resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the widespread social unrest following the excessive use of force by police that led to George Floyd's death. Despite this, however, the region remains ripe with potential, as the Department expands investment into the area's Choice Neighborhoods, Promise Zones, Opportunity Zones, and EnVision Centers.

Laurie begins her tenure at HUD on July 6th. Please join me in welcoming her upon her arrival.

June Is National Home Ownership and Healthy Homes Month

by Ed Cabrera

Just in time for National Home Ownership and Healthy Homes Month, HUD announced nearly \$3 billion in additional [CARES Act funding](#) and the following:

- [ICDBG funds](#) \$23MM to Arizona tribes, \$24MM to California tribes, and \$3MM to Nevada tribes.
- [HOPWA funds](#) \$2MM to AZ grantees, \$1.4MM to L.A., and \$1.4MM to Maui AIDS Foundation.
- About \$2.7 million for 14 [HUD-approved housing counseling agencies](#) in California and Hawaii.
- 2-month [extension of foreclosure and eviction moratorium](#) for FHA single family homeowners.
- New [Foster Youth to Independence](#) vouchers for the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

A Message from the Regional Administrator

by Christopher Patterson

As we approach the end of the third month since most of us at HUD in the region began teleworking to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and amid the widespread and ongoing social unrest since George Floyd's tragic death, it is important to acknowledge that while the Department remains committed to creating strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable housing for all, *that was not always the case* with federal housing programs in U.S. history.



In the early 1930's, at the start of the Great Depression, the Public Works Administration funded our nation's first public housing. This, however, was not intended for the multitudes of unemployed Americans at the time, but for working class families. This housing was racially segregated.

Moreover, the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), after its creation in 1934 to help more Americans meet their housing needs, played a central role in expanding and perpetuating what essentially was a government-sanctioned system of "redlining" and housing segregation, along racial lines, that is evident in and still negatively impacts our neighborhoods and communities to this day.

That included not insuring mortgages in or proximate to African-American neighborhoods and, simultaneously, funding the mass production of housing in suburban areas, with the requirement that none be sold to African-Americans. Once this housing was built and the "racially restrictive covenants" put in place, the FHA then subsidized white families to move out of urban areas and into all white suburbs, where African-Americans could not follow, due to these racist and exclusionary policies and practices.

The Fair Housing Act, which now prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status and disability and empowers HUD to enforce it, was not passed into law until 1968, following the widespread social unrest, riots, and - yes, police brutality - in major cities after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

After more than 50 years since the law's passage, we have made significant strides in reducing unlawful discrimination in housing, but we still have much more work to do in that regard and in the broader effort to fully realize Dr. King's dream.

Let us remain committed to working toward that goal, especially as we continue to further HUD's vital mission. Let us continue to endure during this challenging and unprecedented time, and let us always remember that we are stronger when we are together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Patterson". The signature is written in a cursive style.