



October 16, 2020



**Creating New Opportunities for Residents in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

Several years ago, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson traveled to his hometown of Detroit to announce the first round of ‘EnVision Center’ designations in 18 communities around the nation. As one of Secretary Carson’s signature initiatives, EnVision Centers offer HUD-assisted families access to support services that can help them achieve self-sufficiency, thereby making scarce federal resources more readily available to a greater number of households currently waiting to receive HUD assistance. To date, we have opened 60 Centers nationwide.



So, you can only imagine the great day we had this week as Secretary Carson traveled to Pittsburgh to help us announce the latest HUD EnVision Center designation, located at the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh’s (HACP) Bedford Hope Center. HACP Executive Director Caster Binion was joined by Secretary Carson and HUD’s delegation including me, Deputy Regional Administrator Jane Miller, Pittsburgh Field Office Director Michael Horvath and Special Assistant Phil Trometter.

The Bedford Hope Center is owned and operated by HACP and located within the historic Hill District neighborhood’s Bedford Dwellings public housing community. Since implementation of HACP’s HUD HOPE VI Grant 20 years ago, the Center has been the heart of the community and a ‘one stop’ resource for all HACP residents – public housing, housing choice voucher, project-based voucher housing, and Section 3 residents. Gail Felton, who serves

as the Tenant Council President of Bedford Dwellings, drove home that message as she shared her path to self-sufficiency with all in attendance.

“EnVision Centers were derived from the belief that HUD’s true measure of success is not how many individuals we can bring on to our assistance programs, but how many families we can lift out of poverty and set on the path to self-sufficiency,” said Secretary Carson in his remarks. “EnVision

Centers aim to empower Americans to stand on their own by providing people the tools they need to succeed, all located in one centralized hub.”

Pictured above in the ceremonial photo (left to right) are HACP’s Board of Commissioners Chair Valerie MacDonald-Roberts, Tenant Council President Gail Felton, Executive Director Caster Binion, Secretary Carson, HACP Director of Resident Initiatives Brandy Weatherspoon (back row), HACP Chief Community Affairs Officer Michelle Sandidge, me, HUD’s Pittsburgh Field Office Director Michael Horvath, Management Analyst Ashley Kappeler and Deputy Regional Administrator Jane Miller.

**Our second stop was a trip back to McKeesport where we met with Mayor Michael Cherepko and his team** as well as other stakeholders to discuss how they can capitalize on the Opportunity Zones. The Secretary was able to hear firsthand about best practices in neighboring Erie from the Flagship Opportunity Zone’s Tim Wachter and the Erie Downtown Development Corporation’s Matt Wachter, two brothers focused on improving their city. It was great to hear their ideas and to facilitate the discussion.



We wrapped up our busy day with a trip to McKees Rocks and a **visit with the Allegheny County Housing Authority Executive Director Frank Aggazio and his team**. If all goes according to plan, we will be making another trek to Western Pennsylvania at some point to announce yet another EnVision Center in the Mid-Atlantic. So, stay tuned.



Joining me for a quick photo (left to right) at the Allegheny County Housing Authority (ACHA) are HUD’s Michael Horvath, Jane Miller and me along with ACHA’s Deputy Director Beverly Moore, Executive Director Frank Aggazio, Police Chief Michael Vogel and Officer Christopher Mancino.



**Federal Partners Talk Community Development & Tour Pocono Organics**

It was great to be in the Poconos on Wednesday for a visit with Pocono Organics beside the Pocono Raceway in Blakeslee, Pa. They really are serious about farming and sustainability and make sure they employ veterans as well as special needs children and young adults in their diverse workforce. It was great to learn about their operations and will be looking for ways we may be able to work together as far as housing opportunities in the future. Many thanks to U.S. Small Business Administration’s Elmo Rinaldi for setting up the visit as well as SBA’s Steve Bulger, U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development Curt Coccodrilli and USDA Farm Service Agency’s Gary Groves for letting me tag along.



**HUD joins PHA to Break Ground on Sharswood Ridge**

Many thanks to Senior Advisor Elvis Solivan for representing the agency as the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) in partnership with Mosaic Development Partners and SHIFT Capital, broke ground on Sharswood Ridge, a 234,000 square foot mixed-use development that will deliver housing and neighborhood retail

to North Philadelphia’s Sharswood commercial corridor. The development will advance the priorities of PHA’s ongoing Sharswood/Blumberg Choice Neighborhood Initiative, which was designed to elevate the quality of life for local residents through improved housing, neighborhood conditions and career opportunities. To view the groundbreaking event in total, [click here](#).

DC ENVISION CENTER & FDIC MONEY SMART PRESENT:



**THE FINANCIAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP SERIES**

**VIRTUAL CLASSES VIA WEBEX**

You will learn everything from basic money management to finding, and adjusting your Credit Score for the better.

**WEDNESDAY 1 P.M. to 2:30 P.M.**  
 October 21st & 28th  
 November 4th, 11th, & 18th  
 December 2nd, 9th, & 16th



SPACES ARE LIMITED • REGISTER TODAY!

**The District of Columbia EnVision Center and FDIC Money Smart Present: The Financial Education Workshop Series** on Wednesdays, beginning October 21 at 1 p.m. Learn everything from basic money management to finding and adjusting your credit score for the better in virtual classes conducted by Ivery Himes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Once

registered, attendees will receive a Webex invite via email. In addition to the October 21 class, sessions will be hosted from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on October 28, November 4, 11 and 18 and December 2, 9 and 16. You must have computer access to attend the workshop series. To register please call 202.645.5023 and leave a message with your name, contact number, and email or email Justin Cartagena at [jcartagena@dchousing.org](mailto:jcartagena@dchousing.org) to register for the eight-session workshop series.

**SAVE THE DATE! PLEASE JOIN US for an Interactive Virtual Panel Discussion on “Making A Home Lead Safe” on October 29!** In collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Maryland Department of the Environment, HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) **invites you to an interactive virtual panel discussion on Making a Home Lead Safe on Thursday, October 29 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. What makes this interactive virtual discussion different from your typical webinar?** We want to hear your questions. We want to answer your questions. You may submit your questions in advance when you register, or you can ask questions during the presentation. Intended for homeowners, REALTORS®, first-time homebuyers, do-it-yourselfers and contractors, you’ll learn why lead is so dangerous and what you can do to assure your home remains lead safe. To register, [click here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the discussion. We are very excited about this upcoming opportunity to work with our Free State partners to “spread the word” about how we can create Lead-Safe Housing. So, REGISTER NOW!

**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, October 16, 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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