President Obama took time to visit Flint, he was joined by the Governor, Flint Mayor, the Secretaries for the EPA and HHS along with other Federal officials. During his visit the President participated in a small round-table discussion with community members to hear first-hand how the water crisis has impacted them. He followed up this meeting by addressing a crowd of approximately 1,000 community members at Flint’s Northwestern High School.

During his time in Flint, the President vowed Federal support for Flint residents. He exemplified the current safety of Flint’s water by drinking some of it himself. He vowed to ensure that every drop of water flowing to Flint resident’s homes is safe to drink and safe to cook with and safe in which to bathe.

The President highlighted the nine million liters of water and more than 55,000 water filters provided by Federal resources since the crisis began. Despite drinking the water, he urged Flint residents to use filters for their drinking water and to make sure that children received medical check-ups. At the end of the briefing he took a sip from a glass of filtered Flint water saying “This used a filter. You know, the water around this table, you know, was Flint water that was filtered and it just confirms what we know scientifically, which is that if you’re using a filter, if you’re installing it, then Flint water at this point is drinkable.” He followed this up by saying pregnant women and children under six should drink bottled water out of an abundance of caution.

Emphasizing the time it will take to replace all of Flint’s pipes the President noted it may take a year, or two, or perhaps more to replace all the pipes.

On May 4, 2016 President Barack Obama visited the city of Flint to hear first-hand from Flint residents about the public health crisis, received an update, and delivered remarks.
On March 29, 2016 the Flint Housing Commission and over a dozen local partners collaborated on a lead testing and informational family fun day event! The Flint Housing Commission hosted the event at the Brennan Community Center. They were supported by a grant from the United Way. Transportation to the events from each of the public housing sites was provided by Flint MTA. Genesee Health System brought their mobile unit and provided free blood testing and Communication Access Center provided interpreters. The event would not have been successful without the support of these entities.

Over 250 public housing residents participated in the event, learning more about the water situation in Flint, lead-testing, water filtration, access to health services, and overall how to keep their families healthy. Sixty adults and children were tested for lead and while the demand for blood-level testing exceeded the available capacity of the mobile unit, further follow-up has been coordinated with those individuals who wished to be tested.

The participants celebrated the Family Fun Day through music, singing, dancing, face-painting, balloon animals, a bounce house, and raffles.

HUD and the Flint Housing Commission wish to thank those who participated in the event, including: Hamilton Community Health Network, Genesee County Health Department, EPA, MDEQ, Michigan State Police, Genesee County Sheriff’s Department, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, The Red Cross, SC2/Choice Neighborhoods, Social Security Administration, Genesee Health Plan, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, MSU Extension, and the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan to name a few.

The event was planned by the Flint Housing Commissioner Geraldine Redmond, Terrence Clark, Frank Woods, Charlotte O’Neal, Tiffany Mayers, Patrick Julian, and Karen Lopez.

Eyes on Flint
In light of the tragedy in Flint, HUD is dedicated to providing resources and education to the residents of Flint

Lead Testing and Informational Family Fun Day!

Interagency Community Recourse Exhibition

More than 200 people attended the Saturday, April 16, 2016 Open House. Participants included Federal, State, and Local governments, as well as representatives from the public and private sectors. A sample of participant include: Small Business Administration, Michigan Department of Education, Genesee County Intermediate School District, Michigan State Police, Michigan Works!, Department of Natural Resources, Mission Flint, Senator Gary Peter’s Office, National Kidney Foundation, Genesee County Health Department, U.S. Centers for Disease Control, NSF International, Valley Area Agency on Aging, and many others.

The EPA, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and Virginia Tech conducted a joint presentation on Flint drinking water. The event was hosted by the University of Michigan-Flint as part of its annual Earth Day event.

The Michigan State University College of Nursing was on hand provided free blood-lead level, kidney function, blood pressure, and BMI testing.
Built in 1924, the former Strathmore Hotel stands on West Alexandrine in Detroit’s Midtown and the Willis-Selden Historic District. A red-brick building, eight stories high that ran as an apartment hotel for 40 years then as an apartment complex until 2004. The historic building has stood vacant for the past decade, but has since undergone a $28.4 million renovation via Midtown Detroit, Inc. and development partner McCormack Baron Salazar of St. Louis. The funding was provided by: Low-Income Housing and Historic Tax Credits, HUD, MSHDA, MEDC, City of Detroit, U.S. Bank, Invest Detroit, Detroit Development Fund, Enterprise Community Partners, Ford Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, Hudson-Webber Foundation, and Midtown Detroit, Inc.

The newly renovated Strathmore provides 129 premium apartments, 52 of which must be offered to low to moderate-low income households, along with 2,000 square feet of retail space at ground level. The location, recently listed by Today as one of the top up-and-coming neighborhoods around the USA, provides access to everything the City has to offer. Housed in the beautiful brick façade of the historic Strathmore Hotel. These renovated apartments offer timeless style in the convenience of the most vibrant walkable neighborhoods in Detroit.

features >>>

Community Features:
- Historic Building
- Garage Parking
- On-site Bike Storage and Bike Station
- On-site Upscale Fitness Center
- Pets Allowed
- Free Wi-Fi in First Floor Common Areas
- New Light Rail Stop within 1000 Feet
- On-Site Pet Spa and Grooming Stations
- Secure Entry with Resident Intercoms
- Community Room with Kitchen, Large Screen TV, Pool Table

Interior Features:
- Ceiling Fans in Bedrooms
- Double Bowl Sinks with Disposals
- Wood Style Blinds
- USB Charging Station in Kitchens
- Energy Efficient Fixtures/Appliances
- Ceramic Tile Floors and Tile Surround w/Steel Tubs in Bathrooms
- Granite Countertops/Maple Cabinets
- Smoke Free Living
- Wired for Cable TV/Satellite
- “Subway” style ceramic wall tiles

“The redevelopment of...the Strathmore is a great boost for Detroit no matter how you look at it.”
Mayor Duggan
On June 9, 2016, the Detroit Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) hosted its 6th Annual All Grantee Meeting. CPD invited staff from the more than 45 Entitlement communities and participating jurisdictions across the State to attend the one-day conference. The purpose of the conference was to provide basic to advanced program and financial management training for CPD grants as well as providing an opportunity to share best practices and network with fellow professionals.

Topics covered at the meeting were focused on the most recent program updates and cross-cutting areas of interest, to include Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing, Section 3, Housing Trust Fund, Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS), Disaster Recovery & Reporting System (DRGR), and one-on-one time with each assigned CPD Representative. Also, for the first time for this event, CPD presented the topics remotely. With the help of Fair Housing, Field and Policy Management, HUD Headquarters, and State partners the information was presented both on-site and via Live Meeting. This allowed grantees from as far away as Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Niles, and Benton Harbor to participate from their respective cities. Feedback on the Live Meeting aspect is still being gathered, but the goal is to expand the model for the Continuum of Care (CoC) portion of the meeting. This would allow smaller CoCs with limited travel budgets and who are geographically diverse to attend future meetings.

CPD would like to pass along their thanks and kudos to Mr. Anthony Otto, HUD IT Specialist, who patiently worked with them to set-up the links required to make the Live Meeting a success. CPD would also like to thank each of the presenters for their efforts. Finally they would like to thank all the attendees for attending. Presentations are available upon request to Mr. Keith Hernandez, CPD Director, Keith.E.Hernandez@hud.gov, 313-234-7326. CPD would also like to remind everyone that fire safety and preparedness is very important!

The presenters >>>
- Welcome—Mr. Keith Hernandez, Detroit Field Office CPD Director
- Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing—Mr. David Long, FHEO Branch Chief
- Section 3—Ms. Nefertari Kirkman-Bey, Field and Policy Management
- Housing Trust Fund—Ms. Michele Wildman, Chief Housing Investment Officer (MSHDA)
- IDIS—Mr. Robert Peterson, HUD Headquarters
- DRGR—Ms. Jennifer Alpha, Program Manager of TDA Consulting

HUD outreach >>>

Grant-Specific HOME Deadlines

New Grant-Specific HOME Deadline Compliance Status Reports Now Posted!

HUD has begun to phase out the First-in-First-out accounting methodology. The changes require grantees to tie activity funding/commitment and draws to specific grants in IDIS. The initial IDIS changes implemented grant-specific accounting beginning with the FY2015 HOME allocations. Future grants will continue to utilize grant-based accounting while funds from pre-2015 will continue to be committed and disbursed using the FIFO method.

On June 10, 2016 HUD posted the New Grant-Specific HOME Deadline Compliance Status Reports online. The new report will be generated by HUD at the end of each month and will reflect each HOME participating jurisdiction’s (PJ’s) commitments and expenditures for each HOME grant beginning with FY 2015 grants. HUD is in the process of developing new HOME regulations describing the grant-specific method of determining deadline compliance. While HUD is not currently enforcing the grant-specific accounting it highly encourages PJS to track the requirements shown in the grant-specific and cumulative versions in anticipation of the future rule change.
**Mayor’s Challenge to End Veteran’s Homelessness Update:**

May is military appreciation month and a great time to provide information on the Mayor’s Challenge to End Veteran’s Homelessness. The Mayor’s Challenge is a call to action first announced by First Lady Michelle Obama in 2014 as part of the Joining Forces initiative. More information relating to the general program is available on this [website](#).

Michigan communities that have accepted the challenge:
- Mayor Christopher Taylor of Ann Arbor
- Mayor Mike Duggan of Detroit
- Mayor Karen Weaver of Flint
- Mayor Rosalynn Bliss of Grand Rapids
- Mayor DeAndre Windon of Highland Park
- Mayor Virg Bernero of Lansing
- Mayor Dave Campana of Marquette
- County Executive L. Brooks Patterson of Oakland County
- Mayor Kenson Silver of Southfield
- Mayor Rick Sollars of Taylor
- Mayor William R. Wild of Westland


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**HUD Guidance on Criminal Records**

*As many as 100 million U.S. adults—nearly 1/3 of the population—have a criminal record of some sort...*

On April 4, 2016 HUD’s Office of General Counsel [issued guidance](#) on Application of Fair Housing Act Standards to the Use of Criminal Records by Providers of Housing and Real Estate-Related Transactions.

Noted in this guidance is a housing provider violates the Fair Housing Act when the provider’s policy or practice has an unjustified discriminatory effect, *even when* the provider had no intent to discriminate. Under this standard, a facially neutral policy or practice that has a discriminatory effect violates the Act if not supported by a legally sufficient justification. Thus where a policy or practice that restricts access to housing on the basis of criminal history has a disparate impact on individuals of a particular race, national origin, or other protected class, such policy or practice is unlawful under the Fair Housing Act if it is not necessary to serve a substantial, legitimate, nondiscriminatory interest of the housing provider, or if such interest could be served by another practice that has a less discriminatory effect.

Public Housing regulatory restrictions relating to criminal history are outlined in [PIH Notice 2015-19](#). In this notice PHAs are given broad discretion regarding admission requirements within applicable laws. The regulations only specifically require the non-admittance of two types of offenders—those who were evicted or convicted of manufacturing or distributing methamphetamines in a PHA or those subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a State sex offender registration program. See 24 C.F.R. § 960.204 (Tenant Based Vouchers) and § 982.553 (Low Rent Public Housing).
HUD Participates…

USDA Summer Food Service Program >>>

USDA’s Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) ensures that low-income children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is out. HUD is encouraging its multifamily developments and its housing commissions to become a feeding site for the SFSP. Target communities for the SFSP are those facilities in Alcona, Alpena, Oscoda, Montmorency, Arenac, Tuscola counties. Urban target areas include Detroit, Flint, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Benton Harbor, and Lansing.

SFSP sponsors are responsible for all administrative and financial requirements for a feeding site.

For more information regarding the SFSP please contact the HUD DFO or Ms. Stephanie Willingham at 517-3335-4289.

Michigan Minority Procurement Conference & Business Opportunity Exchange >>>

Annual event hosted by NMSDC that is attended by more than 2,000 attendees and bringing together the nation’s best minority business and corporations.

The Detroit Field Office of Field and Policy Management, Community Planning and Development, and Fair Housing hosted a booth at the National Minority Supplier Development Council’s Michigan Minority Procurement Conference & Business Opportunity Exchange on May 4-5, 2016. Attendees were informed on HUD’s Section 3 requirements and given information on how to expand opportunities for public housing residents and low-income workers and to increase contracting opportunities for local businesses.

Information was provided on the BusinessUSA mobile app and HUD’s Section 3 Business Registry. Additional information is available on Section 3 on the HUD website. The BusinessUSA site includes links to Federally Funded Construction Opportunities that when used in conjunction with the BusinessUSA Mobile App helps connect RFPs and bid notices to small contractors in the local area of Federal grantees and subgrantees, including non-profits, property developers, construction companies, cities, counties, states, metropolitan planning organizations, and local governmental units. Tutorials are also available on this site.

Landlord Coalition Resource Fair >>>

An outreach to local landlords to provide education and resources to increase participation in HUD rental programs

On June 1, 2016 the HUD Detroit Field Office participated in the Landlord Coalition Resource Fair to inform existing, new, and potential landlords on the benefits of housing section 8 and VASH voucher holders. Also discussed were some of the more common Fair Housing pitfalls such as failing to allow for service animals. For more information relating to the Landlord Coalition Subcommittee please contact Mr. Daniel Huyck, Management Analyst with HUD’s Field and Policy Management.

Underwriting/RAD Training >>>

HUD Office of Public Housing Training and Outreach Events

HUD provided a Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) training at the Upper Peninsula Association of Housing Organizations (UPHO) Spring Conference on April 18-20, 2016. The presentation was led by Mr. Chad Ruppel of HUD’s Office of Public Housing.

On June 1, 2016 HUD provided a development and RAD training to the city of Flint and the Flint Housing Commission (FHC). The training was led by Ms. Luci Ann Blackburn of HUD’s Office of Public Housing Investments. Flint and the FHC have also toured the Indianapolis Housing Authority, Grand Rapids Housing Commission, and the Detroit Housing Commission to gain more information and understanding on mixed finance developments and to observe the development achievements of these agencies.
Once again, HUD asked Public Housing Authorities, Multi-Family Agencies, and residents across the county to host Father’s Day events during the month of June. By using Housing as a Platform to improve the quality of life for our residents HUD’s Father’s Day Initiative provides an ideal opportunity for delivering a wide variety of health, wealth management/budgeting, and supportive services.

The Initiative was developed by the Office of Public and Indian Housing in response to the stark socio-economic data indicating how children and youth are being negatively affected by father-absent homes. Since starting in 2011, the initiative has experienced tremendous growth from 209 events to nearly 1,200 events lead by PHAs and Multi-Family Agencies held events across the country in 2015. Michigan PHAs coordinated 38 of these events. The continuous support of Father’s Day allows thousands of fathers to connect with their children, and serves as a reminder that they are a necessary part of their children’s lives.

Men in subsidized housing communities are not always integrally connected to services. One of the key goals of HUD’s Father’s Day Initiative is to help connect men to resources that can improve their lives and the lives of their families. Some fathers may need help with job training or employment resources, others with access to health services. Father’s Day events provide an opportunity for men to connect to resources that will allow them to become more employed AND continue regular engagement with their kids. The more fathers become engaged and the more resources they access, the more they can support mothers in parenting.

Federal agencies and national advocacy groups have joined HUD’s mission to use Father’s Day to help men find resources that will benefit the whole family. This presents a tremendous opportunity to assist the men, women, and children within the community.

Not sure how to celebrate families in your community? Start small. Sign on to already existing events with local agencies and non-profits. Work with your local partners. Identify and meet the needs of the men, women, and children within your community by making resources available in the following areas:

- Health Care
- Wealth Management/Financial Planning/Budgeting
- Education Opportunities
- Job Training
- Corporate/Government Support

Additional ideas are available at: [www.hud.gov/fathersday](http://www.hud.gov/fathersday)

**Why host a Fathers Day?**

Over 24 million children, 1 out 3 nationally, live in father-absent homes. These children face increased risks of poor outcomes across every measure of child well-being.

According to the national Fatherhood Initiative [www.fatherhood.org](http://www.fatherhood.org) children from father absent homes are more likely to:

- Be poor
- Be abused
- Use drugs
- Drop out of school
- Commit crime
- Suffer poorer physical health outcomes

**How to I register? >>>**

To register a PHA or Multi-Family complex visit the [www.hud.gov/fathersday](http://www.hud.gov/fathersday) link, click on the right of the page and follow the simple instructions.

Registration is open at least through the end of June. If you are having trouble registering please contact Mr. Ronald Ashford (Ronald.t.ashford@hud.gov) at 202-402-4258.

**Last Year’s Event >>>**

Here is an article from an event last year held by Benton Harbor outlining the impact such events have on a family. The Ultimate Reality Check, The Heald-Palladium, Friday, June 12, 2015 (Benton Harbor)

**what types of events qualify? >>>**

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HUD is the Department of Opportunity. We not only provide opportunities for American families to secure a home, we also strive to lay the foundation for future prosperity.

Brainpower is the currency of success. Education is crucial because we know that the jobs of the 21st century global economy increasingly require more than a high school degree.

On April 26th, high school seniors across the nation participated in National College Signing Day. The tradition began in May 2014 through First Lady Michelle Obama's Reach Higher initiative which encourages students to continue their studies beyond high school.

In recognition of the day, the Detroit Field Office and HUD employees wore college apparel from their alma matter in an effort to highlight the importance of higher education and to raise

Chandra Broadnax (Meredith), Amanda Shaughnessy (MI State), Angela Foster (Saginaw Valley State), Daniel Huyck (University of Minnesota), David Kimball (West Point), Doug Gordon (Eastern Michigan), Pat Conner (Wayne State), Ratico Lake (Ohio State), Brenda Blaies (Ohio State), Mike Polsinelli (University of Michigan)
HUD Notices Published During the 3rd Quarter

PUBLIC HOUSING:
- PIH 2016-10, Rev. 1, PH Operating Subsidy Eligibility Calculations for CY 2016, June 9, 2016
- PIH 2016-09 (HA): HCV Family Moves with Continued Assistance, Family Briefing, and Voucher Term’s Suspension, June 6, 2016
- PIH-2016-06 (HA): Administering the Self-Certification Flexibility when Verifying Community Service and Self-Sufficiency Requirement (CSSR) Compliance, April 7, 2016
- PIH-2016-05 (HA): Streamlining Administrative Regulations for Programs Administered by Public Housing Agencies, April 7, 2016.

MULTIFAMILY HOUSING NOTICES:

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT NOTICES:
- CPD-16-10 Reporting Requirements for the State Performance and Evaluation Report (State PER) May 5, 2016
- CPD-16-09 Duplication of Benefits Guidance for CDBG-DR and SBA Loans, May 12, 2016
- CPD-16-05 Instructions for Urban County Qualification for Participation in the CDBG Program for FYS 2017-2019, April 14, 2016

Employee spotlight...

Instead of any one employee we would like to recognize and thank those who participated in the DFO’s April 28, 2016 Take Your Child to Work Day. A special thank you to those planners who made the extra effort to make it a memorable day for the children!

GSA Car Reservations

The DFO has four cars available for use, assigned to CPD, Public Housing, and Multi-Family. Before using the cars make sure you reserve the vehicle on the DFO Administrative Sharepoint scheduling site and return the completed packet as soon as you have finished. This prevents the double-booking of vehicles and ensures the keys and paperwork are available for the next user. Information on GSA vehicle responsibilities is available here.

Key Dates/Events
- July 26-27 Multifamily All-Staff Meeting
- Bridging the Gap Can Drive—runs through August 31
- August 10—National S’Mores day
- September 30—last day of the 2016 fiscal year