



To our Region III partners:

This week presented a unique opportunity to call attention to the **Department’s “Neighbors Helping Neighbors”** campaign as I joined **HUD Secretary Ben Carson** and U.S. Congressman **Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-01)**, for a visit with a veterans’ community here in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Together, we visited **Veterans Multi-Service Center’s (VMC) Edison 64 Veterans Community**, located on the former site of **Edison High School in the Fairhill neighborhood**. Edison 64 carries out the goal of creating successful, independent lives for low-income veterans through a design of co-locating affordable housing, services, and communal space. After touring the facility and meeting with

supportive services staff, Secretary Carson and Congressman Fitzpatrick served breakfast to veteran tenants.

“Throughout the coronavirus outbreaks, I’ve been inspired by communities’ willingness to lend a helping hand to those in need,” tweeted Secretary Carson. “Today at VMC Edison 64, I was pleased to serve breakfast to those who committed their lives to serve our country.”

The Edison 64 Veterans Community project pays tribute to those who committed their lives to serving our country. Edison High School experienced the loss of more students to casualties in the Vietnam War than any other school in America—64 in total. Please join me for a message from Secretary Carson and a portion of our tour [virtually](#).

Speaking of **Neighbors Helping Neighbors**, I have another local story to share in this week’s **Region III Recap**.

Philly Hometown Hero

A very special shout out to **Project HOME's Sam Santiago** on being recognized as a [WPVI-6ABC Hometown Hero](#). Sam works around the clock tirelessly as one of Project HOME's homeless outreach workers. At HUD, we've seen his unwavering dedication to Philly's most vulnerable citizens firsthand. Each January during the Point-in-Time Count, Sam serves as my guide in efforts to survey the sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations in the city. Here's a photo of us that night—Sam is at the far right. Bravo to him and to the entire Project HOME team for all they are doing right now in this tough COVID-19 environment.



#MidAtlanticMeetup in Virginia Beach, Virginia

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, I had the chance to [virtually catch up](#) with Virginia Beach Mayor Bobby Dyer and Andy Friedman, director of the Virginia Beach Department of Housing and

Neighborhood Preservation, to discuss the **City's HUD-funded eviction prevention program for renters impacted by COVID-19**. The City allocated \$2 million in initial CARES Act funding to start up the program—making a tremendous impact in addressing the housing challenges facing residents as a result of the health emergency, to shelter homeless individuals and prevent people from experiencing homelessness. It's that type of innovative thinking that will help all of us get through this challenging time.

Third Wave of CARES Act Funding through CDBG program

More than \$98 million has been allocated to the Mid-Atlantic region in the allocation of a third wave in CARES Act coronavirus relief funding, through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. To date, HUD has provided over \$3 billion in CDBG funding nationwide to help communities acutely combat coronavirus and alleviate economic hardship. This [allocation uses data](#) on low-income elderly and poor children to



target to places with higher public health risk while also using recent unemployment insurance claims data to provide for states hardest hit by unemployment.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joe DeFelice, Region III Regional Administrator
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
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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 of our lists. To subscribe, visit [HUDLines](#). You may also [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

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