

Center for
FAITH-BASED

& Neighborhood Partnerships



Partnering With Faith and Community Organizations to Strengthen Local Communities

Dear friends,

As we near the end of the Obama Administration, here is a look back at some of the success we've achieved together. Whether working with you to respond to the foreclosure and economic crisis of 2009, connecting you to senior leaders at HUD to discuss critical issues of homelessness or human trafficking, among others, or working together to empower your communities through our signature "Capacity-Building and Grant-Writing Training," it has been an honor to partner with you to help improve the lives of Americans in your community.

HUD CFBNP serves as a liaison to faith and community organizations, and we could not have done this work without your active participation and feedback. Thank you for the many ways you have partnered with us and we wish you the very best.

In addition to the resources noted below, please do not hesitate to contact us at 202-708-2404 or Partnerships@hud.gov with questions about HUD programs and resources.

-HUD CFBNP staff

"The philosophy that guides HUD today is clear: housing is the center of a family's life, and we want to give every American the chance to secure a quality, affordable place to call home."

Secretary Julián Castro

HUD CFBNP's Mission

Connecting the faith and nonprofit community to HUD's housing programs and opportunities is the mission of the HUD Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (HUD CFBNP).

Whether helping homeowners at risk of foreclosure to receive housing counseling, or connecting communities with resources to feed and house the homeless, our collaborative work has provided hope to communities stricken by the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.



Secretary Castro working with volunteers of the St. Bernard Project in Louisiana.

Preventing Foreclosure and Responding to the Economic Crisis

When the 2008 economic crisis hit, HUD CFBNP mobilized to help faith and community organizations serve those in or facing foreclosure.

In 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided \$2 billion through the *Neighborhood Stabilization Program* (NSP) to hard-hit communities struggling to reverse the effects of the foreclosure crisis. The goal of the program was to redevelop hard-hit communities, create jobs, and grow local economies by providing communities with the resources to purchase and rehabilitate vacant homes and convert them to affordable housing. By 2012, 56 grantees bought, rehabilitated and/or demolished nearly 18,000 homes to reduce community blight. In addition, the program assisted families to purchase these properties. Amidst this bigger picture, HUD CFBNP helped ensure that foreclosure prevention and scam awareness was a central focus of White House outreach to faith and community organizations.



HUD CFBNP presents “Facing Foreclosure with Facts, Not Fear” conference, March 2011, Washington, DC

In 2011, HUD CFBNP participated in the inaugural White House “Connecting Communities for the Common Good” conference, which brought together faith and community organizations to focus on tackling challenges in their communities. HUD CFBNP led a breakout session focusing on the foreclosure crisis. Session topics included HUD foreclosure prevention programs, how to identify and avoid scams as well as resources for homeowners facing foreclosure.

In follow-up to the Connecting Communities conference, HUD CFBNP organized the “Families Facing Foreclosure with Facts, Not Fear” daylong conference in Wash-

ington, DC in early 2011. The event brought together government leaders, housing-advocacy organizations as well as banks and financial institution representatives to discuss foreclosure-prevention programs and how HUD-funded housing-counseling agencies in local communities can help owners understand their rights and options when facing foreclosure. Additionally, the conference focused on avoiding foreclosure-prevention scams and opportunities to work with banks and other private lenders to avoid foreclosure.

To address the foreclosure crisis in communities nationwide, HUD CFBNP also incorporated foreclosure-prevention and scam awareness topics into its signature “Capacity-Building and Grant-Writing Training for Emerging Organizations” series. Finally, to publicize these important resources, HUD CFBNP created the “Toolkit on Foreclosure Prevention and Scam Awareness for Faith-based and Community Organizations.” HUD CFBNP has distributed more than 50,000 of these toolkits to organizations and individuals. Access to safe, decent and affordable housing represents a critical foundation for access to economic opportunity. HUD CFBNP is proud to have partnered with faith and community organizations and help communities get back on their feet and people stay in their homes.

Throughout the Obama Administration, HUD CFBNP has strived to connect faith and community organizations to HUD resources that can help promote access to safe, decent and affordable housing and vibrant, diverse communities. Building on the popularity of HUD CFBNP's conference calls to help communities address the foreclosure crisis, HUD CFBNP created the "Secretary's Conference Call Series for Faith and Community Leaders," to connect faith and community groups with senior HUD leadership to discuss HUD programs and resources and answer questions.

In addition to focusing on foreclosure prevention and recovery as well as the benefits of HUD-funded housing counseling, a major focus of the conference call series addressed preventing and combatting homelessness. During the Obama Administration, HUD adopted a "[housing first](#)" strategy to provide stable housing and supportive services as a foundation to address other issues many homeless families and individuals face. During this time, the agency helped draft [Opening Doors](#), the nation's first comprehensive federal strategy to prevent and end homelessness.



Members of HUD's affinity group Latino Network conducting a stakeholder call in Spanish about housing counseling and foreclosure prevention.

In November 2014, HUD CFBNP conducted a conference call for faith and community organizations with the HUD Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPs), "Demystifying HUD's Homelessness Programs." This call discussed sources of HUD funding to prevent and address homelessness including the Continuum of Care (CoC) and Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG). Through these programs and the Administration's focused efforts to shelter the homeless, overall homelessness fell [10 percent](#) nationally since 2010. This includes a [25 percent reduction](#) in unsheltered homelessness, a [15 percent decrease in family homelessness](#), and a [21 percent decrease in chronic homelessness](#).

Since 2009, ending veteran homelessness has been a high priority of the Obama Administration, and HUD CFBNP has worked to empower faith and community organizations to advance that goal nationwide. With its Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) counterpart, HUD CFBNP hosted a conference call, "Ending Veteran Homeless in 2015: Doing Your Part to Help Veterans," in which experts from HUD and the VA discussed agency programs to help end veteran homelessness. You can find out more ways your organization can combat veteran homelessness from [this article](#) by HUD CFBNP staff.

Through these initiatives from HUD, the White House, the VA, and tireless efforts of faith and community organizations and other stakeholders, [states and cities across the nation](#) ended veteran homelessness and countless others are moving toward that goal. In addition to eliminating homelessness in some communities, veteran homelessness has declined by [33 percent](#) nationwide.

Helping Communities Recover Through Housing Counseling



HUD CFBNP has distributed more than 50,000 of its “Foreclosure Prevention and Scam Awareness Toolkits” to individuals and organizations across the country.

In response to the foreclosure and economic crisis, HUD focused on helping individuals avoid foreclosure, stay in their homes and know their rights. HUD strengthened the Office of Housing Counseling to help connect Americans to HUD-funded housing counseling agencies in their communities. HUD also utilized the Real-Estate Owned (REO) program and the HUD Home Store to assist individuals, faith and community organizations and others purchase foreclosed homes, revitalize neighborhoods and reduce community blight. HUD CFBNP helped faith and community organizations and individuals learn about these important resources for individual recovery and community renewal through national outreach calls with faith and community organizations, toolkits and other resources.

In 2010, HUD CFBNP hosted its first “Secretary’s Conference Call” with then-HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan on the benefits of housing counseling. HUD CFBNP has distributed more than 50,000 copies of its [“Foreclosure Prevention and Scam Awareness Toolkit”](#) to individuals and organizations across the country. In 2012, HUD CFBNP partnered with the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships to host the “Helping Responsible Homeowners Refinance Their Homes” bilingual conference calls. In 2013, HUD CFBNP facilitated national conference calls for faith and community organizations on REO programs and discussed how agency stakeholders could purchase a home, and the value of housing counseling. HUD also created the fact-sheet, [“Housing Counseling: A Guide for Faith and Community Organizations.”](#)

Through this outreach and information about housing counseling, individuals and families learned about new opportunities to remain in their homes and how to build a more stable financial foundation, while faith and community organizations were able to repurpose unused or abandoned buildings and revitalize communities through the REO program. Armed with this information, individuals, families, and communities spurred local revitalization, and faith and community organizations helped their constituents recover from this housing crisis.

HUD CFBNP Mobilizes During Disaster

Access to safe, decent and affordable housing represents an important foundation for sustainable livelihood, but housing becomes even more important in the wake of a natural disaster. When Hurricane Sandy struck the United States in 2013, HUD CFBNP swung into action. Center staff deployed to the hardest-hit areas to survey damage and convene roundtables of faith and community leaders to identify communities’ needs. In addition, HUD CFBNP worked with its sister center at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and participated in daily conference calls with faith, community and local government leaders in some of New York’s most damaged areas to track recovery progress and mobilize resources. In addition, HUD CFBNP updated its “Disaster Recovery Information Guide,” a booklet of Federal, state, local non-profit and philanthropic resources to help communities recover from disaster. More than 45,000 copies of the guide have been distributed to individuals and communities in New York and nationwide to help them prepare for, respond to and recover from disaster.



HUD’s Emergency Response Team inspects Hurricane Sandy damage.

HUD CFBNP's "Capacity-Building and Grant Writing Training": Empowering Faith and Community Organizations with Tools for Success

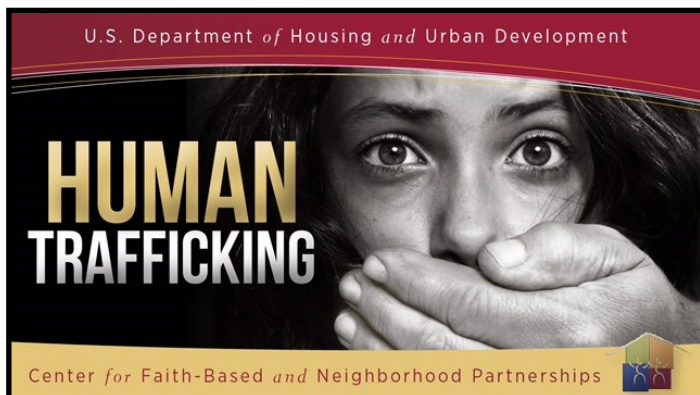
While partnering with faith and community organizations to help their communities recover from the economic crisis was critical, long-term recovery depended on helping groups build capacity to better serve their communities. With this in mind, HUD CFBNP bolstered its signature "Capacity-Building and Grant Writing Training" for emerging non-profit organizations. Through the program, participants received personal instruction from HUD staff on how to become more competitive for Federal grants, secure 501(c)(3) status, and develop sound grant applications. The one- to two-day trainings also incorporated information from local funders and other subject experts to demystify the federal government grants process and build organizational capacity.



HUD CFBNP presents the "Community Partners Action Summit" to community stakeholders at the White House, one of several hundred "Capacity-Building and Grant-Writing Trainings" conducted nationwide during the Obama Administration.

This series has been presented to nearly 50,000 faith and community organizations nationwide in collaboration with Federal agencies, local governments, and non-profit groups. For example, HUD CFBNP partnered with the President's National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention to present the "Capacity-Building and Grant Writing Training" in Boston, MA; Salinas, CA; Camden, NJ; and Detroit, MI. HUD CFBNP also presented in several Promise Zones—selected urban, rural and tribal areas of high poverty that created comprehensive plans to combat generational poverty and create economic opportunity. HUD CFBNP facilitated trainings for Promise Zone communities in Philadelphia, PA; Camden, NJ; Hartford, CT; San Antonio, TX; Sacramento, CA; and St. Louis, MO.

The training series helped strengthen faith and community organizations nationwide, providing them greater knowledge, organizational infrastructure, better grant writing tools, and opportunities for local collaboration. In turn, as the organizations increased their capacity, they were able to build stronger communities, bringing a better quality of life and greater access to economic opportunity for communities nationwide.



Combatting Human Trafficking

HUD and the Obama Administration have focused on combatting human trafficking in the United States and around the world. The lack of safe, decent housing represents a key obstacle to recovery for human trafficking survivors. HUD CFBNP was the first office at HUD to raise awareness that lack of access to housing is a significant barrier in providing assistance to

survivors of trafficking, and helped facilitate changes to HUD policies. In 2013, HUD CFBNP worked with the HUD Office of the Secretary to facilitate a “listening session” with HUD grantees on housing services for human trafficking survivors. This work led to HUD CFBNP and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Anti-Trafficking in Persons partnering to host a listening session for HUD and HHS grantees to discuss housing and supportive service needs for adult (18+) human trafficking survivors, as well as other possible policy changes related to human trafficking.

Based on the recommendations from listening sessions, HUD CFBNP collaborated with other HUD program offices to support reducing housing barriers for human trafficking survivors. The collaborations resulted in a change to the Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPs) [General NOFA](#) clarifying that survivors of human trafficking qualify for category 4 homelessness assistance. In addition, the HUD Office of Public and Indian Housing released agency guidance clarifying that, with some exceptions, individuals with criminal convictions are not automatically barred from HUD housing--a previous housing barrier for many survivors. Finally, HUD CFBNP released a video as part of its “Let’s Talk” series, “Potential Housing Opportunities for Trafficking Victims.” The video can be seen at this [link](#).

Taken together, these efforts cleared paths for human trafficking survivors to access resources and have helped faith and community organizations better serve the needs of this vulnerable population.

“Let’s Talk” Video Series

In the ongoing effort to provide our stakeholders the latest information and resources in a useful and accessible format, HUD CFBNP produced a series of short videos highlighting HUD programs. The “Let’s Talk” series are short videos featuring interviews with HUD experts on programs of great interest to HUD CFBNP stakeholders.

The videos are structured in a question-and-answer format and provide links to resources

on relevant HUD programs. Three videos have been posted at <http://go.usa.gov/x8btC>: *HUD’s Housing Counseling Program*; *Potential Housing Opportunities for Trafficking Victims*; and *Understanding the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program*.

The latest video being developed will focus on the agency’s implementation of Executive Order 13559: “Fundamental Principles and Policymaking Criteria for Partnerships with Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood Organizations.” You can find out more about these new regulations for agency programs, including guidance from HUD, at <http://go.usa.gov/xKtN6>.



HUD CFBNP’s Gayela Bynum hosts its “Let’s Talk” video series answering popular questions from HUD CFBNP stakeholders.

HUD Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

451 7th Street, SW Room 10184 Washington, DC 20410

Office (202) 708-2404 Email: Partnerships@hud.gov Website: www.hud.gov/offices/fbci