



To our Region III partners:

Much of our work these days has focused on the allocation of CARES Act funding to help America’s low-income families and most vulnerable citizens and to bolster the response and relief efforts in our communities. We have also spent a considerable amount of energy and time communicating about that funding so our partners and those we serve know the work that is well underway.

Today, I joined Pennsylvania Cable Network’s Lyaga Munyofu to talk about the work we are doing to deal with the many challenges caused by the pandemic. Through the CARES Act, HUD has quickly allocated \$358.2



million in funding to help the Commonwealth respond and recovery from COVID-19. But, in addition to helping folks maintain their housing or find housing, we have been able to use CARES Act funding in rural communities where broadband is needed for distance learning and telework. We’ve also responded to fair housing complaints and discriminatory practices that have emerged in this tough time, so our involvement has been broad—and rewarding.

Road Trip!

As many of you know first-hand, this has been a particularly trying time for me since I pride myself on getting around the region and trumpeting HUD’s good work in the field. So, you can imagine how great it is to be back on the road again!

Our first stop? The Milford Wellness Village in Milford, Delaware. Many thanks to Rabbi Yitzchock Halberstam and his team for showing us how they converted a former hospital, which would have sat vacant, into a beautiful facility to serve the community.



Plans for the national demonstration model include adult day care, training, education, childcare, a pharmacy and social services. We discussed opportunities for other rehabilitations in the First State’s Opportunity Zones as well as the Village’s campus as a great potential site for a future HUD EnVision Center.

Mid-Atlantic Opportunity Zones Featured in National Report

A Qualified Opportunity Fund is currently developing a vertical farm in Wilmington, Delaware, with plans to employ State and Federal inmates after release with the goal of reducing the high rates of recidivism. In January 2020, the first ten former inmates began work. A robotics company specializing in medical surgery has relocated to Baltimore, Maryland from Silicon Valley and is receiving a Qualified Opportunity Fund investment. The technology used by the company was developed at Johns Hopkins University; more than 100 engineers are expected to be hired. These are two of the more 20 inspiring stories happening in real time here in the Mid-Atlantic, with action being taken by State governments, local governments, Qualified Opportunity Funds, public-private partnerships, and others to spur revitalizing investments in the areas of most need. The newly released **White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council: Best Practices Report to the President** will prove to be especially helpful and encouraging to communities as they continue to admirably fight the invisible enemy known as COVID-19. You’ll find a copy of the

[full report here.](#)



#MidAtlanticMeetup in Baltimore with Green & Healthy Homes Initiative's Ruth Ann Norton

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, in honor of National Healthy Homes Month, I [met](#) with President and CEO Ruth Ann

Norton of Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) to discuss their long history in breaking the link between unhealthy housing and unhealthy families, focusing on their initiatives, response to COVID-19 and what lies ahead for the Maryland-based GHHI team.

This Week's Important Grant Announcements

\$13.3 Million in Housing Counseling Grants Awarded in Mid-Atlantic Region
Helping households make informed housing choices


District of Columbia: \$6.6 million
Maryland: \$2.3 million
Pennsylvania: \$2.4 million
Virginia: \$1.7 million
West Virginia: \$16,648



#HUDR3

\$3.9 Million in HOPWA Funding Awarded in Mid-Atlantic Region
Providing a combination of housing assistance and supportive services

- Asociación Puertorriqueños en Marcha, Inc. (APM)
(Philadelphia, PA): \$1,292,763
- City of Baltimore, Mayor's Office of Homeless Services (MD): \$1,331,033
- AIDS Interfaith Residential Services, Inc.
(Baltimore, MD): \$1,284,588



#HUDR3

First Lady Melania Trump views Emancipation Proclamation with Secretary Ben Carson on eve of Juneteenth



Ben Carson @SecretaryCarson · 19h

The documents I saw this morning started the greatest ongoing experiment in human history. They outlined a path to freedom for all men, and today I'm a free man, a doctor, and a proud public servant for the greatest country in the world. 🇺🇸: @FLOTUS
[#JUNETEENTH2020](#) 🇺🇸



While You Are Watching

In a recent issue of one of our internal publications, *Office of General Counsel Weekly*, Region III Deputy Regional Counsel Brad Rader shared movies that “cinematically emphasize all things great about Region III.” The impressive list included some excellent legally oriented films such as “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington.” One (or rather, several) of the films mentioned was Rocky—the story of a no-name boxer who gets the chance of a lifetime to beat the World Heavyweight Champion. It’s probably best summed up in a quote from the headliner in his 2008 sequel, “Rocky Balboa.” He said, “But it ain't about how hard you hit. It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward; how much you can take and keep moving forward. That's how winning is done!” Always remember to keep going the distance—taking hits but still moving forward is what matters.

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 Mid-Atlantic YouTube Playlist!](#)

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, June 19, 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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