Secretary Ben Carson Visits Detroit

**Detroit is Secretary Carson’s First Stop**

On March 15, 2017 Secretary Carson began his national listening tour in Detroit vowing to “hear directly from key stakeholders who rely on and support...housing.”

Secretary Carson was sworn in on March 2nd as the Department’s 17th Secretary. Once sworn in Secretary Carson committed to an ambitious listening tour of select communities and HUD Field Offices around the country. This tour began on March 15, 2017 in Secretary Carson’s native Detroit.

Prior to becoming Secretary of HUD, Dr. Carson served as Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at the Johns Hopkins Children’s Center, a position he assumed when he was just 33 years old, making him the youngest major division director in the hospital’s history. Dr. Carson received dozens of honors and awards in recognition of his achievements including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor. He is also a recipient of the Spingarn Medal, which is the highest honor bestowed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Dr. Carson has written nine books, four of which were co-authored by his wife of 41 years, Candy. Together they co-founded the Carson Scholars Fund, which celebrates young people of all backgrounds for exceptional academic and humanitarian accomplishments. The Fund has recognized more than 7,300 scholars, awarded more than $7M in scholarships, and installed more than 150 Ben Carson Reading Rooms throughout the U.S.

Born to a single mother with a 3rd grade education who worked multiple jobs to support their family, Secretary Carson was excited to return to Detroit and listen to the concerns of HUD employees and meet with local HUD recipients. While here Secretary Carson met with HUD Field Office Employees, attended the opening of Hartford Village, ate lunch at a local Detroit Restaurant assisted by Motor City Match, visited several HUD housing developments and his namesake Benjamin Carson High School.

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For the first time in its 38 year history, PBS’s *This Old House* is spending its 36th Season in the city of Detroit. The season will consist of a 10 episode dive into renovating a Russell Woods-area home built in 1939. The current owners purchased the home from the Detroit Land Bank Authority after it sat vacant and abandoned for four years. The home was subject to smash-and-grabs of its copper assets while suffering extensive water and roof damage.

At the same time the show will follow the Rehabbed and Ready team as they restore another 1930’s home in the Crary-St. Mary’s section of the Grandmont-Rosedale area of Detroit. As a part of the DLBA, the program partners with Quicken Loans and Home Depot to update neglected homes in the Detroit neighborhoods. The Grandmont-Rosedale home had been abandoned for years, despite being in a location where many owner-occupants were caring for their homes. The home was severely damaged, missing all its piping, and filled with garbage. Repairs on the home touched in every room and included new counters, new cabinets, new bath fixtures, and new flooring.

The more than $100,000 in rehabilitation done to the Grandmont-Rosedale home and nearly as much for the Russell Woods project provide viewers more information about the entire city of Detroit, from its many urban renewal projects, like urban gardening, to its hard-working community-focused people.

The Grandmont-Rosedale home went on the market in early January with a list price of $77,900, gaining a lot of immediate attention. Ultimately it sold on April 21, 2017 for a reported $80,000, more than double the average neighborhood price of $34,000 as reported by Realtor.com.

The show’s plumbing and heating expert, Richard Trethewey was in Flint on January 25, 2017 to highlight Flint’s efforts to replace its lead-tainted pipes. Flint’s Fast Start Program will be featured showing the process involved in replacing a lead residential service line. Flint’s Fast Start Initiative, done in cooperation with the Lansing Board of Water & Light, was launched in February 2016 in an effort to get the lead out of Flint.

Phase I of the program targets high risk households in Flint, these are households with children under 6, children with elevated blood lead levels, pregnant women, senior citizens, residential day care facilities, people with compromised immune systems, and households where water tests indicate high levels of lead at the tap. Based on recent surveys, the total number of service lines needing to be replaced is estimated to be between 18,000 and 28,000 and will take about 3 years to complete.

As noted above, Flint’s water pipes are currently being replaced and Flint residents have a guarantee that the resources required to replace all the pipes will be in place. In addition to replacing the pipes, money has been ear-marked for water-testing programs far beyond that required by law for years to come. The additional testing is designed to rebuild the trust between Flint residents and their elected leaders.
Hartford Village, located in Northwest Detroit celebrated its grand opening on March 16, 2017. The property, an 84-unit, mixed-income senior community—with 39 cottages and an apartment building with 46 independent living units—was financed with a mortgage loan insured through FHA’s 231 program. While the property is not subsidized, 20 percent of the total units are set-aside as affordable.

Construction of the development began in August 2015 and the first residents were welcomed to the property in November 2016. The ribbon cutting was attended by HUD Secretary and Detroit native Dr. Ben Carson, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, and Detroit City Council Pro-Tem George Cushingberry, Jr., among many others.

The property fills a need for high-quality housing for those who are not interested or able to maintain a single family home and those seniors with fixed incomes searching for affordable housing. The property offers 24-hour security, support services, and is near community anchors such as the Northwest Activities Center, Marygrove College, and Sinai Grace Hospital.

Overview

One of Detroit’s most unique and modern senior living communities, Hartford Village combines the elegance of a private gated community with the easy access to cultural amenities that only life in the city can bring. A collaboration between Hartford Memorial Baptist Church and Presbyterian Villages of Michigan, Hartford Village’s stunning cottages and apartment homes offer seniors 62 and older the opportunity to live the life they want in a truly one-of-a-kind setting. Each home at Hartford Village is fully furnished with kitchen appliances, air conditioning, and washer and dryer, and offers a maintenance-free lifestyle with friends just steps away. Located a short walk from the Northwest Activities Center and a short drive from doctors, grocery stores, and great shopping, life at Hartford Village is Detroit senior living at its best!
**May is a Month of Recognition and Remembrance**

May is a month where we should all take a moment to recognize those who have dedicated their lives to public service. We do this by recognizing our public service individuals during Public Service Recognition Week from May 7-13, 2017.

This is followed by a day of gratitude and remembrance for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our nation—Memorial Day. Memorial Day, May 29, 2017, is a day for remembering those who died while serving in our country’s armed forces. While we pay our respects we must continue to remember those veterans who are still suffering. If you know of a veteran suffering or contemplating suicide please refer them to the Save22 Veteran Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-8255.

**HUD OIG Update**

**Update on HUD OIG issues affecting HUD grantees/recipient**

HUD’s public housing operating fund requires PHAs with 250 or more units to adopt an Asset Management approach to managing their public housing programs in order to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness while better protecting each asset. An overview of the history of the Asset Management model may be found here.

PHAs throughout the country have been incorrectly implementing asset management which puts the agency at risk of using public housing funds to support non-program-related costs in violation of 2 C.F.R. Part 200.

It is important that those PHAs operating under an asset management model fully understand the fiscal and operational requirements of that model. HUD has conducted training on the model as well as other information on its website. Frequently asked questions regarding the Asset Management model are available here.

A link to HUD’s asset management training is available here and includes training materials on: The Central Office Cost Center, Fee-for-Service, Assigned Balance Sheets, Allocating and Prorating Staff, Project Based Budgeting, Energy Conservation, Procurement, Site-Based Waiting Lists, Physical Needs Assessment and Asset Planning, and Proposed PHAS and Troubleshooting Performance. If you have any additional questions please contact Andrea Williamson at 202-475-8607.

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**HUD’s Place-Based Initiatives—Helping Communities Together >>>

**Flint and Detroit Selected as HUD Placed-Based Communities**

Senior HUD Leadership established the Place-Based Executive Committee in 2015 to enhance collaboration and incorporate lessons learned from existing place-based initiatives into the way HUD conducts business, to better support our staff, Federal partners, and the communities we serve in the delivery of our mission. The placed-based operational model emphasizes working across program silos, flexibility, coordination of resources, and partnering with local leaders to build customized strategies that meet local needs.

A “place-based” way of working calls on HUD to coordinate across program offices and with other partners to help communities develop integrated strategies and goals that tackle challenges and embrace opportunities. This Community-focused support allows for community needs and goals to drive HUD resources, expertise, and technical assistance rather than forcing the community’s initiative to fit a specific HUD program.

The Detroit Field Office has identified four Community Capacity Liaisons who will be serving as the key field contact for their assigned community. They will be responsible for coordinating with local, regional, state, and federal partners for the purpose of empowering their assigned community to strategically address locally-identified priorities and needs. The Detroit Field Office CCLs are: Larry Alcantar (Detroit—Primary), Daniel Huyck (Detroit—Secondary), Carrie Fortune (Flint—Primary), and Gerald Henry (Flint—Secondary).

The Detroit Field Office also selected two Data Support Analysts who will directly support the local CCLs and Regional Community Resource Coordinator by providing data, maps, and analysis. The purpose of the DSA is to provide neutral objective information to ground discussions of priorities and strategies brought forward by the community working groups and CCLs. The Detroit Field Office Data Support Analysts are Daniel Huyck and Mark Sorbo.

Over the next couple weeks, in an effort to work with the communities in a partner-oriented, problem-solving approach to placed-based efforts, the CCLs will reach out to their assigned communities to establish working groups. These groups will likely include those individuals who oversee HUD grants and programs within each of the selected communities along with community representatives, and other key stakeholders. Working cooperatively with city partners, state and federal partners, and those individuals overseeing HUD grants and projects, the working group will develop a set of community based goals and objectives. Once these goals and objectives are established the working group will report on their status quarterly.

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**The Flow of Funds**

[Diagram of the Flow of Funds]

[Caption: The Flow of Funds diagram showing the interaction between HUD, PHAs, and other stakeholders in public housing funding processes.]
30-Day Public Comment Period for CPD Action Plans Waived
HUD recently released a memo which revises procedures for the submission and review of action plans for the FY2017 funding of CPD grantees. The timing of enactment for the FY 2017 appropriations act may leave insufficient time for grantees to complete their pre-submission or pre-amendment citizen participation process before the statutory August 16, 2017 submission deadline. To address this potential issue HUD has issued a waiver of the regulatory 30-day citizen participation public comment period in favor of a 14-day comment period. This waiver applies to all CPD grantees and is in effect only until August 16, 2017. Read the Memo on the HUD Exchange.

Clear Corps Detroit >>>
CLEARCorps Detroit can replace your old, inefficient refrigerator with a brand new Frigidaire Energy Star rated model from Lowe’s. To qualify you must be a DTE Energy customer, your current refrigerator must have been built before December 2000, you cannot be in Shutoff, and you must meet a maximum income requirement. CLEARCorps Detroit will process 80 complete and qualified applications a month on a first come first served basis, which may result in a waiting period. To apply visit http://clearcorpsdetroit.org/our-programs/refrigerator-replacement or download and print the application here.

RAD Updates >>>
Congress authorized the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) to create a new tool for public housing agencies (PHAs) to address the daunting backlog of capital repairs in the nation’s public housing stock and to stem the loss of affordable units. This month, just four years after HUD made its first awards under this budget-neutral program, PHAs and their partners have cleared a major milestone! They have crossed over 60,000 units and raised a total of $4 Billion to rehabilitate and in some cases replace affordable properties from the ground up with new construction. The program has been so successful the 2017 budget authorization act increased the cap on the program by 40,000 public housing units nationwide. These additional units will be pulled from the existing waiting list, and will likely include a couple of our Michigan housing commissions.

New Resources Available: Tools for Ending Youth Homelessness
HUD announces the release of new products, guides, and tools to help communities end youth homelessness. The products are focused on for topic areas:

1. Coordinated Entry for Youth Brief — provides an overview of the four Coordinated Entry core elements: Access, Assessment, Prioritization, and Referral
2. Engaging Youth in Decision Making — provides guidance on how to engage youth in the decision-making process and the development of the projects
3. Using a Housing First Philosophy When Serving Youth — provides an overview of the Housing First philosophy and how it applies to youth-serving projects
4. Rapid Re-Housing for Youth — includes a Jump Start Tool, a set of Frequently Asked Questions, and a Checklist.

Also, in August 2016 HUD released the “Ending Youth Homelessness Guidebook Series” designed for the CoC leadership and partners as a direct, hands-on action plan in efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness. Each Guidebook includes suggested strategies, promising practices, and considerations that can be implemented immediately. The series includes three Guidebooks: System Planning, Mainstream System Collaboration, and Promising Program Modes.

Learn to Identify Home Safety Hazards
Most of us spend more than 70% of our time in our home. This means the health of our home can and does have a direct impact on the health of those living there. Check out the fact sheets on common home health hazards so you can identify and address common safety issues which may be harmful to you and your family. For more information please visit the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes at www.hud.gov.
Take Your Child to Work Day >>>

On the fourth Thursday of every April Take Your Child to Work Day rolls around. Throughout America more than 37 million workers and over 3.5 million workplaces participate in the program which is entering its 21st year. The Detroit Field Office has a proud tradition of encouraging its employees to bring their children to the office so they are able to learn what it is we do at HUD. After the record-breaking attendance from 2016, no one thought the office would be more excited to participate. We were wrong.

The event was not only entertaining for the children but it was a ball for the workers. The day started off with a continental-style breakfast and a welcome by the Detroit Field Office Director, Michael Polsinelli. Once the introductions were complete the children were taken on a tour of the Field Office and they were provided a brief overview on what work was done in each area.

Following the tour the children conducted a locational scavenger hunt BINGO reinforcing the information they had just received about each section. Those who completed the entire card by finding each item in the offices was awarded a prize. The day also included a photo-booth, play activities, and a baby room for those unable to participate in the BINGO event.

There was also a Tiger’s game scheduled for the day that ended up being delayed due to the weather, and unfortunately those who decided to tough out the weather only did so in order to see the Tigers lose.

All in all the children had a great day and we look forward to having an even bigger event next year.

Michigan Minority Procurement Conference & Business Opportunity Exchange >>>

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

For the 2nd straight year, the Detroit Field Office of Field and Policy Management 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, 2017. 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.
PUBLIC HOUSING:

- PIH 2017-07, Guidance Related to (1) Eligibility for Potential Shortfall Funding Under the Calendar Year (CY) 2017 Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Renewal Set-Aside for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program and (2) CY 2017 Administrative Fees, April 26, 2017
- PIH 2017-06, Cash Management Requirements for the Housing Choice Voucher Program, March 23, 2017

MULTIFAMILY HOUSING NOTICES:

- H 2017-04 Implementation of the CAN e Tool—Delayed Implementation, April 19, 2017
- H 2017-03 Rental Assistance Demonstration—Final Implementation, Revision 3, January 12, 2017
- H 2017-02 Annual Base City High Cost Percentage and High Cost Area Revisions for 2016, January 11, 2017
- H 2017-01 Administrative Guidance for Multifamily Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE), January 11, 2017

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT NOTICES:

- CPD-17-03 Instructions for Urban County Qualification for Participation in the CDBG Program for FYs 2018-2020, April 12, 2017
- CPD-17-02 Procedural Guidance for FY 2017 HOPWA Permanent Supportive Housing Renewal Grant Applications, February 16, 2017
- CPD-17-01 Notice Establishing Additional Requirements for a Continuum of Care Centralized or Coordinated Entry System, January 23, 2017

Employee spotlight...

Several HUD Employees were Honored on March 10, 2017. They received awards in recognition of their exemplary public service to HUD and to the Federal Government. These individuals were: Sharon Seaborn (MFAM), Susie Sapilewski (MFAM), Josh Osborne (MFAM), Alicia Brown (MFAM), Daniel Huyck (FPM), Kathy Bagley (CPD), Casey Hines (CPD), Jesse Stewart (MFH), Henry Plowden (MFH), Lidi Armenta (PIH), Chandra Broadnax (PIH), Judy Nunley (OHC), Sheryl Welton (OHC), Carmen Reveron (Env.), John Schuster (MFH), and Janice Shriver (MFH)