

To our Region III partners:

On page 36, you'll see a single entry for **Other Qualified Opportunity Funds** focus on the importance of reentry followed by two lines that read: *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.*



Photo by Christian C. Baker | Second Chances Farm



Second Chances Farm Founder Ajit George quipped that he was surprised that anyone noticed. But, what began as a brief mention in the [third report](#) issued by HUD Secretary Ben Carson in his role as Chairman of the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council, resulted in a high-profile visit by two special White House guests. Scott Turner, who serves as Executive Director of the Council, and Pastor John “Tony” Lowden, who serves in the same role for the Federal Interagency

Council on Crime Prevention and Improving Reentry joined me and Wilmington Field Office Director Maria Bynum as Second Chances Farm had the opportunity to showcase their great people, operations and vertical farm. I encourage you to view Scott Turner’s [inspiring talk](#).

I am so proud of the work they are doing—and equally proud that that Second Chances Farm has been singled out to be recognized as a best practice nationwide. I have watched them build their organization from the ground up—literally—and now I look forward to watching them become a model for new ventures in other Opportunity Zones.

Later in the week, we joined NeighborWorks Chief Executive Officer Jesse Ergott along with state and county officials to talk about blight and brownfields in Scranton, Pennsylvania. According to Ergott, this was the first time local stakeholders were all in the same room talking about these issues. I had the opportunity to share some great information on HUD grants and services that can be leveraged with other state and local funding to remediate blight.

Following the roundtable, we toured what was at one point, the first and largest known producer of Nottingham Lace in the United States. During the 1940s, the company teamed up with subsidiaries such as Victory



Parachutes, Inc. and Sweeney Bros. to manufacture parachutes and camouflage netting. Abandoned and in complete disrepair, the site of the former Scranton Lace Company is being transformed to include townhomes, and 31,000 square feet of mixed-use commercial space. The plans to take this from blight to bright are impressive.



We concluded our visit with an Opportunity Zones Roundtable. Together, we outlined available funding sources available to Opportunity Zones, Opportunity Zone preference points as well as an overview of how Scranton municipal and economic development stakeholders can take advantage of CARES ACT funding to ensure the City remains a viable place for growth in the face of COVID-19. Many thanks to my counterparts at SBA, EDA, USDA, EPA, DOE and the U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania for coordinating our visit. It was time well spent.

HUD Mid-Atlantic Economic Empowerment Webinar

Wednesday, August 19, 1 p.m.

- ✓ Learn about Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, including the proposed rule change, finding and posting opportunities and navigating the reporting system.
- ✓ Who should participate? Public housing authorities; multifamily property owners and managers; state and local housing and health agencies and community development corporations
- ✓ Register by August 12 to hold your spot. Space is limited.



SAVE THE DATE! HUD Mid-Atlantic Economic Empowerment Webinar

Please join us to learn how **Section 3 can offer those who receive housing assistance a path forward towards jobs, wealth creation and economic improvement.** Advance registration by August 12 is required to participate. Space is limited. To register, [click here](#).

SAVE THE DATE! Choice Neighborhoods Planning & Implementation Grantee Presentation

Please join Mindy Turbov, Director of HUD's Choice Neighborhoods program, on Monday, July 27 at 2 p.m., **for a presentation about the tremendous efforts of Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Implementation Grantees across the country.** Mindy, who is retiring at the end of this month, will share her perspective on the program and its impact. Applications for the [FY20 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants](#) are due on September 14, 2020. Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants direct resources to address three core areas: Housing, People and Neighborhoods. To join the presentation, [click here](#). The Meeting ID is 861 3515 8689, Passcode: 478083.

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY: Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program

This week, HUD announced a **Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Fiscal Year 2020 Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program.** Posted on www.grants.gov, applications are due on August 24, 2020. The purpose of the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction grant program is to maximize the number of children under the age of six years protected from lead poisoning by assisting states, cities, counties/parishes, Native American Tribes or other units of local government in undertaking comprehensive programs to identify and control lead-based paint hazards in eligible privately-owned rental or owner-occupied housing populations. For more info about the Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program, [click here](#).

IN THE NEWS: Secretary Carson announces HUD's new Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration

Designed to measure the impact of housing choice upon the economic condition of low-income families, HUD's new Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration will allow participating Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) throughout the country to implement housing mobility programs by offering mobility-related services to increase the number of voucher families with children living in opportunity areas. Secretary Carson made the [announcement at a news conference](#) alongside U.S. Senator Todd Young, Former Congressman Sean Duffy, and Public and Indian Housing Assistant Secretary Hunter Kurtz. The demonstration is the result of bipartisan legislation co-sponsored by both Young and Duffy. For additional details, [click here](#).

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, July 24, 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.

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