



To our Region III partners:

Each year during the first week of May, we celebrate **Public Service Recognition Week—time set aside to honor the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees.** Throughout the country, mayors, governors, agency leaders, communities and public service organizations issue proclamations; host award ceremonies and special tribute events and deliver messages about the value of public service.

This year, our observance has been a little different. Mandatory stay-at-home orders require the need for a “virtual” acknowledgement. So, I will share the message I sent to HUD’s Mid-Atlantic team earlier this week. I know many of you are also public servants with state and local government. And those who are not, work with public servants as our “boots on the ground” to administer the work that benefits those we serve.

So, let me take this moment to express my sincere gratitude for all the work you do. Thought it may feel a bit forced as it is a message to coincide with Public Service Recognition Week, please know that is not the case.

Never more than now, has your work been so apparent. It’s amazing that in these crazy times, we can feel so much closer together when we are apart. This time has given us the opportunity to sit back and view the region as a whole and take heart knowing the strength of the work you do day in and day out. Not just in one week, not in just one month, but over the course of the entire year. I hope that our team has properly recognized your labor throughout.

When I walked in the door a little less than three years ago, you all took me under your wing without knowing me and guided me along this journey. Every announcement I make, every video I record, every place I visit is not about me—it’s about all of you. I am simply the messenger for the great leaders and the great public servants we have in Region III. Congratulations.

Great work—everyone! Here’s just a sample of what has taken place this week via my weekly Region III Recap.

May is National Foster Care Month



Regional Administrator Joe DeFelice, HUD Mid-Atlantic Region

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More than 20,000 young people age out of foster care each year. Shockingly, about 25 percent of them will experience homelessness. In observance of National Foster Care Month, I'd like to [share this message](#) about HUD's efforts to provide permanent, affordable housing to these young adults through the Foster Youth to Independence initiative.

#MidAtlanticMeetup in Prince George's County, Maryland

As we continue to serve during this challenging time, we created #MidAtlanticMeetup to regularly connect with our local partners across the region to see how things are going for them. This week we traveled to Prince George's County, for a [virtual meeting](#) with Tisa Clark about the work she is doing as a small business owner to promote

HUD's Section 3 program throughout the District of Columbia metro area. We also talked about how her response to COVID-19 earned her a trip to the White House. Joining us for the discussion was our District of Columbia/National Capital Area Field Office Director Marvin Turner.



#MidAtlanticMeetup in Prince George's County

Joe DeFelice, HUD Regional Administrator
Marvin Turner, HUD D.C. Field Office Director
Tisa Clark, President and CEO of JD Clark Professional Services



PA #MidAtlanticMeetup in Erie

Joe DeFelice, HUD Regional Administrator
John Persinger, Erie Downtown Development Corporation
Matthew Wachter, Erie Downtown Development Corporation
Nicole Reitzell, Erie Downtown Development Corporation

#MidAtlanticMeetup in Erie, Pennsylvania

The Erie Downtown Development Corporation team joined me to [virtually discuss](#) the revitalization of downtown Erie, sharing how Opportunity Zones are fueling their work to redevelop the city that has drawn national attention. Chief Executive Officer John Persinger, Vice President of Finance and Development Matthew Wachter and Vice President

of Community Engagement Nichole Reitzell help us understand how they helped transform an entire city block in the nation's poorest zip code.

Third Wave of CARES Act Funding to Public Housing Authorities

More than \$33 million in [additional CARES Act funds](#) will go to Public Housing Authorities in the region, including Moving to Work agencies. Along with this increase in funding, comes greater flexibility in how it can be used to protect employees and residents against the spread of the coronavirus. The funds are being provided through HUD's Mainstream Program, which is a part of the Housing Choice Voucher Program.



A Good News Story from Pittsburgh

Program Attorney James Mazzocco has been volunteering with two food delivery programs through his church. With a food lift program on Saturdays, he picks up donated fresh food items from grocery stores and bakeries and transports them to local food pantries and shelters. He also supports a monthly food pantry program delivering donated groceries to families. In addition, James works with a local COVID-19 neighborhood aid organization to organize a “buddy” program where volunteers are paired with elderly and vulnerable residents for regularly check-ins and companionship to reduce their isolation. Thank you for the great work you are doing! And, thanks to Chief Counsel Sarah Pietragallo for sharing!

As we move forward together, I hope you will continue to follow my travels and our outreach on Twitter [@JoeDeFeliceHUD](#) and [@HUDMidAtlantic](#), on our Facebook page [@HUDMidAtlantic](#) and now, on our new [HUD MidAtlantic Region \(Region III\) YouTube Playlist!](#)

Please know that your work you are doing in response to COVID-19 is not going unnoticed. **I look forward to the time when we can be together again, and I can thank each one of you personally. We will get through this difficult time together.**

Stay safe, stay sane and be well.

Joe DeFelice, Region III Regional Administrator
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Region III Recap, May 8, 2020

Region III Recap & 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. If you know anyone who would like to receive our new Region III Recap or our quarterly HUDLines, please feel free to share. We safeguard and do not rent, sell or permit the use

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