



October 23, 2020



A “Big Check” Day in Allentown, Pennsylvania

This week I had the opportunity to take **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Deputy Secretary Brian Montgomery** to the City of Allentown where we awarded over \$10 million in funds to remediate and abate lead in homes and to help move the Da Vinci Science Center from the outskirts of town to the middle of downtown to bolster access and enhance downtown life. Mayor Ray O’Connell was on hand to accept the two big checks.

Pictured above, City of Allentown Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Operations Manager Tom Williams, Mayor Ray O’Connell, Deputy Secretary Montgomery and DCED Community Housing Manager Heidi Westerman joined me, at right, for the presentation of the “Big Check” for a \$5 million Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Grant to address lead hazards in 310 low-income housing units in the city. An additional \$700,000 will support efforts to eliminate other housing-related health hazards.



The second “Big Check” for a \$5.6 million loan will support the construction of a new Da Vinci Science Center in downtown Allentown. The Section 108 loan guarantee program provides HUD Community Development Block Grant recipients with enormous flexibility to finance important economic development projects.

“We are pleased to see that Allentown will use these Section 108 funds to support the construction of a new science learning facility that will focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) education,” Deputy Secretary Montgomery said in his remarks.

Adding in for the second ceremonial photo to the right of Deputy Secretary Montgomery are Director Erickson, Da Vinci Science Center Chairman of the Board James McLean and HUD Philadelphia Community Planning & Development Director Nadab Bynum.



We then joined **Tom Williams** for a tour of an Allentown Redevelopment Authority housing rehabilitation project in progress and one now completed—as part of city efforts to eliminate blight using Community Development Block Grants. The tour was followed by a roundtable with our federal partners Curt Coccodrilli from USDA Rural Development and Steve Bulger from the U.S. Small Business Administration about developing Opportunity Zones in the City.



Deputy Secretary Montgomery and I pose for a photo with federal and local partners after discussing the city's economic development efforts and federal funding opportunities.



We finished the day with a tour of the existing Da Vinci Science Center and are happy that we can assist with the construction and redevelopment to serve a larger swath of people, especially those without access to transportation. According to Director Erickson who led our tour, the move will put the new center within a one mile walk of at least half of the city's residents.

A special thank you to Nadab Bynum who oversees our Community Development Block Grant for attending and adding his expertise. Director Bynum, far right, joined me, Deputy Secretary Montgomery and Director Erickson for a quick photo to memorialize our visit. To "tour" with us through a collection of photos of the day, please visit us on [Flickr](#). What a great day in the Lehigh Valley!



Cherry Orchard Place to Open in Harrisburg, Pa.

Congratulations to Dauphin County Housing Authority Executive Director Leah Eppinger and their partners on the soon-to-open development for Harrisburg area seniors. Cherry Orchard Place, a 49-unit senior community, will provide housing options for seniors aged 62 and older, including disabled individuals and qualified veterans requiring support services, unit visitability and accessibility. It was my pleasure to represent the agency at the October 16 ribbon cutting. From the \$500,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to the project-based and HUD-VASH vouchers, I'm proud HUD is helping seniors, veterans and the disabled age in place and live independently.

Making A Home Lead Safe

An Interactive Virtual Panel Discussion on
October 29



Please join the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) for an **INTERACTIVE virtual panel discussion on Making A Home Lead Safe on Thursday, October 29 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon.**

What will we cover?

- EPA Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (RRP)
- HUD/EPA Lead Disclosure Rule
- HUD's Lead-Safe Housing Rules
- HUD insured single-family mortgages
- Maryland's Reduction of Lead Risk in Housing law

REGISTER NOW! PLEASE JOIN US for an Interactive Virtual Panel Discussion on “Making A Home Lead Safe” on October 29! In collaboration with the EPA and MDE, 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 10:30 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 housing authorities, property management companies, 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. Help us “spread the word” about how we can create Lead-Safe Housing. **So, REGISTER NOW!**

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, October 25-31, 2020

Each year National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) is a call to bring together individuals, organizations, industry, and state and local governments to raise awareness of lead poisoning prevention and reduce childhood exposure to lead.

This year’s NLPPW highlights the many ways parents can reduce their children’s exposure to lead and prevent the serious health effects of lead. EPA, along with HUD and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, works to raise awareness, provide resources, and encourage preventive actions to decrease childhood lead exposure during the week and beyond. To learn more about how you can promote NLPPW, visit [EPA’s website](#).

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY: HUD FY2020 Healthy Homes and Weatherization Cooperation Demonstration. With the publication of this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), HUD is making available up to \$5,000,000 for weatherization grants. Posted on [www.grants.gov](#), applications are due on November 9, 2020. The Demonstration grants for localities that are served by both Healthy Homes and Weatherization Assistance Programs are designed to meet the following goals and objectives: Identify effective strategies for coordination between Lead/Healthy Homes (LHH) and Weatherization programs that maximize program efficiencies and benefits to occupants. Reduce Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) deferrals through coordination with LHH programs. Establish sustainable models of inter-program cooperation, including data sharing, reporting, and targeting/recruiting clients. Identify effective models for the sustainable financing of coordinated healthy homes/weatherization interventions. Identify effective strategies for coordination between Lead/Healthy Homes (LHH) and Weatherization programs that maximize program efficiencies and benefits to occupants. For more information, [click here](#).

Now that I am back on the road again, I look forward to the time when we can be together again—with proper social distancing protocols, of course.

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 23, 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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