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.

Joe DeFelice, Region III Regional Administrator
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Region III Recap, May 15, 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
of our lists. To subscribe, visit HUDLines. You may also unsubscribe if you no longer wish to receive
our emails.

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
Philadelphia Regional Office
The Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East
Philadelphia, PA 19107