

To our Region III partners:

We're social distancing and wearing masks, but I have to say—it's great to be back on the road again! This week's two-day tour began in central Virginia with a [swing through the Southwestern](#) part of the state before heading to the hills of West Virginia.

For the first leg of my journey, I joined Richmond Field Office Director Carrie Schmidt for a visit with Stephen Benham and his team at the Hopewell Redevelopment and Housing Authority in Hopewell, Virginia. It was great to hear about their efforts to support their residents with workforce development and financial literacy



initiatives—and through their Section 3 programs. We also talked about the possibility of their current resource center, The STORY, becoming a HUD EnVision Center in the very near future. Community Revitalization Director Tarvaris McCoy, sitting to my right and Davisville/Thomas Rolfe Court Property Manager CaMicha Robertson, sitting to my left, spoke of the great work they are doing to help residents rebound from job and income losses from the pandemic.



Next stop, the Cumberland Plateau Regional Housing Authority (CPRHA) in Lebanon, Virginia. Traveling here, along the Trail of the Lonesome Pine, makes me truly appreciate the diversity of this region. What's unique about this agency is that they serve low-income residents in four of Virginia's rural counties—Russell, Dickenson, Tazewell and Buchanan.

Onsite I met and toured with CPRHA Executive Director Keith Viers and with Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) Service Coordinator LaVonda Wood. They are already doing great work on behalf of residents through their ROSS program—particularly during this pandemic—and the concept of adding a HUD EnVision Center will enable them to expand their current service offerings. So, look for more to come on that note.



For my final tour stop, I headed towards Williamson, West Virginia to meet with Executive Director Pauline Sturgill and her team at The Housing Authority of the City of Williamson (HACW). You may recall that Pauline and I had the chance to chat virtually on a #MidAtlanticMeetup, so it was great to join Charleston Field Office Director Julie Alston for an in-person visit and tour of the Williamson Family Resource Center, the potential site of a new HUD EnVision Center. We also spoke of they are using Section 3 to create training and employment opportunities for residents to break the cycle of generational poverty. Many thanks to Pauline, Keith and Stephen and their teams for a great couple of days!



## #MidAtlanticMeetup in Philly

As we continue our #MidAtlanticMeetup to connect with our local partners, this week I [virtually joined](#) Philadelphia Councilman At-Large David Oh to discuss his work, challenges and concerns amid the COVID-19 pandemic, covering a range of topics from keeping Philadelphians safe to the complexities of his role as a member of City Council.



## More than \$5M in Planning Grants have helped revitalize Mid-Atlantic communities since 2010

- Maryland: \$1.3 million
- Pennsylvania: \$2.3 million
- Virginia: \$1 million
- West Virginia: \$350,000



#ChoiceGrant

#HUDR3

## NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY: FY2020 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants

This week, HUD announced a **Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Fiscal Year 2020 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants**. Posted on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), applications are due on September 14, 2020. With this publication, HUD is making available up to \$5,000,000 for two-year grants of up to \$450,000 each to assist communities with severely distressed public or HUD-assisted housing in developing a successful neighborhood transformation plan and carrying out early action activities to build the support necessary for that plan to be successfully implemented. Since 2010, nine Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants totaling just over \$5 million have grown into six \$30 million Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants in Baltimore, Maryland; Newport News and Norfolk in Virginia and in Philadelphia (2 awards) and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. **That's a total of more than \$185 million invested in improving communities throughout the Mid-Atlantic.**

## IN THE NEWS: Secretary Carson Joins DCHA to Read "Cat in the Hat"

District of Columbia Field Office Director Marvin Turner (right) joined HUD Secretary Ben Carson (left) and District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) Executive Director Tyrone Garrett (center) for a tour of DCHA's new Customer Solutions Center. During the visit, Secretary Carson read a book as part of the "Summer Reading with Secretary Carson" series.



Throughout the summer, Secretary Carson is publishing weekly story time videos for children and parents on [his Instagram channel](#). In addition to reading, the series will also highlight several of HUD's initiatives that focus on educational advancement, including the EnVision Centers Initiatives and Book Rich Environments. DCHA is home to a designated EnVision Center and is one of 39 public housing authorities in 22 states across the country supporting the Secretary's Book Rich Environments initiative as a local partner.

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.

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  
Region III Recap, July 17, 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](mailto: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