



To our Region III partners:

Last Friday, Deputy Regional Administrator/Pittsburgh Field Office Director Jane Miller and I had the pleasure of joining HUD Secretary Ben Carson as he traveled to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to commemorate the One Year Anniversary of the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) program. Secretary Carson (center) attended a Foster Youth roundtable alongside U.S. Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA, pictured left), with me (at right), local leadership, and a FYI voucher recipient, Leibrynn Russell.



Since the initiative was launched in June of 2019, 26 states have received FYI funding, equating to more than 665 individual vouchers, totaling over \$5.4 million in funds to prevent or end homelessness among young adults under the age of 25 who are in, or have recently left, the foster care system without a home. In total, the Commonwealth of



Pennsylvania has been awarded \$82,844 in FYI funds for 14 vouchers. Allegheny County Housing Authority has been awarded \$42,359 in FYI funds to provide seven foster youth, including Leibrynn, with assisted housing.

I hope you will take a few minutes to [virtually](#) join us for this inspiring day at the Pleasant Ridge Community Center as we celebrate the One Year Anniversary of the FYI program.

The Department of Health and Human Services estimates there are more than 20,000 young people who age out of foster care each year. Shockingly, about 25 percent of these young people will experience homelessness within four years. Something had to be done to help. The FYI initiative prioritizes housing resources for at-risk youth and provides young people with the tools they need to become self-sufficient through supportive services. For too long, foster youth have been forgotten when it comes to affordable housing—but we are committed to changing that. Since we launched FYI last year, 75 vouchers for former foster youth have been awarded to public housing authorities in Pennsylvania and Virginia, with more to come.

We continued our tour with a visit with Chief Operating Officer Christine Pietryga and her team at the Veterans Leadership Program in Pittsburgh. You may recall, Christy was one of our guests for our first [#MidAtlanticMeetup](#) way back in April. It was great to have the opportunity to meet in person and to showcase VLP's great work on behalf of Veterans with Secretary Carson and Senator Toomey. I totally agree with Secretary Carson's tweet that VLP "is a prime example of what we can accomplish when local communities and government come together to ensure that those who sacrificed



greatly for our Nation are not left behind.”

On the Road: Touring an Opportunity Zone in Coatesville, Pa.

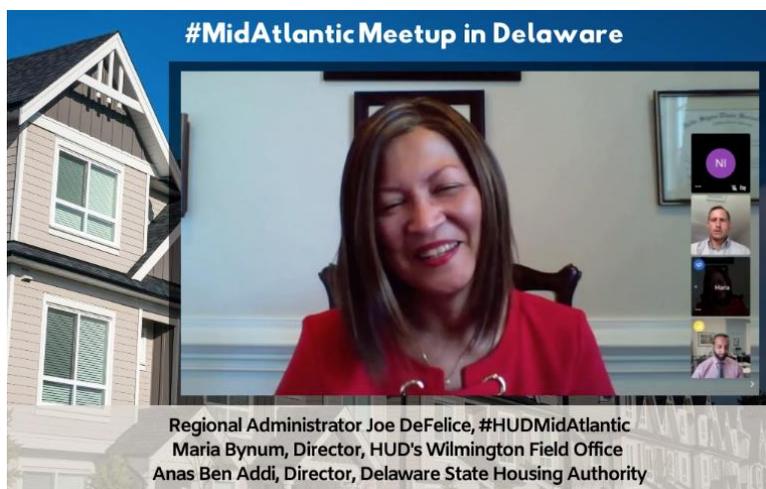
This week, we traveled to Coatesville to meet with Susan Springsteen, President and CEO of H2O Connected. H2O Connected is the first Qualified Opportunity Zone Fund (QOZ) business in Chester County, Pennsylvania. During our visit, we learned how her firm, as part of the Coatesville 2nd Century Alliance, is combining QOZ real estate and QOZ



businesses (some of which are women-owned) to further employment and on-the-job training for chronically unemployed and reentry personnel. This is a great example of Made in America manufacturing of electronic products, sustainability, youth STEM (and life) mentorship, mentorship and partnering with Coatesville entrepreneurs.

#MidAtlanticMeetup with the Delaware State Housing Authority

Our [#MidAtlanticMeetup](#) this week featured Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA) Director Anas Ben Addi. Along with Wilmington Field Office Director Maria Bynum, we covered a wide range of topics from DSHA’s mission and response to COVID-19 to their efforts to help public housing



residents and college graduates achieve their homeownership goals. We also touched on DSHA’s 20th anniversary as a Moving to Work agency, which gives them greater flexibility to improve housing choice and self-sufficiency for low-income families.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors in West Philadelphia

Connecting neighbors to resources

Since the early days of the coronavirus outbreak, Jeffrey Jordan’s front porch has been a hub for life-sustaining resources in West Philadelphia’s Belmont neighborhood.

His porch is serving as a central location where the community can access a wide range of resources, including free meal sites, cleaning supplies, learning and enrichment activities for school-aged children,

COVID-19 testing information and more. Thanks to the resource hub, more than 2,500 masks have been distributed. Jeffrey is employed as a community outreach coordinator through the U.S. Department of Education’s Promise Neighborhoods Grant. Administered by Drexel University, the grant is helping to improve the educational, health and wellness and economic outcomes of children, youth and their families in distressed communities across West Philadelphia. The resource hub was born out of the Promise Neighborhoods team’s efforts to find meaningful ways to support the community in response to the pandemic. The impact of the team’s out-of-the-box thinking grows every day—with their bags of resources now reaching residents in a nearby housing development managed by the Philadelphia Housing Authority. The Belmont neighborhood is in the West Philadelphia

Promise Zone, a federal designation made in 2014 that's bringing comprehensive revitalization to the area.

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](#).

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY: Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program

Last week, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced a **Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)** for more than \$275 million to help address lead-based paint hazards and other health and safety hazards in **PRE-1978, privately-owned housing**.

Posted on [grants.gov](#), applications for the Lead Hazard Reduction (LHR) grant program are due by August 24, 2020. An additional \$12 million is available through a second [NOFA](#), **Healthy Homes Production Grant Program for Tribal Housing**, to assist American Indian tribal governments identify and remediate housing related health and safety concerns.

Through these grant programs, HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) promotes local efforts to eliminate dangerous lead hazards from lower income homes, stimulates private sector investment in lead hazard control, and educates the public about the dangers of lead-based paint. For more info about the Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program, [click here](#).

WEBINAR ANNOUNCEMENTS: HUD's OLHCHH will be presenting an interactive Webinar on **Wednesday, August 5 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.** The Webinar will provide an overview of the HUD FY2020 Lead Hazard Reduction Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and general information on the application process to potential applicants. There will be a Questions and Answers segment. **To register for the 2020 Lead Hazard Reduction NOFA Webinar, [click here](#).** After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

A second interactive Webinar covering the **2020 Healthy Homes Production for Tribal Housing NOFA** will be hosted on **Thursday, August 6 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.** To register for this Webinar which will also include a Questions and Answers segment, [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.

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 31, 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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