



MiHUDdle



Kent County Effectively Ends Veterans' Homelessness

Kent County Functional Zero per the U.S.I.C.H.

Kent County/Grand Rapids was one of the first communities to join the Mayor's Challenge to End Veterans' Homelessness and is the first community in Michigan to have done so.

effectively ending veterans' homelessness through the housing of more than 400 homeless veterans. The county is only the 45th community in

Michigan, the United Way and many more. These agencies worked together to identify all veterans experiencing homelessness, establish ways to provide immediate shelter and assist with moving veterans into permanent housing.



Photo: DFO Director Michael Polsinelli speaks in front of multiple agencies coming together to celebrate Kent County becoming a "Functional Zero Community"

the U.S. to be certified by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) to have effectively ended veteran homelessness and is the first in Michigan to have done so. George Heartwell, the former Mayor of the City of Grand Rapids, located in Kent County, signed on to the "Mayor's Challenge to End Veterans' Homelessness" in 2014 and the current Mayor, Rosalyn Bliss, signed on to the challenge upon her election in 2016.

At the awards ceremony, Michael Polsinelli, the HUD Field Office Director for the State of Michigan stated "we will continue to work with our partners across federal, state, and local governments and in communities to



make sure homelessness among veterans is rare, brief and non-recurring. We can and must uphold our own duty to support all those who have answered the call of duty."

In order to end veterans' homelessness, Kent County first identified who was a homeless veteran through a veteran outreach team. Once identified the homeless veteran was moved to an emergency shelter or transitional housing, then eventually into permanent homes. The process takes an average of 90 days. Policies and programs had to be developed to make sure veterans helped are able to stay in their home, and catch other veterans before they become homeless.

The focus on ending veterans' homelessness has also contributed to ending overall homelessness in Kent County. Based on the last point in time count Kent County's homeless tally was down 12% over 2016. Community leaders are hoping to take the streamlined process and more efficient communication and collaboration to expand the program to all the area homeless further reducing homelessness in the community.

The accomplishment was celebrated at an awards event that was held on September 26, 2017. The event was attended by representatives from the

For those who are homeless and need help please contact the Grand Rapids Area Coalition to End Homelessness or call 1

dozens of federal, state, and local agencies who helped end veterans' homelessness in Kent County, including: HUD, Community Rebuilders, the Grand Rapids Area Coalition to End Homelessness, the Salvation Army, Volunteers of America



-800-887-1107 or 2-1-1 seven days a week 24 hours a day. More information on ending homelessness in Kent County is available at endhomelessnesskent.org.

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River Crest Apartments

Formerly Colony & Fisher Arms Apartments

The former Colony & Fisher Arms apartments had a reputation as being one of the most dangerous and dilapidated apartment buildings in the city of Detroit—known for its bed-bug infestation and power outages. In fact, the Detroit Police Department called the building the most problematic in the city and indicated that in 2013 it had received over 600 calls for service to its location.



That was then, this is now. On January 27, 2017, the owner, HUD, and city officials unveiled the historic \$24 million dollar renovation of this formerly troubled devel-

opment. The financing included Federal Historic Tax Credits, Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits, an FHA loan, a Section 8 rental subsidy renewal, Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis Affordable Housing Program Funds, and vacant city-owned property for parking. Mr. Mark McDaniel, president and chief executive of the Detroit nonprofit Cinnaire, together with the Baltimore-based Chesapeake Community Advisors took ownership of the building and began renovations to transform it into a safe, secure home for residents.

The new owners paid particular attention to maintaining the historical detail of the building during the renovation and construction, but one thing they did not keep was the name. Now, this 161-unit apartment

affordable development will be known as the River Crest Apartments. The

nearly century-old brick building features a mail room, wash room, new appliances, paint, carpet, central air conditioning, security cameras and secure parking. River Crest Apartments has lobbies with paneled walls, tile floors and new gas fireplaces.

According to the developers, the goal was to provide good quality living options to residents at a price they can afford. Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan was also present during the announcement, and indicated “It is a completely different place...projects like this are crucial for the city to thrive again”. HUD is pleased to continue to provide a Section 8 housing subsidy for this development and its residents in the City of Detroit.





Flint and Detroit Selected as HUD Placed-Based Communities

Senior HUD Leadership established the [Place-Based Executive Committee in 2015](#) to enhance collaboration and incorporate lessons learned from existing place-based initiatives into the way HUD conducts business, to better support our staff, Federal partners, and the communities we serve in the delivery of our mission. The placed-based operational model emphasizes working across program silos, flexibility, coordination of resources, and partnering with local leaders to build customized strategies that meet local needs.

A “place-based” way of working calls on HUD to coordinate across program offices and with other partners to help communities develop integrated strategies and goals that tackle challenges and embrace opportunities. This Community-focused support allows for community needs and goals to drive HUD resources, expertise, and technical assistance rather than forcing the community’s initiative to fit a specific HUD program.

The Detroit Field Office has selected Detroit and Flint as Michigan’s Place-Based communities and identified four Community Capacity Liaisons who will be serving as the key field contact for their assigned community. They will be responsible for coordinating with local, regional, state, and federal partners for the purpose of empowering their assigned community to strategically address locally-identified priorities and needs. In addition the Field

Office has selected two Data Support Analyst—Daniel Huyck and Mark Sorbo—who will provide direct data analysis and neutral objective information to further community partnerships and discussions.

Mr. Larry Alcantar and Mr. Michael Polsinelli met with Mayor Duggan to kick-off the Detroit initiative and have been holding bi-weekly calls with the City-appointed Place-Based Representative, Ms. Julie Schneider. These calls have focused on establishing roles and responsibilities along with ways HUD is able to better assist the city in areas identified by Mayor Duggan as critical—ending veteran’s homelessness, expanding wireless connectivity to those in public housing, expanding diabetes awareness and collaboration.

Ms. Carrie Fortune, and Messrs. Anthony Martin, Michael Polsinelli, and Daniel Huyck conducted a similar kick-off meeting with the Mayor Karen Weaver of Flint. Mayor Weaver selected Ms. Suzanne Wilcox of the Flint Planning & Development Dep’t to serve as the Place-Based Liaison. Ms. Carrie Fortune and Mr. Anthony Martin have also begun meeting with local non-profits and community leaders to assist the city in identifying the needs and desires of the community.

HUD’s [Office of Economic Development](#) has more information on HUD Place-Based Programs.

US Interagency Council on Homelessness

Opening Doors has helped drive significant national progress—but there is much more work ahead.

As the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness did in 2012 and 2015, it is currently gathering stakeholder input to revise and strengthen the federal strategic plan. You can review a summary of the goals, objectives, and strategies within the current plan in this [Participation Guide](#).

The USICH is emphasizing:

- Building on what is working and leading to positive outcomes;
- Reflecting on what is being learned from evolving practices;
- Addressing areas in need of greater attention, including racial inequities and other disparities in the experience of and risk of homelessness;
- Aligning strategies with emerging federal, state, and local priorities.

Recommendations may be submitted [online](#) before November 15, 2017 (1,000 word limit).

HUD OIG Update

HUD OIG issues affecting HUD grantees/recipients/employees

On September 26, 2017 the HUD Office of Inspector General [released a report](#) showing that some HUD employees used travel cards for potentially improper purchases and purchase cards without all required approvals. Specifically the OIG identified 3,160 travel card transactions (about 3% of all transactions) that totaled more than \$550,000 (about 4% of the total amount charged to travel cards) and contained indications that the employee incurred the charge without a travel authorization—at least 7 days outside all approved trip start and end dates for the cardholder.

Since the audit HUD has created a charge card reference guide [“Understanding your Citibank Credit Card”](#) and updated the HUD Travel Card Management Plan while establishing annual mandatory training for all card holders.

Some quick reminders on what cardholders must never do:

- Use the card for personal use
- Obtain ATM advances that exceed expected out-of-pocket expenditures
- Allow monthly bill to become overdue; this could result in suspension or cancellation
- Wait for receipt of the monthly bill to file claims
- Pay for another employee’s travel card expense(s)
- Write your PIN on the travel card
- Use the travel card for local travel

For more information on travel card dos and don’ts visit the [hudatwork travel page](#).



Mosaic of Knowledge

*“Knowledge is having the right answer.
Intelligence is asking the right question.”*

Stephen Hawking



2017 Consolidated Appropriations Act Suspends HOME Commitment Requirement for Deadlines Occurring in 2016-2019

The FY2017 Consolidated Appropriations Act included a suspension of the 24-month HOME commitment requirement for deadlines occurring in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. As a result HUD will not enforce the 24-Month commitment requirement for deadlines occurring this year or in 2018 or 2019. Other HOME requirements, such as the 15% CHDO set-aside and the 5-year expenditure deadline, remain in effect. Formal guidance on the suspension will be coming shortly, in the meantime please direct your questions to your [closest CPD Office](#).

Free Training for Housing Counselors! >>>

The [Counselor's Corner](#): Training, Membership and all webinars are free. The following courses are upcoming:

- October 18, 2017—[Bankruptcy Basics](#)
- October 25, 2017—[Scam Prevention and Reporting](#)
- October 26, 2017—[Disaster Recovery Road](#)

There are also Hurricane Harvey, Irma, and Maria FEMA [updates](#) available for housing counselors. Please direct any additional questions to housing.counseling@hud.gov

Detroit Affordable Housing Status >>>

The foreclosure crisis had a significant impact on Detroit's home ownership rates. The 2000 and 2010 censuses indicate that homeownership in Detroit was 54.9% and 51.1%, respectively. According to the 2011-15 ACS 5-year estimates, the current rate has fallen below 50%. Meaning Detroit now has more renters than homeowners.

Ms. Desiree Hatcher of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago through its [ProfitWise News and Views](#) publication put together data on Detroit's affordable housing market and the proposed inclusionary housing ordinance. They found evidence that, though affordable options exist within the city, a significant affordable housing gap remains, especially for residents in the lowest income brackets. The data shows the rental market is extremely competitive, with those at or below 30% AMI having the fewest choices and the greatest likelihood of living in the most inhabitable conditions. Identifying Detroit's proposed inclusionary housing ordinance as a means to address the most pressing housing needs of the city.

New Resources Available: Housing First Assessment Tool

HUD continues to encourage CoCs and other homeless providers to implement and strengthen Housing First approaches. To support these efforts, HUD recently released the [Housing First Assessment Tool](#). This tool builds on the work of the USICH's [Housing First Checklist](#). It assists providers and CoCs to document how closely their project's progress is in aligning with Housing First best practices standards, and an individual project can use this tool to identify what they are doing well and where improvements can be made. The Housing First Assessment Tool can be used as an iterative tool to track progress on implementing Housing First over time, and is a great opportunity to initiate Housing First conversations among various levels of project staff. Completion of this tool should take into account the local written standards and CoC policies related to Housing First and lowering barriers. The tool identifies Housing First best practice standards, which in some instances may be more robust than what HUD has previously stated regarding Housing First, and therefore CoCs and projects are invited to use this as a method for improvement.

View the [CoC Responsibilities and Duties Toolkit](#) to access the Housing First Assessment Tool and other resources related to CoC governance and structure Companion documents are coming soon.

Coordinated Entry Community Samples Toolkit

Per HUD's Continuum of Care (CoC) Program interim rule, each CoC is required to implement a coordinated entry system that covers the geographic area of their CoC. To assist in this effort, HUD has recently published a [Coordinated Entry Community Samples Toolkit](#). The purpose of this toolkit is to provide CoCs with a wide array of examples of coordinated entry documents that have been created by communities from across the country. Ideally, this toolkit will allow communities to identify aspects of various coordinated entry approaches that might work well for the development and implementation of their own coordinated entry system.

These sample resources are organized by each chapter topic in HUD's [Coordinated Entry Guidebook](#), and present examples from large, urban communities, as well as suburban and rural CoCs. Regardless of the type of CoC that you are, where you are in your design and implementation process of coordinated entry, these community samples should provide you with additional ideas and examples that can help bolster your local coordinated entry system.



HUD Field Office Updates...

Feds Feed Families >>>

Motown Puts a Dent in Hunger

The Detroit Field Office participated in the annual "Feds Feed Families" campaign. This year the office set a goal to collect 5,000 pounds of food. At the end of the campaign, the Detroit Office exceeded its goal by collecting 5,572 pounds; or nearly 3 tons of food. The food was donated to Gleaners Community Food Bank, which aids people living in Wayne, Macomb, Oakland, Livingston and Monroe counties in the State of Michigan.



Food collected by HUD Staff

To foster healthy competition, the Detroit office was randomly divided into 10 teams, comprised of staff from all divisions. This fostered healthy competition in the office, while giving folks from different divisions a chance to get to know one another better, all for a great cause. The winning team donated over 1,500 pounds of food on its own. The office will celebrate its awesome results at an office wide celebration at the end of the fiscal year. Field Office Director Mike Polsinelli noted "In a region that has struggled economically the past several years, our employees showed that they care about their community. The amount of food they collected blew my mind. The employees here never cease to amaze me."



Helping to load the food (L-R) Carrie Fortune, CPD, Rasheedah Dix, Healthcare, Cindy Vails, CPD, Michelle Terrell, MF Housing, Mary Mathis, MF Housing and Jackie Fultz, MF Housing



(L-R) Tony Otto, CIO; Janet Schwartz, SF QAD; Casey Hines, CPD; Mary Mathis, MF Housing; Jackie Fultz, MF Housing; Cindy Vails, CPD; Mike Polsinelli, FPM; Todd Miller, MF Housing

Detroit >>>

7th Annual "Celebrating a Healthier Detroit" Expo

Mr. Larry Alcantar of the Detroit HUD Field Office participated in the 7th Annual Celebrating a Healthier Detroit Expo held at Milliken State Park in Detroit. Mr. Alcantar provided information on HUD programs and services while responding to inquiries from those in attendance.

The Expo consists of special invited speakers, informational seminars, and exhibits targeting health issues relevant to our community; Preventive care and behavioral health, stress management, obesity and diet-based diseases with an emphasis on childhood obesity, depression, hyper-tension, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, asthma, HIV/AIDS and wellness



final thoughts...

HUD Notices Published During the Last Quarter

PUBLIC HOUSING:

- PIH 2017-18, [HCV—Guidance on Manufacture Home Space Rentals](#), September 7, 2017
- PIH 2017-17 (HA), [Registration of Interest for HUD-VASH Vouchers](#), September 1, 2017
- PIH 2017-13 (HA), [Guidance on HUD's Lead Safe Housing Rule Pertaining to Elevated Blood Lead Levels for the Public Housing, HCV, and PBV Programs](#), August 10, 2017
- PIH 2017-12 (HA), [Administrative Guidance for Effective and Mandated Use of the Enterprise Income Verification \(EIV\) System](#), August 4, 2017
- PIH 2017-11 (HA), [Guidance on Reporting Public Housing Agency Executive Compensation Information for CY2016](#), July 18, 2017
- PIH 2017-10 (HA), [Implementation of the Federal Fiscal Year 2017 Funding Provisions for the HCV Program](#), June 28, 2017
- PIH 2017-09, [Amendment, Public Housing Operating Subsidy Eligibility Calculation for CY 2017](#), May 31, 2017
- PIH 2017-08, [Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 Guidance](#), May 19, 2017

MULTIFAMILY HOUSING NOTICES:

- H 2017-06, [Annual Revisions to Base City High Cost Percentage, High Cost Area and Per Unit Substantial Rehabilitation Threshold for 2017](#), August 31, 2017
- H 2017-05, [Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2013—Additional Guidance for Multifamily Owners and Management Agents](#), June 30, 2017

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT NOTICES:

- 82 FR 150, 36812, [Allocations, Common Application, Waivers, and Alternative Requirements for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Grantees](#), August 7, 2017
- CPD-17-06, [Using CPD Funds for Disaster Response and Recovery](#), June 1, 2017
- CPD-17-05, [Guidance for HTF Grantees on FY 2017 HTF Allocation Plans](#), May 2017
- CPD-17-04, [Reporting Requirements in IDIS for Section 108 Loan Guarantee Recipients](#), May 2017

coming soon >>>

Key Dates/Events

- October—Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- October 20, 2017—Detroit Affordable Housing Conference
- November 9, 2017—U.S. Census Bureau Data Training
- November 13, 2017—HUD Symposium University of Detroit Mercy Law School

HUD Quicklinks

- Connect with HUD on [Social Media](#) and follow Secretary Carson on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)!
- Looking for HUD information, visit HUD's Client Information Policy Systems ([HUDCLIPS](#)), an online resource for forms, handbooks, policies, and other related information.
- Place-Based Updates for place-based grant opportunities and updates please contact Mr. Daniel Huyck at daniel.j.huyck@hud.gov

Employee spotlight...

Two Pillars of HUD move on in Retirement!

Sharon Seaborn

Sharon started her HUD career as a 30-day temporary clerk typist. She was able to turn that into a nearly 39 year career, serving in both Single and Multifamily divisions of HUD. She is a prime example of what hard work and education can lead to, and would advise everyone, not to despise small beginnings, you just never know where they may lead you. In her final position as Chief, Account Executive Branch Sharon's leadership has left a lasting impression.



Barbara Chiapella

Barbara has worked for the Federal government for 30 years. She started her career in Detroit in 1985 with the General Accounting Office after which she moved to D.C., working 15 years on Capital Hill.

She joined HUD in 2000, coming home to Detroit in 2004 as Director of Operations and later the MF Hub Director.

New Addition to HUD Family!

Please join us in welcoming the newest HUD employee to the HUD Detroit Team! James Radcliffe is an attorney in the Office of General Counsel.

James is a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and received his J.D. from the University of Wisconsin. He is living in downtown Detroit and is excited to be joining our team!

