



**On the Road & In the News**

According to the [Mon Valley Independent](#), the City of McKeesport was on the federal government’s radar this week as we visited McKeesport, Pennsylvania. We met with city housing authority officials as well as city Community Development Director, Sen. Jim Brewster (D-McKeesport), our new Pittsburgh Field Office Director Michael Horvath, Deputy Regional Administrator Jane Miller and Mayor Michael Cherepko (left to right, with me at the far right). A wide range of topics included how the city can better utilize Opportunity Zone grants as well as HUD Community Development Block Grants and other state programs to eradicate blight.



We also met with McKeesport Housing Authority’s Executive Director Stephen Bucklew (center) and Deputy Executive Director Diane Raible (far left) as well as McKeesport Councilwoman LuEthel Nesbit (second from left). During our time together, we spoke about how the agency is currently utilizing Section 3 and how the addition of a HUD EnVision Center may add an addition tool for their residents’ paths to self-sufficiency.

“One of the best ways for me to understand HUD is to get out and visit. I’ve visited 190 counties in the past three years. We’re going out to the communities, talking to the people

about the issues they are hearing. I think that's a better approach. I'm not here to talk to you; I'm here to hear from all of you," I was quoted. The article also noted the idea for the visit to McKeesport was suggested by Pennsylvania Lt. Gov. John Fetterman after we met in Braddock, where Fetterman was the former mayor.



#### Touring in Pittsburgh, Pa.

The evening before the McKeesport tour, I had the pleasure of joining Allegheny County Housing Authority Executive Director Frank Aggazio and Police Chief Mike Vogel and several members of their force for a ride through the housing authority's properties. Not only was I impressed by the rapport they have within the communities in which they serve, it was great to talk with both residents and officers about the issues they face each day. Many thanks to Director Aggazio and Chief Vogel for making time for me—and for a great evening tour of the City of Bridges. Impressive.



Please join me in welcoming **Michael Horvath** as our new **Pittsburgh Field Office Director**. Michael is a native of Pittsburgh, Central Catholic grad, who comes to us from his previous position as Field Office Director of the United States Citizenship & Immigration Services,

also in Pittsburgh. As you can see from [video](#), Michael is eager to get started. Our visit this week in McKeesport was an excellent way to get Michael acquainted to HUD field work. Please join me in welcoming him to the HUD team.



### Neighbors Helping Neighbors in Central Pennsylvania

The Housing Authority of the County of Dauphin (HACD) in Steelton, Pa., is helping families prepare for the upcoming school year, holding back-to-school picnics. Comcast donated more than 200 backpacks and school supplies for school-aged children at HACD's various properties. "We can't wait to see the kids' faces," said a member of the HACD team.



**HUD Mid-Atlantic Economic Empowerment Webinar**  
Offering a Path to Self-Sufficiency  
Wednesday, August 19, 1 p.m.



**REGISTRATION IS ENDING SOON! DON'T MISS OUT!** Join us for the **HUD Mid-Atlantic Economic Empowerment Webinar**—[CHECK OUT MY VIDEO](#) to hear why! 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](#).

## More than \$275 million available in Lead Hazard Reduction Grants

Applications now being accepted for two programs:

- FY 2020 Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program
- FY 2020 Healthy Homes Production Grant Program for Tribal Housing
- First-time applicants are encouraged to apply!
- Apply by August 24, 2020



*Did you know? Approximately 24 million homes built before 1978 have significant lead-based paint hazards.*

### NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY: Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program

On July 22, 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](https://www.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](#).

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, August 7, 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.

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