



September 18, 2020



Opportunity zones, criminal justice reform change lives

In his inaugural address, President Trump promised “the forgotten men and women of America will no longer be forgotten.” Over the past three and a half years, the Trump administration has worked to help Americans on the margins and create opportunities for everyone to pursue their own American Dream.

This theme of opportunity for all is evident in a number of areas, from trade policy to tax reform. **But nowhere is it more apparent than in the policies that have lined up to enable one business in Wilmington, Delaware that we visited Monday: Second Chances Farm.**

Second Chances Farm is a distillation of two of the president’s key priorities: creating job opportunities for low-income Americans and reforming the criminal justice system.

First, the president’s 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act included the creation of Opportunity Zones to spur investment and revitalization in some of America’s poorest communities. Working with governors across the country, the Trump administration has approved nearly 9,000 communities as Opportunity Zones, incentivizing long-term investment through capital gains tax relief in low-income areas, bringing real jobs and sustainable growth.

The Department of the Treasury anticipated \$100 billion in greater investment over the 10-year life of the Opportunity Zone incentive. These policies are working at a rapid pace: In just two years, the President’s Council of Economic Advisors found that Opportunity Zones have driven \$75 billion in new investment. These investments are expected to lift one million Americans out of poverty.

Building on this private sector success President Trump established the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council to target, coordinate, and streamline Federal resources to distressed communities in education, workforce development, safe neighborhoods, and entrepreneurship in historically neglected neighborhoods. Recently, President Trump issued an executive order instructing federal agencies to prioritize locating in these distressed areas.

At the same time, President Trump signed into law the First Step Act in 2018, addressing long-term policy failures that kept many non-violent offenders locked up for years. The First Step Act has helped reduce sentences for non-violent offenders while at the same time helping inmates successfully return to society through rehabilitative programs. Because of the First Step Act, thousands of these non-violent offenders have had their sentences reduced or been released early and are now reintegrating with society.



Together, these key actions by the Trump administration have helped Second Chances Farm to thrive. This indoor farming facility was built in an Opportunity Zone by founder Ajit George and employs several dozen former inmates. **Using hydroponics and LED lights, Second Chances Farm is providing Wilmington with fresh,**

local organic produce year-round, while also providing former inmates with good jobs and stimulating economic growth in the community. [To join us for a virtual tour of the day, please [click here.](#)]

For the former inmates employed though, this isn't just a job. **One former inmate and Second Chances Farm employee, KaLief Ringgold, said, "being here is not a second chance, it saved my life."** That kind of testimony from an employee is exactly what Opportunity Zones and the First Step Act are all about.

We are proud of the way that Second Chances Farm and businesses like it are using Trump administration policies to create opportunities for all Americans. Together we are ensuring that the forgotten men and women of this country have their own opportunity to achieve the American Dream.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson & White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council Executive Director Scott Turner



As far as participating in the **NYC Outer Boroughs Opportunity Zones Virtual Forum** on Wednesday, the timing could not have been more perfect. Hosted by developer Michael Bailkin, who only two days before joined us at Second Chances Farm in Wilmington, Del. to announce that he will be collaborating with SCF Founder Ajit George to open a second farm in

Philadelphia, I capitalized on the opportunity to join my federal counterparts to talk about the availability of and how to access HUD funding for investments in Opportunity Zones.

In Delaware Valley, Pa.

I also had the opportunity to join Malik Boyd's The Heart of the City Radio Show to talk about how Opportunity Zones are positively impacting communities and their residents. It was great to talk about how Second Chances Farm's new collaborator Michael Bailkin said that he

intends to use Philadelphia as a headquarters for a second site, while opening satellite farms in 'older industrial cities' throughout Pennsylvania. Great news to share—and wonderful to have a local platform to share it.



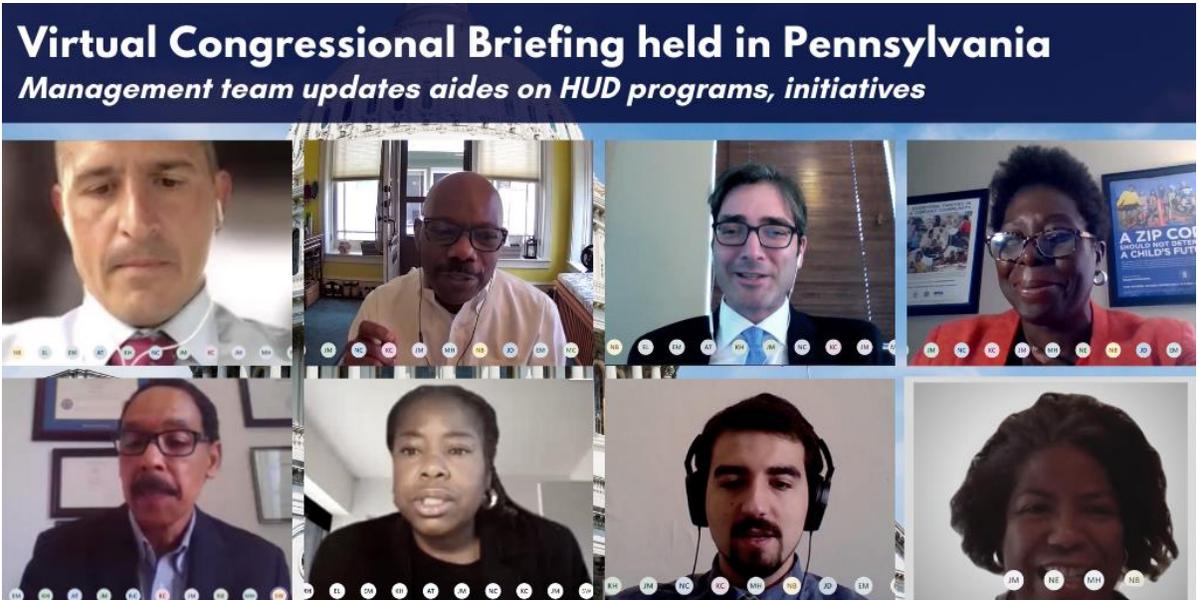


Groundbreaking for New Housing for Individuals Living with Disabilities

On Wednesday, I had the pleasure of joining Baltimore Field Office Director Carol Payne, Howard County Executive Calvin Ball, Senator Guy Guzzone, iHomes President Judi Olinger and Standard Energy Solutions President and Chief Executive Officer Steve Welsh for a groundbreaking of the Greenfields Community Living Project in Jessup, Md. This \$1 million project will create three single-family group homes for nine individuals with disabilities.



This groundbreaking is a testament to what we can achieve through public-private partnerships. I'm proud more than \$400,000 in HUD funding will help people with disabilities live independently in their community. As the nation continues to battle COVID-19, our focus will remain on protecting the most vulnerable communities and uplifting them in economic recovery. Photos courtesy of Howard County Government.



Thank you to all the Pennsylvania congressional offices for joining our first virtual briefing on September 16.

\$161 million in CARES Act funds to help communities with higher risk of evictions

Delaware: \$5.1 million

District of Columbia: \$5.2 million

Maryland: \$26.5 million

Pennsylvania: \$81 million

Virginia: \$35.7 million

West Virginia: \$7.5 million



Third Round of Community Development Block Grants



On September 11, Secretary Ben Carson announced the allocation of the remaining \$1.988 billion in CARES Act funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The allocation, more than \$161 million in the Mid-Atlantic, focuses funds towards places with households facing higher risk of eviction. For details, [click here](#).



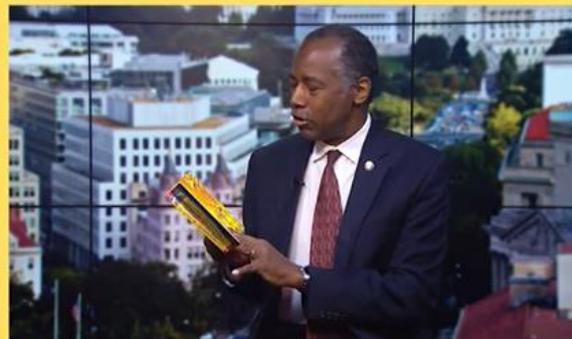
REGISTER NOW! PLEASE JOIN US for a Webinar on Lead-Safe Housing in Delaware's Rental Market on September 21! In collaboration with the State of Delaware's Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) invites you to an interactive virtual webinar on Federal and State of Delaware Lead-Based Paint Regulations on Monday, September 21 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Designed for Delaware public

housing authority staffs, landlords and property managers, the webinar will help these leaders get up to date in their efforts to continue Lead-Safe Housing compliance activities. The session will provide a background on lead, including the history and negative health effects. To register, [click here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar. We are very excited about this upcoming opportunity to work with our First State partners to "spread the word" about how we can create Lead-Safe Housing in Delaware's Rental Market. So, REGISTER NOW!

summer reading



Gil Myers
Assistant Curator,
National Zoo



Dr. Ben Carson
Secretary of HUD

Summer Reading Series Concludes with Secretary Carson & a National Zookeeper

This week's *Summer Reading with Secretary Carson* takes us to the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, D.C. Gil Myers, assistant curator of Cheetah Conservation Station, joins Secretary Carson to read "Giraffes Can't Dance" by Giles Andreae and Guy Parker-Rees. This is the final story time video for children and parents to view on Secretary Carson's [Instagram channel](#). In addition to reading, the series highlighted several of HUD's initiatives that focus on educational advancement, such as the EnVision Center initiative and Book Rich Environments. To view the video [click here](#).

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Constitution Day reminds us of the genius of this great American experiment. We must turn to the wisdom of the past to guide us in the present, and continually draw upon the great figures of our history to elevate our minds, ennoble our souls, and inspire our deeds today. Divine providence placed great men in Philadelphia over 230 years ago and we must not squander the tremendous inheritance they left to us and our posterity.

DR. BEN CARSON, SECRETARY

Secretary Ben Carson, September 17, 2020

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, September 18, 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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