Regional Administrator Jackson Visits the Black Hills

HUD’s Regional Administrator for Region 8, Dominique Jackson joined Sioux Falls Field Office Director Roger Jacobs on visits to Rapid City and the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation during the first week of August.

RA Jackson’s visits included the United Native American Housing Association meeting where she gave the opening remarks, and the Black Hills Area Community Foundation where she presented a congratulatory plaque for their recent Secretary’s award for Public Philanthropic Partnerships. Jackson also visited Pennington County Housing Authority and the Community Enrichment Division of the City of Rapid City.

RA Jackson’s visits in Pine Ridge included learning about and touring Thunder Valley, a Community Development Corporation, and the Oglala Partnership for Housing where they recently purchased an RV to take services out to the homeless within the reservation.
Veteran Tiny Home Project Breaks Ground in Sioux Falls

On June 30, Veterans Community Project (VCP) Village broke ground at 376 N. Willow Ave. on a 2-acre lot in northwest Sioux Falls. VCP Village is a specialized community of 25 tiny homes with on-site support services designed to equip homeless Veterans with the tools needed to return to a stable, prosperous, independent life. The City of Sioux Falls gifted the land and contributed over $500,000 of CDBG funds for infrastructure. The City has been in discussions since 2019 about the project and has seen similar “villages” in Kansas City and Longmont. Two others are under construction in St. Louis and Oklahoma City.

Each tiny house provides new furniture, appliances, housewares, bedding, personal items, and utilities all free of charge. The homes offer sanctuary and the emotional space needed while the VCP’s specially trained team to address the underlying causes of their homelessness. With the support of case managers and battle buddies, Veterans work to achieve lasting results in health and wellness, income stability, education and training, fiscal understanding, and development of a support network. Once their goals are met, VCP assists in securing a permanent housing solution and transitioning to a new life. The goal is to have veterans in homes by Christmas. For more information go to their website.

HUD Partners with FDIC for Homeownership Webinar

On June 23rd, in recognition of Homeownership Month, the South Dakota HUD Office and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) co-hosted a webinar titled “Expanding Access to Homeownership in South Dakota.” Roger Jacobs and Carla Tillmon, FDIC Community Affairs Specialist moderated the event. 66 lenders, service providers, housing counselors and other community housing stakeholders attended the webinar. The webinar focused on promoting collaboration between financial institutions and affordable housing community organizations, highlighting affordable housing programs, and providing resources that financial institutions and community organizations can use to support economic inclusion. Topics covered were home buying assistance programs, South Dakota Native Homeownership, and the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA).

FHA Offers Flexibility for Borrowers Previously Affected by COVID-19

FHA published Mortgagee Letter (ML) 2022-09 which allows flexibility in qualifying borrowers who experienced gaps of employment or income loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, read the ML.
The Cheyenne River Housing Authority received $3.9 million and $1.3 million in IHBG funds to build 24 rental units in Eagle Butte. They received $1.2 million in ICDBG funds to complete interior repairs on 40 rental units to ensure their long-term viability.

The Sisseton-Wahpeton Housing Authority received $5 million and $1.9 million to build 42 rental units.

The Crow Creek Housing Authority received $1.2 million in ICDBG funds to rehabilitate 15 rental units and 14 owner-occupied housing units.

The Lower Brule Housing Authority received $1.2 million in ICDBG funds to purchase 5 single-family manufactured homes.
**Black Hills Area Community Foundation Receives Housing Award**

On June 28, the Black Hills Area Community Foundation was one of seven entities across the country that received the 2022 Secretary’s Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships, announced by HUD and the Council on Foundations.

The Black Hills Area Community Foundation, with CEO Liz Hamburg, partners with the City of Rapid City, Elevate Rapid City, and John T. Vucurevich Foundation to increase the supply of affordable housing in the Rapid City area.

The Rapid City Strategic Housing Trust Fund engaged private, public, and philanthropic partners to raise approximately $13 million with a forward goal of $20 million. The foundation allows for donor tax benefits and the ease of fund deployment.

**Measures to Help Lower Energy Costs for Low Income Tenants**

HUD recently announced new measures to connect over 4.5 million low-income families who receive assistance from HUD to solar power to help lower their energy costs. HUD funding to support this is through the Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs.

In 2021, HUD implemented a new energy and water savings incentive program for small rural housing authorities entitled the "Small Rural Frozen Rolling Base" program. Conservation measures enables the housing authorities to retain utility cost savings from efficiency or capital investments. HUD is launching an educational campaign and partnership to encourage more usage of the incentive and help housing authorities to partner with weatherization providers to access low-cost energy efficient measures.

To learn more about the program, go [here](#). To see if your housing authority is one of the 27 South Dakota housing authorities on the list, click [here](#). The list of properties that meet the income eligibility requirements for Dept. of Energy’s Weatherization program can be found [here](#).

**HUD Provides COVID-19 Vaccination and Housing Information to Teachers**

Sioux Falls Field Office Director Roger Jacobs staffed an informational booth at the annual Career and Technical Education Program (CTE) conference in Sioux Falls, SD. The CTE conference helps educators enhance classroom instruction through the development of skills and knowledge while allowing a networking opportunity for educators, administrators, CTE professionals, and industry partners.

The conference was attended by high school and college teachers from across the state. Jacobs provided rental housing information and a flyer for participants on COVID-19 vaccinations for children ages six months to five years old.

Many teachers expressed concerns that their students are not prepared to enter the housing market as renters and appreciated the information to be able to assist them as they transition from school life to career life.

**New Housing Tool Available for Persons with Disabilities**

HUD and the Department of Health and Human Services launched the Housing and Services Resource Center (HSRC) for persons with disabilities. The HSRC is a one-stop place for resources, guidance, and technical assistance to support community-based housing for persons with disabilities. For more information, go to the [website](#).