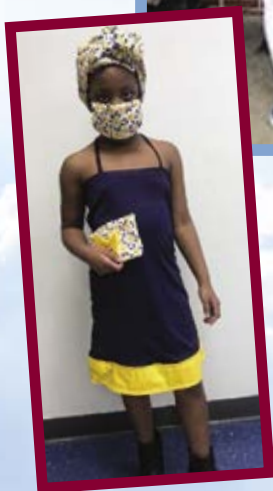


SERCulator

April 2021



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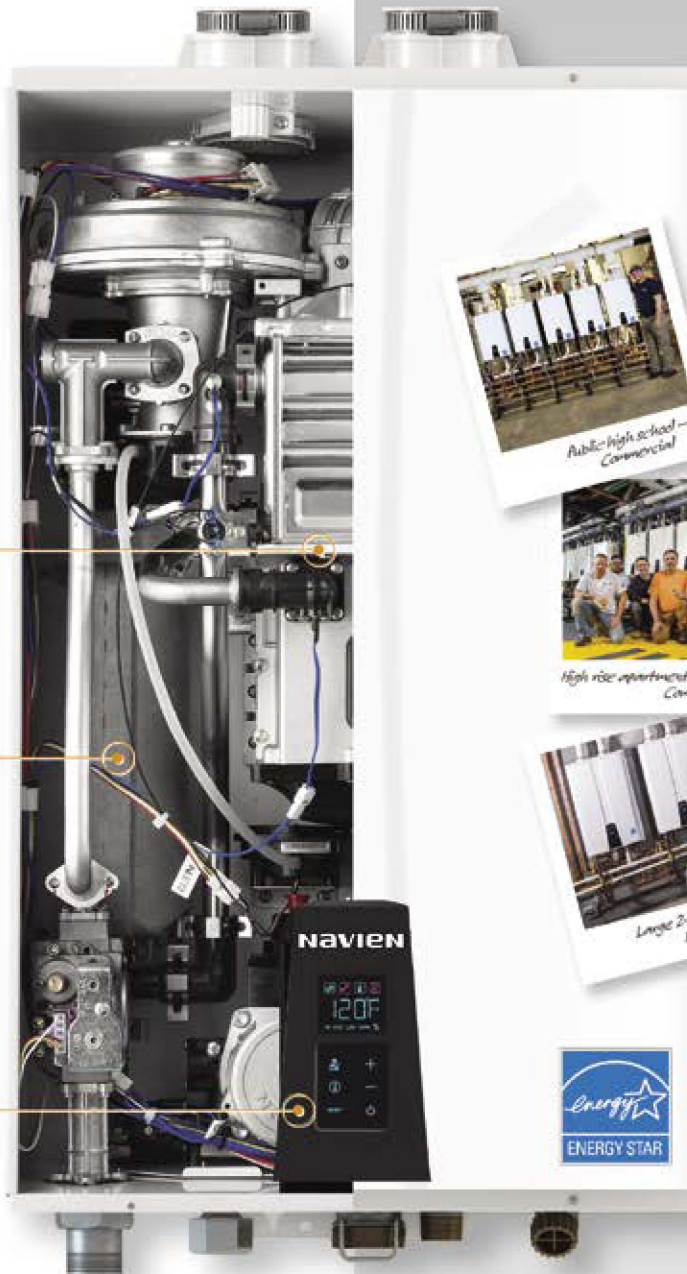
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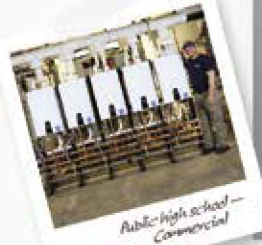
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The SERCulator is the official quarterly publication of the Southeastern Regional Council of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (SERC-NAHRO).

Comments, suggestions, articles, features and photographs are solicited in interest of the members of SERC-NAHRO. Although all submissions are subject to approval and editing, every effort will be made to publish submissions based on available space. Photos cannot be returned.

Send Submissions Via:
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President's Message

Hello SERC-NAHRO

Spring has arrived and hopefully brings new and positive changes to our housing agencies, residents, and staff. We now have a new administration and I ask you to join with me to welcome the new HUD Secretary, Marcia Fudge. On March 10, 2021, Marcia L. Fudge was officially sworn in as the eighteenth Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Secretary Fudge stated, "I am proud to join a group of public servants who work with compassion and determination to change the lives of those in need."

As vaccines continue to be distributed and the country continues to "open up", the Annual Conference committee is planning the agenda for SERC-NAHRO's Summer Annual Conference scheduled for June 13 – 16, 2021 at the Marriott Downtown Hotel, Louisville, KY. The hotel will be enforcing all safety protocols including social distancing and the wearing of face masks. We will keep you updated of any changes, however at this time, we will be limited to a maximum of 350 attendees.

The Annual Conference committee is planning the agenda for SERC-NAHRO's Summer Annual Conference scheduled for June 13 – 16, 2021

The Legislative Committee chaired by Mike Sweet prepared SERC's position paper which was distributed electronically to the members of congress during NAHRO's Washington Conference, March 3, 2021. For the second time, Congressional visits were held virtually, thanks to Tess Hembree, NAHRO's Director of Congressional Relations.

The Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for the 2021 NAHRO Merit College Scholarship.

The Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for the 2021 NAHRO Merit College Scholarship. This program awards \$1,000 to eight scholars, one from each NAHRO region, who are pursuing their first post-secondary degree. For SERC, one application is due from each of the ten states. Please check with your State as to the individual deadlines. The due date for SERC is June 8, 2021. The completed application and all required documentation should be sent to the Scholarship Committee Chair, Carmen Maniak at cmaniak@ckha.com

The Emerging Leaders are planning for the 2021 NAHRO What Home Means to Me Poster Contest. As part of NAHRO's Housing America campaign, a poster contest is held each year for children residing in affordable housing and community developments owned or administered by NAHRO member agencies. Posters reflect the national theme of "What Home Means to Me." The contest is a collaborative effort of NAHRO's chapter/state, regional, and national organizations. National honorees are selected from chapter/state-level winning entries. Age categories are: Elementary: K to 5th grade; Middle: 6th to 8th grade; High: 9th to 12th grade. Local agencies will submit their entries to their state association. Each state will submit their entries to the regional competition. SERC will judge entries on June 13th

during the Annual Conference in Louisville, KY. The posters will have to be received by June 11, 2021. Contact Sharita Oates, soates@hacg.org for more details.

Keep in mind the NAHRO leadership changes hands biennially with the election of a President and Senior Vice President by the NAHRO membership. Campaigning for biennial elections begins at national conferences in even-numbered years and concludes with the election in the fall in odd-numbered years.

The candidate's information can be found at: NAHRO.org/about/nahro-leadership/nahro-national-elections/

NAHRO President and Senior Vice President candidate information can be found at: NAHRO.org/about/nahro-leadership/nahro-national-elections/

With that said SERC-NAHRO will also elect a new slate of officers at its' business meeting during the Annual Conference in June. Join with me in congratulating the new leadership as the country moves forward and hopefully out of this pandemic. I look forward to seeing you in Louisville.

Be well and stay safe,

Mark Taylor,
SERC-NAHRO President

SERC-NAHRO MLK ZOOM COMPETITION WINNERS

For many years, the SERC-NARHO basketball tournament has been a staple in our youth program. Due to COVID-19, we were not able to host a basketball tournament, but we vowed to keep the education component alive.

On Saturday, January 16, 2021, SERC NAHRO held a Zoom Competition for

HA youth to compete in a variety of activities for three age ranges. Participants were divided into 3 age groups and each age group hosted 3 activities. Winners were awarded in each category, 1st place winners received Air pods, 2nd place winners received a Samsung Galaxy Tablet, and 3rd place winners received an Echo Dot. All

winners also received an award medal to remember the event.

The following Housing Authorities participated in this year's event:

- Selma HA (AL), Opp HA (AL)
- Birmingham HA (AL)
- Laurel HA (MS)
- Bowling Green HA (KY)

AGES 12 & Under:

For their First Activity, participants created an art design dedicated to their housing authority and presented it to the judges.

- 1st Place- Bowling Green (Emmanual)
- 2nd Place- Laurel (Lanston)
- 3rd Place- Opp (Chynna)

For their Second Activity, participants wrote and presented a 300-word essay discussing why the Edmund Pettus Bridge should be named after the late Representative John Lewis, a civil rights icon.

- 1st Place- Bowling Green (JaMisha)
- 2nd Place- Laurel (Dejerick)

For their Final Activity, participants researched their favorite sports player and presented a 300-word essay in which they explained why they chose the sports player, what contributions they have made to society, and provide some history on their background.

- 1st Place- Opp (Jayda)
- 2nd Place- Bowling Green (David)
- 3rd Place- Selma (Jaylen)



"I saw children step out of their comfort zone to give their speeches and share their opinions. As for myself, I felt that I was learning something new each time a new participant spoke. That's the part that I enjoyed most, learning something new from someone younger than me."

- Camille Tinsley, Group Facilitator



AGES 15 & Under:

For their First Activity, each participant presented their own I Have a Dream speech. The speech consisted of the youth's goals, including their dream job, aspirations, and/or vision(s) for the future.

- 1st Place- Birmingham (Modesty)
- 2nd Place- Selma (Marquevion)
- 3rd Place- Bowling Green (Samuel)

For their Second Activity, participants named a person in their community that they look up to, admire, and respect. Participants included why they look up to this person, what contributions they have made, and how they help them or other people in the community.

- 1st Place- Bowling Green (Avieon)

For their Final Activity, participants explained why Black Lives Matter or Why Voting is Important through the creation of an artistic poster board.

- 1st Place- Birmingham (Miracle)
- 2nd Place- Bowling Green (Jada)

"Each child thoroughly researched their chosen topic and boldly delivered their presentations with such enthusiasm and conviction."

- Amber Turner, Group Facilitator

AGES 18 & Under:

For their First Activity, each participant read excerpts from President Barack Obama's The Audacity of Hope memoir and discussed the importance of his presidency. Written essays on the topic were recited during the competition.

- 1st Place- Bowling Green (Aerrionna)
- 2nd Place- Birmingham (Deidra)

For their Second Activity, participants designed an outfit, shirt, and/or head attire that acknowledges a prominent figure. Once their design is shown off, they then discussed why they chose the person, and the significant impact that the person had.

- 1st Place- Bowling Green (Andaysha)

For their Final Activity, participants listed which college/university they would like to attend and why? Participants considered factors including scholarships, sports programs, and even the school being an HBCU (Historical Black College or University) or PWI (Predominantly White Institutions).

- 1st Place- Bowling Green (Response)
- 2nd Place- Birmingham (Caliyah)
- 3rd Place- Opp (Jayden)

Response Shyka, a 9-year-old competing for Bowling Green HA, is extremely gifted academically. When asked if he wanted to compete in the under 12 division, his response "that stuff is for babies". Response wanted something more challenging, so Response competed in the 18 and under division and won first place for the third activity.



Overall Competition Winners:

Overall Competition winners were calculated by the number of wins for their HA.

- 1st place- Bowling Green
- 2nd place- Birmingham
- 3rd place- Opp



Partnering to Provide

- Alexander City Housing Authority

To provide services and experiences to our residents, HAs often rely on partnerships! Alexander City HA has taken this strategy to a new level during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACHA Partnered with the Alabama Office of the Secretary of State to host a voter registration drive and the U.S. Census to host a registration drive.

Each year, ACHA provides book bags for children in their communities. In 2020, they partnered with Pastor Mike Densmore and Trinity United Methodist Church who collected school supplies for the 275 book bags that were distributed.

This Christmas, they partnered with Pastor Mike Densmore and Trinity United Methodist Church for 167 Christmas food bags and the Salvation Army to provide 50 grocery bags for their senior and/or disabled residents. Additionally, Gifts from Above served Christmas dinner plates to 197 senior and/or disabled residents.

For their younger residents (aged 5-12), through a partnership with the Huffy Foundation, ACHA purchased 227 bikes. ACHA raised \$13,330 in sponsorships from 22 local businesses and individuals including Valley Bank (2020 Platinum Sponsor of \$5,000),

First United Methodist Church, Kiwanis Club, River Bank and Trust, Goodwater Disabled Veterans Association, Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club of Alabama, Lake Broadcasting, AAA General Contractors, and more.

ACHA worked with Jim Pearson Elementary School to host a 2-day registration drive for Pre-K classes.

Through a partnership with Pastor Ivan Harris, New Style Church, and their non-profit Bridge Builders, a total of 56,800 food boxes were distributed in 2020 in Alexander City.

There are no eligibility requirements for the boxes and they are first come first serve.



The distribution continues, in February 2021, 2,200 boxes were distributed in neighboring Goodwater. In March, distributions returned to Alexander City with an average of 3,000 boxes being distributed weekly.

Alexander City and the Mayor's Office have been vital to the success of these food distributions. The city generously provided an area for the distribution, a forklift to unload the boxes, and city employees and police officers to assist.

"Deputy Director, Darold Sterling was integral in facilitating these partnerships for ACHA residents. His hard work and dedication made these opportunities possible for ACHA residents."

- Donna Gabel, Executive Director



Alexander City Housing Authority
Serving Needs, Providing Opportunities

**Alexander City
Housing Authority**
Alexander City, AL
PH: 517
HCV: 265
Donna K. Gabel, ED
AlexCityHousing.org



HUD Awards \$450,000 Choice Planning Grant to MHA & City of Montgomery

- Montgomery Housing Authority

HUD announced a \$450,000 planning grant award to the Montgomery Housing Authority (MHA) and the City of Montgomery. This community award is designed to stimulate affordable housing and economic development in the neighborhoods of Paterson Court and the entire Centennial Hill community.

The grant is one of 11 awards totaling \$4,910,000 funded through HUD's Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, which helps local leaders craft comprehensive, homegrown plans to revitalize and transform neighborhoods across the country. "The Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant is great news for the residents of Paterson Court and the surrounding community," said MHA Chief

Executive Officer Damon E. Duncan.

The Choice Neighborhoods planning process creates a common vision and develop effective strategies to revitalize their neighborhood. The resulting Transformation Plan and locally driven Action Activities lay the foundation for revitalizing the distressed public and/or assisted housing units, transforming the surrounding neighborhood, and promoting opportunities for families.

Pictured with the check from left to right: Steven L. Reed (Mayor of Montgomery, AL); Damon E. Duncan (MHA CEO); Dr. Quinton T Ross, Jr. (ASU President); Dr. John Knight (MHA Board Chairman).

Zulieka Boykin Named ED

- Prichard Housing Authority

Ms. Zulieka Boykin has been selected to lead Prichard Housing Authority as Executive Director. Prior to being named Executive Director, Ms. Boykin served as the Director of Asset Management for Prichard Housing Authority bringing with her more than 12 years of affordable housing experience.



Dr. Michael C. Threatt Named COO

- Dothan Housing

A NextGen Transformational Leader, Threatt was named 2019 ED of the Year by AAHRA and won the 2019 Website of the Year Award. Threatt received his doctorate in public administration from West Chester University, Pennsylvania.



Dothan Housing (DH) launched their Digital Transformation campaign that includes a comprehensive rebranding of the agency to Dothan Housing and its nonprofit affiliate, Our Community, Inc.

DH launched its new responsive website allowing for improved communication with residents and community stakeholders.

The website addresses ADA accessibility and provides residents with the ability to apply, pay rent, and submit maintenance requests online. DH is committed to showing their residents that "You Are Our Why."

DothanHousing.org

Digital Transformation for Dothan Housing

- Dothan Housing



Samuel P. Crawford is no stranger to transformational leadership or affordable housing. "The evolution of the public housing industry requires us to think outside the box and to pursue

opportunities as social entrepreneurs. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has challenged us to create a different platform to communicate and provide better customer service", says Crawford.



opportunities as social entrepreneurs.

Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has challenged us to create a different



Digital Access Help for Families

- Sarasota Housing Authority

The Sarasota Housing Authority's Learning Center helps students, parents, and other residents with all kinds of important tasks.

Ken Waters, VP of Resident Services, says that residents were hit hard by COVID-19. Many of the parents worked in industries affected by the pandemic.

When schools closed and children began remote learning, necessities of life still took priority over a decent internet connection and digital tools such as laptops, printers and cameras.

Sarasota County Schools distributed laptops and hotspots to students during the pandemic using an online survey, but many families lacked the digital access needed to fill out the survey or did not learn about it in the first place. Michelle Young Stears, SHA Pathways Case Manager, ended up filling out the surveys with 316 families.

The number of students coming to the learning center was higher during school shutdowns, but they still expect an average of at least 15 students per day.

The number of families utilizing the center has been so high that we have been expanding. They're installing a

second portable center that's nearly finished, which will be used mainly for their middle and high school students to learn, socialize and use digital tools.

The number of families utilizing the learning center has been so high that we have been expanding & installing a second portable center.



Partnerships in the community have helped the center thrive. They collaborate with Ringling Museum's "Where Everyone Belongs" program for video art sessions. The Community Foundation of Sarasota County has helped fund the learning center so it can hire teachers for the afterschool program, continue with existing programs and develop new programming. Sarasota County's Contracted

Human Services helps fund their Youth Thrive program.

The center goes beyond technology, too. They provide children with food and clothing when needed. If a student misses their bus, the workers often will give them a ride to school.

A greater reliance on technology during the pandemic has also highlighted the effect of a lack of digital access and tools for many low-income families. For them, the Learning Center has been a crucial resource.

"We want to avoid families in this community paying the ultimate price of their education during this pandemic," says Stears. "So we will be that reliable place they can count on for support."



Sarasota Housing Authority

Sarasota, FL

PH: 226 HCV: 1,824

William O. Russell III,

President & CEO

SarasotaHousing.org



FAHRO Executive Directors Forum

On February 10-12, FAHRO held its annual Executive Directors Forum Meeting in St. Petersburg. This was the first in-person meeting for FAHRO since the 2020 ED Forum. As expected, attendance was about half of usual, however, it was a successful meeting and a big step towards having normal meetings again.

Attendees participated in different roundtables to discuss challenges and

problem solving as well as obtaining the latest legal information regarding COVID-19 and its impacts on Housing Authority's staff and the residents they serve.

There were presenters both in person and digitally and the hybrid model was well received and worked well. Thanks to our sponsors: Brooks Jeffrey that sponsored the plexi-glass dividers that

were between each attendee; FPHASIF, Phoenix Consulting Group and FHARM!! The 2021 ED Forum was a great success!



6th Annual Open House

- Arcadia Housing Authority

On Friday, February 26, 2021, Residents and surrounding neighbors were able to visit 21 different Community Outreach groups where they received free items and information on the services available to their households.

A free lunch was served by TK's Grill food truck. To keep the event COVID Safe, this year's event was held outside, as in the past; and all participants wore masks and maintained social distancing.



HousingArcadia.com



A Legacy Remembered, Dorothy Sasser

We are saddened to share the death of a longtime FAHRO member, and former FAHRO President, Dorothy Sasser. Dorothy was the longtime Executive Director of the Chipley Housing Authority.



Dorothy loved spending time with her family and talking with friends. She will be remembered for her infectious laugh and smile, as well as her willingness to always lend a helping hand.





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Utilizing RAD to Renovate Four Properties

- Albany Housing Authority

The Albany Georgia Housing Authority hosted a Groundbreaking Ceremony to celebrate the closing of \$16.59 million in federal and Georgia state low-income housing tax credit equity financing for the revitalization of 279 units.

The groundbreaking was held in partnership with Pennrose Properties, Hunt Development Group, and Boulevard Group, and the City of Albany Georgia.

Albany RAD Phase I is the first portion of the renovation of four public housing communities near downtown Albany. The renovation will focus on the buildings' full interior

modernization, including new HVAC, kitchen, bathrooms, flooring, fixtures, and other improvements.

The Albany Housing Authority plans to offer tenants supportive services, including but not limited to adult education and GED class on-site.

The total cost for Albany RAD Phase I is \$33.29 million.

“Not only will this project provide our residents with a safe, affordable, decent place to live, but it will also have a huge Economic Impact.”

- Dena Linkhorn Jackson, AHA Public Relations Specialist AlbanyHA.com

Lisa Walters Elected to the PHADA Board of Trustees

Ms. Walters, CEO of Columbus Housing Authority, was elected to the PHADA Board of Trustees.

PHADA's 1,900-member housing agencies represent over 1.9 million low-income housing units throughout the United States. Their members manage small, medium, large, rural, and urban housing authorities that run programs including public housing, housing choice vouchers, Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD), and a variety of other innovative public-private partnerships.



Reaching Residents Through New Technologies

- Ashburn Housing

Ashburn Housing now has a new responsive website, AshburnHousing.org. Their new responsive website allows site visitors to easily navigate the website no matter what device is used for viewing (desktop, laptop, tablet, smartphone) while addressing ADA Accessibility.

Their website is designed to provide business transparency for their families, commissioners, business partners, community stakeholders and the general public.

Additionally, Ashburn Housing debuted their new logo and branding!

For more information, visit AshburnHousing.org





Donations Fill COVID-19 Care Packs

- Housing Authority of Hickman

In early May, Lynn Busby, Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Hickman posted on social media requesting help sourcing masks, hand sanitizer, and cleaning supplies. An outpouring of support and information soon followed.

Dennis. Paige is currently featured on Netflix's®, *Demarcus Family Rules*.

Next stop was Trimble, TN to pick up Lysol® in 5-gallon buckets and to Michael Ballard's Full Throttle Distillery to pick up a 55-gallon drum of 80-proof

Volunteers then filled COVID-CARE packets for all residents including a hand-written message by Busby.

Busby along with the properly protected volunteers distributed the packets door-to-door.

In early May, we posted on social media requesting help sourcing masks, hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies. An outpouring of support soon followed.

Since the success of the first distribution, Busby has continued to distribute Care Packets on a regular basis.

The packet project has now expanded to include:

- HA updates and Information on their community partners
- New resident move-ins receive an expanded packet with leftovers from previous packets

On May 14, Busby and volunteer Gary Davis stepped into an empty truck and headed out to collect their supplies.

Their First stop was just across the state line to Union City, TN to pick up disposable masks donated by Paige

hand sanitizer. You may recognize that name from the television series, *Full Throttle Saloon* which aired for 6 seasons on TruTV. Michael Ballard was at the distillery so they were able to visit and do a COVID-friendly elbow bump.


After loading up, Busby and his volunteer head further South to Dyersburg, TN to Harbor Freight Tools to pick up a barrel pump for the hand sanitizer and bucket pumps for the Lysol.

Residents can also refill their hand sanitizer and Lysol at the office.



The last stop was Prairie Farms Dairies in South Fulton, TN to pick up donated empty milk containers for the hand sanitizer and Lysol.

Once back at the HA, a local printing company made custom labels for the products and a local individual provided family sewn custom-made masks.



Hickman Housing Authority
 Hickman, KY
 PH: 121
 Lynn Busby, ED
[facebook.com/housingauthorityofhickman](https://www.facebook.com/housingauthorityofhickman)



After Two Years, RAD PBV Conversion Closes

- Housing Authority of Owensboro

After two years on the path, the Housing Authority of Owensboro closed on a RAD Project Based Voucher conversion of 252 units at the end of December 2020 with an additional 80 units expected to be converted by April 2021. Due to the conversion not involving substantial rehabilitation, external financing nor tax credits were required but instead the conversion was funded through operation reserves and Capital Fund Program funds.

The process of converting through the RAD process was more complicated than originally thought. Although it was a “straight” or “operational” conversion which involved less components than other RAD conversions, it required a local attorney, another attorney that specializes in RAD conversions, a consulting firm with extensive knowledge and relationships within HUD, and dedicated agency staff. There was a lot of evening and weekend by HAO staff, consultants and attorneys in December.

To say “we have learned a lot” does not nearly express enough. The volume of information we did not know or fully understand was a bit overwhelming.

One thing we discovered early is that RAD conversions, like agencies, do not all look the same. What has worked for

other agencies did not fit our environment. Accounting, software, staffing, and many other areas of our day-to-day business requires adjustments in the conversion process.

Once the April 2021 phase concludes, the HAO will have 228 units of public housing remaining. We do plan on converting these units as well, but we do not know when or by what process. In order to have a better idea of areas we may need to adjust; we would like to operate post-conversion for a year.

To learn more about the Housing Authority of Owensboro please visit our website OwensboroHousing.org

Photos taken prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic.



Showing Residents We CARE - Making the Most of the CARES Act Funding for Our Residents

- Housing Authority of Whitesburg

Erica Fugate, Executive Director for the Housing Authority of Whitesburg, reported the Housing Authority of Whitesburg made the most of the CARES Act Funding they were awarded.

Some of the ways they used their funding to help their residents:

- Provided Quarterly PPE Care Boxes to Residents filled with masks, hand sanitizers, Clorox wipes, and gloves
- Provided Boxes for kids with holiday printed masks and information
- Paid for Internet for Residents who have school-age children between the ages of 5-18 to help with virtual school

Director Fugate expressed that the Housing Authority of Whitesburg wanted to take as much pressure off of their parents who had to pay extra expenses for childcare while working, increased food costs, and/or those struggling with the loss of their jobs due to COVID.

They wanted to ensure their children were not left behind due to the pandemic.

They are continuing to plan and utilize the funding in the best way for their community.





A Time of Action

- Starkville Housing Authority

Things have been busy at the Starkville Housing Authority (SHA), though COVID-19 has brought it's fair share of challenges, SHA has been able to overcome and continue serving their residents.

The first week of March 2021, SHA celebrated Resident Appreciation Week!

As Residents entered the office to pay rent and sign re-exam documents, they were given a token of appreciation for being great residents.

Residents received a bag with snacks, hand sanitizer, and other goodies as a thank you from SHA Staff.



It was an opportunity for residents to accomplish necessary tasks while engaging with staff who were eager to

express their appreciation to each and every resident.

Later that week, the Aetna group met with residents of SHA. Residents were able to get valuable information concerning Medicare and other benefits that are offered through the program. Residents received free cleaning supplies for participating in the event.

Additionally, SHA has partnered with the Reading 2 Succeed program to supply residents ages 1-18 with books and other literacy supplies such as maps, notebooks and dictionaries.

The partnership started in February 2021 and supplies young residents in all SHA communities with literacy materials. The Reading 2 Succeed program will also be constructing a "Little Free Library" at the Housing Authority's Pecan Acres site.

SHA also welcomed Mr. Jessie Carpin as their new Van Driver (pictured at right). Mr. Carpin is responsible for transporting residents to various places to pay bills, pick-up prescriptions, go to doctors' appointments and to get groceries. He enjoys watching westerns and landscaping. Mrs. Carpin is also a SHA resident.

SHA is proud to be able to continue to engage with residents and provide

valuable services and experiences while remaining safe. They are dedicated to



their residents and hope to continue providing new and innovative services in the future!



Starkville Housing Authority
 Starkville, MS
 PH: 244
 Amy Bishop, ED
 STKHA.com



Programs that Speak to the Heart

- Laurel Housing Authority

Laurel Housing has focused on holding workshops and events that reach their residents!

Recently they held a workshop focused on parenting tips where parents learned age-appropriate parenting strategies to support their child's learning and development skills. Jessica Hartfield with Hart to Hart Consulting, LLC lead the workshop.

The residents that participated were engaged during the workshop and voiced their need for the class for more enlightenment and support because they wanted to be well equipped to help their children be successful in life.

In celebration of Black History month, Laurel Housing hosted a "Walk

Through Black History" Program for their residents with both guest and resident speakers.



MAHRO Harold Panter Awarded to Joshua Putt

- Starkville Housing Authority

The 2020 recipient of the MAHRO Harold Panter Award is Mr. Joshua Putt from Starkville Housing Authority. Joshua has worked with the PHA since 2006. He has held positions of Maintenance Aide, Maintenance Mechanic, and is currently the Assistant Maintenance Supervisor.

Joshua is HVAC certified and his skills set has resulted in great cost savings for the PHA. Executive Director Amy Bishop describes Joshua as very skilled and knowledgeable. She praises his discipline, stellar work ethic, and commitment to his job despite any personal challenges he may encounter.

Joshua's personal interests are video gaming, antique comic book collecting, spending time with family, and he is also a professional drummer. Congratulations to Joshua!

Each year, Mississippi Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (MAHRO) presents the Harold Panter

Award in recognition of excellence among the ranks of the maintenance staff from PHAs within the State of Mississippi.

Each PHA is eligible to submit one (1) nomination from their maintenance department. Nominations must be submitted by the Executive Director and accompanied by a narrative detailing why your nominee should be selected. Please note that candidate nominations are limited to laborers, maintenance aides, mechanics, and foremen. The award winner is announced at the annual maintenance workshop and presented to the MAHRO membership during its annual housing conference. Nominations for the 2021 award will be accepted April 1-30, 2021. Please email the candidate's information to Katina Pace at kpace@mrha6.org no later than 5:00PM on Friday, April 30. For more info, visit the MAHRO Website MAHRO.org. Nominations can be submitted April 1-30, 2021.



NEW CCHRCO OFFICERS (CarolinasCouncil.org)



Robbie D. Littlejohn - PRESIDENT

ED, Union HA • 12 years PH experience • Treasurer of SCAHAED • Bachelor's degree from Wofford College • NAHRO-certified PH manager / graduate of PHADA's & Rutgers University's ED education program • SC Army National Guard Veteran • Has 2 children with wife Wanda.



Michael Dineen - PRESIDENT-ELECT

ED, Lenoir HA • 15 years PH experience • President of NCPHADA • U.S. Army Veteran • 10 years as a GA Police Officer • Bachelor's degree from Shorter University • Has 3 children with wife Jennifer.



Ivory Mathews - SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT

ED, Columbia HA • 20 years Affordable Housing experience • M.S. (foundations of education with a concentration in counseling & psychology) Troy State University - Augusta • Holds several nationally recognized Affordable Housing certifications • Has 2 children with husband Donnie.



Gray Matthis - FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

ED, Eastern Carolina Regional HA • 10 years PH experience • 25 years VP in banking industry.



Anne Burroughs - TREASURER

ED, Marion HA • Past CCHRCO President (2014-15).



Connie Howard - SECRETARY

ED, Fort Mills HA • 20 years of PH/ Multifamily experience • Licensed SC Real Estate Commission • PHADA's & Rutgers University's ED Education Program Graduate • 8 children collectively with husband Jim.

CCHRCO Board of Directors

Three-Year Term:

- Vivian Perry, Kinston Housing Authority, (NC)

Two-Year Term:

- Randolph Mathis, Housing Authority of the City of Gaffney, (SC)
- Brian Howell, Shelby Housing Authority, (NC)
- Janice Fowler, Greer Housing Authority, (SC)
- Stevie Craig, Bladenboro Housing Authority, (NC)
- Frank R. Scott, North Charleston Housing Authority, (SC)
- Alanda Richardson, Hickory Housing Authority, (NC)

One-Year Term:

- Veronica Revels, Burlington Housing Authority (NC)
- Angela Graham, City of Concord Housing Authority, (NC)
- Angela Childers, Beaufort Housing Authority, (SC)
- Robert Thomas, S.C. Regional 3, (SC)
- Kelly Vick, Wilson Housing Authority, (NC)
- Donna Lamer, Sumter Housing Authority, (SC)



NORTH CAROLINA

BITS & PIECES

GHA Holds COVID-19 Vaccination Event

- Greensboro Housing Authority

Greensboro Housing Authority (GHA) coordinated their COVID-19 Vaccination Event through a partnership with two local medical groups, Alignment Health and United Healthcare.

GHA's Resident Engagement and Services Team began outreach by contacting residents of GHA's three senior communities (Hall Towers, Gateway, and Stoneridge) to determine the interests of residents in receiving the vaccine.

In total, 97 individuals were served and received a COVID-19 vaccination,

including 69 GHA senior residents, 23 GHA employees, and 5 additional frontline healthcare workers.

GHA and the two medical groups will collaborate again for the interests of GHA residents and staff on April 9, 2021, for the second dose of the vaccine at the same three community locations.

Pictured top right: GHA's CEO, James Cox, receives his first dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine.

Pictured bottom right: One of Gateway Plaza's newly vaccinated residents.





Empowering Youth Through Innovative Programs

- Pembroke Housing

Pembroke Housing Authority's (PHA) motto "Together We Rise", is much more than just a slogan. Through unique support programs designed with their residents in mind, PHA seeks to inspire those they serve.

PHA's ExpoGro Program encourages local youth (ages six to 18) to reach their full potential by improving academic achievement, boosting self-esteem, developing social competence, and avoiding problem/high-risk behavior through mentoring and tutoring by PHA Resident Services staff.

The ExpoGro Program is an after-school tutoring/mentoring program that engages "at-risk" youth through field trips to local organizations and UNC-Pembroke for educational experiences. The program also provides

research in a computer lab, academic enhancement skills, and daily transportation from the PHA Community Center for program participants. Summer recreational programs during the months of June, July and August engage the youth in interactive learning and recreational activities at various locations within the surrounding area. The ExpoGro program plays a key role in engaging youth and their families in the life learning process by providing opportunities to explore interests, gain competency in real life skills, solve problems, assume leadership roles, and increase social skills while emphasizing academics and building healthy parent/family relationships.

Participants in the ExpoGro program are invited to attend an annual

Etiquette Banquet, where they may showcase their social skills and celebrate their achievements.

The ExpoGro program is housed in the Clinton L. Thomas Community Building located at 700 Roberts Avenue, Pembroke, North Carolina, with Pembroke Housing Authority overseeing responsibility for the operation of the program. All costs associated with the ExpoGro program are funded in part by the Robeson County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council and PHA. The ExpoGro program is provided at no cost to youth that are residents of PHA.

For more information on the ExpoGro Program, visit the Pembroke Housing website at www.PembrokeHA.com



Pictured above: ExpoGro Youth Coordinators

Pictured left: Pembroke Housing Staff



Pembroke Housing Authority
 Pembroke, NC
 PH: 243
 Ashley R. Lowry, ED
PembrokeHA.com



Mathews named to 50 Most Influential in 2020

- Columbia Housing

Ivory Mathews was named to the 2020 list of the 50 most influential of Columbia by the *Columbia Business Monthly*.

Each year, *Columbia Business Monthly* honors the greater midland region's most influential people. The list covers a variety of industries and is compiled through staff research and community nominations.

Ivory N. Mathews is the Chief Executive Officer of Columbia Housing and Cayce Housing. Mathews has dedicated more than 20 years of her professional career to the affordable housing industry.

Under Mathews' leadership, Columbia Housing is putting residents first, rebuilding public trust, increasing organizational efficiency and creating a climate of transparency and

accountability. Using these principles, Columbia Housing has launched an aggressive portfolio repositioning and redevelopment strategy with an unrelenting focus on the preservation and creation of quality affordable housing for the families they serve.

Mathews currently serves as the...

- Senior Vice-President of the Carolina's Council of Housing, Redevelopment & Codes Officials,
- Legislative Committee of the South Eastern Regional Council of NAHRO and the
- City of Columbia's Affordable Housing Taskforce.

For more information about Ivory Mathews and Columbia Housing please visit, ColumbiaHousingSC.org

New Vouchers, New Opportunities

- Rock Hill Housing Authority

Rock Hill Housing Authority was recently awarded new vouchers through two HUD Programs.

The first was the new Foster Youth Initiative designed to assist youths aging out of the foster care system. RHHA will now work with these youths to ensure they have access to housing and supportive services.

Additionally, RHHA was awarded mainstream vouchers. Both of these new voucher programs will allow RHHA to provide even more residents with safe, sanitary and affordable housing.

RHHA has been able to promote these new programs using their new responsive website. On their website, residents and applicants can access information and services which make interacting with RHHA easier. They can apply online, pay rent online, sign up for notifications via text or email, complete their ROSS assessment, and more!

In addition to their new website, RHHA recently launched their new logo and branding.

The logo features stylized houses in a mountainous formation representative of the area around the Catawba River.

The new image brand captures the Rock Hill Housing Authority's spirit and will be used internally and externally to identify our projects.

For more information please visit, RHHA.org



RHHA.org

Jan Piersol, A Legacy of Service

- Newberry Housing Authority

After 38 years of distinguished public service, Jan Piersol has retired as Executive Director of Newberry Housing Authority. Her years of service has left a lasting impact on the residents and community she served. Jan served as president of CCHRCO from 2007-2008. In honor of her

retirement, the South Carolina Legislature presented her with a formal congratulations for her years of dedicated service.





Location-based Strategies & Tech for Public Safety

Streamlining Security & Community Safety

by Ocean 10 Security - Asheville, NC

The emergence of technology and video surveillance has given housing authorities an amazing tool to address one of your key missions—providing safe housing options for your residents.

With over 50 current HA customers, Ocean 10 has solved countless numbers of crimes and deterred countless more. Through our partnerships, we have noted several best practices for implementing and operating surveillance cameras in your communities.

“The TSUNAMI has been a game changer in our ability to address criminal activity. The TSUNAMI is a tremendous enhancement for quickly identifying leads including vehicles, persons of interest, and witnesses.”

-Brian Swann, Public Safety Dir., Richmond Redevelopment & Housing Authority

Location, Location, Location:

To identify incidents, it is best to focus on key areas for pedestrian and vehicle activity. Visual coverage in “choke points” is vital. Choke points are strategic pathways that must be crossed through to enter or exit a community. Placing cameras in these areas help catalog the specific timeframes that vehicles or individuals enter or exit communities.

Neighboring commercial areas can encourage events. Placing cameras near pedestrian pathways linking nearby commercial retail with residential units protect residents and help identify suspects entering from outside the community.

Further, the sheer presence of surveillance cameras can deter crime. Placement of surveillance camera systems should be overt and obvious, putting bad actors on notice that recording is in progress.

Operation and Maintenance:

Installing and operating technology can bring challenges. Overly complicated surveillance camera systems require servers that manage and store footage. These require dedicated office space. Further, the server is a single “fail point” meaning that if the server goes offline, all recording and storing of footage is stopped.

Ocean 10’s patent-approved TSUNAMI modular system eliminates the need for dedicated servers in offices. A modular system combines all components of a surveillance system into one kit. This means fewer outages, less maintenance, and less tech support.

Modular systems can also rapidly adapt to new technologies. Ocean 10 is now offering the latest version of the TSUNAMI. This latest upgrade catalogs all recorded vehicles and individuals into easily selectable clips. For instance, with a click of a button a user can view every instance of a

red pickup truck recorded in the community.

Streamlined surveillance systems empower your staff to identify persons and vehicles, solve crime, or even mark illegal dumping or lease violations.



For more info, visit Ocean10Security.com or call (828) 606-0017.

Pictured top left: Intelligence Services in Western Africa with Dr. Karfur.

Pictured top right: Sumter Housing Authority Installation.



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Assisting Students During COVID-19

- McMinnville Housing Authority

McMinnville Housing Authority and their Resident Activity Centers are helping students with their school work. Students in Warren County Schools are only currently allowed to attend in-person school two days a week. So the "After School" tutoring program has become a full-time resource for students.

Each Center is limiting participation to 5 at a time and students must wear masks. Students from kindergarten to

college are seeking help and/or use of computers and printers while school is out for COVID. Two employees work with students on homework Monday through Thursday. Friday is Fun Day with crafts, games, trivia and prizes.

Pictured above: Eythan Cox observes as Gabriel Tate and Cynthis Roberts work online on their college classes.



Pictured above: Liz Martin is assisted by Debbie Helton with her math lessons



Pictured at right: Nikkie Young is faithful in her school work completions

Justin Jones elected to the PHADA Board of Trustees

- Ripley Housing Authority

Mr. Jones is the Executive Director of Ripley Housing Authority. PHADA's 1,900-member housing agencies represent over 1.9 million low-income housing units throughout the United States. Their members manage small, medium, large, rural, and urban housing authorities that run programs including public housing, housing choice vouchers, Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD), and a variety of other innovative public-private partnerships.



For more information about Justin Jones and Ripley Housing Authority, visit, RipleyHousing.org

What Home Means to Me Poster Contest Now Open

TAHRA is now accepting applications for the "What Home Means to Me" Poster contest.

This annual competition is open to all children in grades K-12 residing in affordable housing assisted directly and supported under community development, or participants in affordable housing programs administered by a NAHRO member authority (i.e., public or Section 8-assisted housing CDBG, HOME, LIHTC).

Posters must comply with all rules and be received at Maryville Housing Authority no later than May 28th, 2021.

For more information, please visit the TAHRA Website, TAHRAnet.org





New Challenges Call for New Programs

The Tennessee Development and Housing Agency (TDHA) has launched two new programs to assist Tennesseans during these challenging times.

The THDA COVID-19 Rent Relief program will launch on March 1, 2021. Rent Relief is the federal rent assistance contained with the COVID Rent Relief Act of 2020. THDA will administer the program for all areas in the state except; Memphis/Shelby County, Davidson County, Rutherford County and Knox County, who will administer their own programs.

Additionally, The Tennessee Development and Housing Agency received \$4.8M in Disaster Relief Housing Credits which will be

allocated directly to Bradley, Davidson, Hamilton, Putnam, and Wilson counties. Multifamily Programs will offer a separate funding round for these housing credits beginning in April with an application deadline of June 11, 2021. THDA will allocate at the highest scoring application in each county by alphabetical order.

If these housing credits are exhausted before all counties are served, THDA will forward allocate 2022 housing credits to the remaining highest scoring application in each county.

For more information on both of these programs please visit the TDHA Website: <https://thda.org/>



Martin Housing Authority Receives Family Resource Center Grant

- Martin Housing Authority

Martin Housing Authority's nonprofit Impact Management Solutions has received \$500,000 to continue their resident support services!

Impact Management Solutions coordinates Martin Enrichment Academy (MEA) which provides after-school and summer programs for the

youth of Weakley County, Tennessee. MEA currently serves 65 students (Kindergarten - 12th grade).

For more information about Martin Housing Authority's New Family Resource Center grant, visit MartinHousing.org



MartinHousing.org

Help Support H.R. 8533

Tennessee's public housing authorities are currently struggling to find adequate resources to preserve and rehabilitate their aging affordable housing units.

Passage of H.R. 8533:

- Will lead to more affordable housing for Tennessee's low-income families, seniors, special needs individuals and veterans.
- The construction and development process for these renovated and rehabilitated affordable housing units will result in job growth.
- Will increase economic activity in the Tennessee communities where these affordable housing units are located.



With an abundance of caution due to the continued challenges and uncertainty created by the COVID-19 Pandemic, your TAHRA BOD decided to cancel the 2021 Spring Workshop scheduled in Murfreesboro this April 2021.

While we regret having to miss this opportunity to gather, share, and learn together, the safety of the members and our affiliates remains our highest priority. We are looking forward to the next opportunity we have to meet in person!





Saving on Your Insurance Can Save Lives

by Auto-Out® Cooktop Fire Protection - Fort Worth, TX

Your insurance company knows that protecting your property and residents is critical. That's why so many of them offer premium discounts or lower deductibles for installing stovetop fire prevention devices.

Auto-Out, can help improve claims records, resident relations, and profitability.

Auto-Out uses an easy to clean non-toxic fire suppressant powder to smother stovetop fires as they start. The device is triggered by the flames of a fire, meaning it will not accidentally be triggered due to smoke or heat. The system is installed with commercial strength magnets, allowing for your maintenance department to install Auto-Out in your exiting venthood quickly and easily. Auto-out also offers

a Microwave version for units with a microwave over their stoves.

One of the most dangerous threats facing our residents is the potential for fire. We

“Statistics say 1 in 123 apartment units will have a kitchen fire annually. Auto-Out can be the difference between the health and safety of the tenants and your property, and potentially devastating results. The investment will pay for itself in reduced losses and stabilized insurance premiums.”

**J. Megan Davidson, ARM, CRIS
Vice President, Real Estate Team
Alliant Insurance Services, Inc.”**

install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, distribute fire extinguishers, and stress the importance of fire safety but we can never eliminate the ever-present threat.

Cooking is the leading cause of residential fires, and unattended equipment on the stovetop is the leading factor contributing to cooking fires, fire injuries, and deaths.

Talk to your insurance provider about potential premium reductions or lower deductibles available for property owners who use Auto-Out. The typical discount may range anywhere from one to ten percent.

By preventing cooking fire damage, you may eliminate your need to file a claim and can continue to keep your premiums low. And, most importantly your residents stay safe and your apartment units remain intact and continue to produce income.

Don't just take our word for it, let our valued insurance partners speak for themselves:

For more info, visit Auto-Out.com, call (817)924-1370 or email sales@auto-out.com

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Adapting to Serve During COVID-19

- Bristol Redevelopment and Housing Authority

On March 1st, Bristol Redevelopment and Housing Authority (BRHA) was able to resume full in-person operation!

Though they are not yet officially open to the public; however, they are taking all available precautions to ensure staff, client, and community safety once they are able to open their "Welcome Doors".

To maintain health and safety conditions, facial recognition temperature scanners were installed at various entrances for staff and Residents (pictured top right).

To celebrate their return to the office, BRHA was able to host a small and socially distant Welcome Back Breakfast.



Though they were limited to remote operations, BRHA staff were hard at

work! In March 2021, they began to work with AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers to help launch our partnerships within the EnVision Center and to explore program options for our Moving to Work (MTW) initiative.

Additionally, the United Way of Bristol TN/VA partnered with BRHA to support the EnVision Center. The generous monetary donation from this well-respected and pivotal organization is greatly appreciated.

To serve their residents, BRHA was able to partner with People Inc. to offer free virtual tax prep for residents! Residents were able to call and schedule an appointment with a tax advisor to insure they were able to get the tax help they needed while maintaining physical distancing.

In partnership with the Bristol Virginia Health Department, BRHA was able to offer an on-site vaccination clinic. The on-site clinic was open to all residents who expressed interest in receiving the vaccine.

Though COVID-19 changed the way that Bristol RHA was able to interact with their residents, it has not stopped them from attempting to assist in any

way that they can. It has taken creativity and dedication, but in BRHA staff has been ready to answer the call.

Pictured above: left to right Ms. Lisa Cofer, Executive Director of the United Way Bristol and Lisa R. Porter Executive Director/CEO of Bristol RHA.



Bristol Redevelopment and Housing Authority

Bristol, VA

PH: 410 HCV: 342

Lisa R. Porter, ED/CEO

BRHA.com

Farmers to Families Food Box



1,200 Boxes of Food Distributed

- Fairmont-Morgantown Housing Authority

Through a partnership with Save the Children®, the Fairmont-Morgantown Housing Authority was able to distribute 1,200 boxes of food to their residents.

At the start, finding a location was paramount to hosting the giveaway people would be able to drive through and receive a food box. Then Crouso said she started sharing the word with partners throughout the community.

She said the families involved in the FMHA programs were also contacted. She said the organization had about two weeks to prepare, which was not very long.

George Johnston, chairperson for the board of FMHA, said their organization hasn't done a food giveaway before but noted that cars often line up to the expanse of the park.

The Marion County Commission allowed the FMHA to use the park for the food giveaway, the Fairmont Police Department helped with traffic as people filtered in to receive food.

"It's just been a good partnership of agencies to help, and everybody helped promote us too that's been very good," said Crouso.

Those waiting in line received a 30 pound box of food. Each box had all food groups covered. A gallon of milk, chicken, potatoes and apples along with things such as pot pie mixes went home with people on Thursday.

"Everybody in the line's been very receptive and happy to be here and appreciative and our staff is just super excited to have this chance. It's something new for us," said Crouso.

"We can definitely see the need here today. We would definitely be interested in hosting again," she said.

Save the Children has been working with Housing Agencies across the state to host food distributions. Since March 2020, they have been able to partner to deliver more than 8 million meals across rural America.



Food Box Distribution Line

Fairmont-Morgantown Housing Authority
 Fairmont, WV
 PH: 136 HCV 1,156
 Christal Crouso, ED
 FMhousing.com



Creating Funds to Support the YouthBuild Program in Honor of Loren Fortney

- Randolph County Housing Authority

The new YouthBuild-Loren Fortney Memorial Fund will provide perpetual funding to support a program that teaches young adults valuable construction skills while building affordable housing and other community assets to make our communities stronger.

The YouthBuild-Loren Fortney Memorial Fund is named in honor of Loren Fortney (pictured in center of photo above), a great man and inspired

teacher who taught hundreds of crew members from 2003-2015 and again as a tutor in 2017-2018. The Fund will provide scholarships to YouthBuild graduates and provide program support to protect them from federal funding uncertainty.

Until 2015, Loren was employed by the Randolph County Housing Authority as a teacher/education coordinator/principal and all-around youth-wrangler at the YouthBuild North Central program.

Since 1995, YouthBuild North Central WV has helped young adults from West Virginia become self-sufficient, responsible members of their communities. It provides young adults the tools they need to get a good job and keep it. YouthBuild also helps its participants plan for the future. This may involve career counseling, advice on applying to colleges, finding advanced vocational training, or other support.

New Help to Establish EnVision Center

- Williamson Housing Authority

Katie Deaton and Ashley Justice (pictured at right) were recently added to the Williamson Housing Authority (WHA) staff. Deaton is the Authority's new VISTA and Justice is a social work graduate intern from the University of Pikeville.

"We are excited to have them on our staff. Katie and Ashley bring a new energy to our staff and I am looking forward to seeing what they will do. They are very organized and have already begun planning several projects that will run from now to throughout the summer."

Deaton and Justice recently helped distribute back-to-school backpacks to families! "School had just restarted in-person classes in Mingo County and right now many families are not as stocked with school supplies as they usually are," Deaton said.

Other projects include things like virtual bingo, family game nights, Read Aloud Wednesdays, life lessons and healthy habits classes are planned for the near future.

"We want the EnVision Center to be a hub of resources," Deaton said. "We



want to find out what the needs are in the community and then find and offer the resources to fill those needs."



An Open Letter to Congress



by Mike Sweet, SERC-NAHRO Legislative Committee Chairman

March 2021

The Southeastern Regional Council of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (SERC-NAHRO) is an association of knowledgeable and dedicated housing and community development professionals. SERC-NAHRO's mission is to facilitate the development of new affordable housing and support the preservation of existing housing. We will combine our voices to advocate for the improved living conditions and interests of those we serve and petition federal, state and local governments for adequate assistance. We will further our mission through the training and education of our membership. Organized over 80 years ago, SERC-NAHRO consists of more than 700 agency members that serve over a half million low-income households in ten southeastern states (Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee). Through this Open Letter, SERC-NAHRO seeks continuing support and a commitment by Congress to sufficiently fund HUD programs and/or amend rules and regulations in need of reform. SERC-NAHRO members are unified in their efforts to house America's economically disadvantaged and we urge Congress to recognize that these efforts are successful and gravely needed.

Throughout the United States, affordable housing agencies have been highly effective in providing critical housing resources through their federally funded Public Housing, Rental Voucher Programs, Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Program, and Multifamily Programs. However, many unmet needs remain. Demands on the rental market continue to shift with approximately one third of all Americans now living in rental housing reducing

overall rental unit availability. Based on HUD's most recent study (2017), households meeting worst case criteria have steadily increased by 41% since 2007 with only one in four low-income families having access to rental assistance. While demand continues to grow for affordable rental housing as the nation's stock of public housing units dwindles, it is widely recognized that homelessness is reaching crisis levels. Past failure to re-invest in the aging public housing stock has resulted in the loss of over 250,000 units since the mid 1990's. Underfunding of multiple HUD programs over the past decade has resulted in housing authorities being unable to meet the housing needs of their local communities. Fortunately, the past four T-HUD Appropriations Bills have seen modest increases in funding for many affordable housing programs. It is imperative that Congress continue to support adequate funding of Affordable Housing.

SERC-NAHRO members understand Congress' fiscal concerns and we support efforts to responsibly reduce spending. However, we believe that safe, decent, and affordable housing is essential to the well-being of all citizens and that reductions in spending levels should not be directed at vital domestic programs. We urge Congress to do all it can to ensure that housing, one of the most basic and fundamental needs, is available to our nation's most vulnerable families, including our elderly citizens, disabled citizens and our veterans. In addition, we encourage Congress to continue efforts to provide regulatory relief. Housing Authorities must have more autonomy and flexibility to sustain operations and preserve housing stock.

The Corona Virus (COVID) pandemic's economic impact has put a huge strain on the rental market in the United

States. Renter households have been deeply impacted by the shutdown of retail stores, restaurants and other workplaces requiring in-person work that isn't necessarily considered essential. As a result, the ability of tenants to afford rent has been a growing concern during the pandemic. The ongoing eviction moratoriums will eventually end jeopardizing the housing of countless residents. Many Housing Agencies reactions to the pandemic have been complicated by differing requirements among states and between localities within states. Federal privacy guidelines have made it difficult to take appropriate action to protect personnel while still providing required services to tenants. Furthermore, unclear guidance regarding allowable uses of federal relief funding delayed the initial reactions of Housing Agencies to the pandemic. While the morale at most Housing Agencies seems to be holding up, COVID fatigue is definitely taking its toll through reduced productivity.

On the following page, you will find a breakdown by state of your constituency that we serve. SERC-NAHRO members are some of the most knowledgeable in the affordable housing industry and we hope that you will take advantage of this experience and contact the housing professional(s) in your district anytime that you have housing related questions or concerns. You will find that each Housing Agency is unique in its own right with unique challenges and needs.

As always, please send me your thoughts and feedback via email to: chick604@bellsouth.net

Federal Rental Assistance Fact Sheet - South Eastern Region

State	Households Receiving Housing Choice Vouchers	Households Receiving Public Housing Assistance	Households Receiving Project Based Section 8	Assisted Households: Seniors	Assisted Households: Persons with Disabilities	Assisted Households: Families with Children	Total Assisted Persons	Working Households (by %)	Funding in Billions
Alabama	32,000	31,400	17,500	24,200 (12%)	34,800 (18%)	136,100 (69%)	196,100	57%	\$0.614
Florida	109,900	29,900	40,800	81,100 (18%)	104,600 (23%)	286,700 (64%)	451,000	59%	\$1.800
Georgia	56,600	30,200	31,200	37,400 (12%)	53,200 (18)	213,100 (71%)	301,800	60%	\$1.000
Kentucky	31,600	20,800	21,400	25,000 (15%)	39,500 (24%)	105,200 (63%)	166,100	52%	\$0.521
Mississippi	25,400	8,600	17,400	15,900 (12%)	21,000 (15%)	97,700 (72%)	135,400	53%	\$0.412
North Carolina	61,600	24,400	25,400	35,100 (13%)	53,900 (20%)	181,100 (69%)	263,000	57%	\$0.874
South Carolina	26,100	12,500	17,800	17,800 (12%)	23,300 (16%)	103,100 (72%)	143,200	56%	\$0.455
Tennessee	36,300	24,300	33,700	32,200 (15%)	44,700 (20%)	142,500 (65%)	218,700	52%	\$0.672
Virginia	47,100	15,000	29,400	30,600 (14%)	44,300 (20%)	147,400 (68%)	217,800	61%	\$0.872
West Virginia	14,300	6,000	10,500	12,100 (18%)	16,300 (25%)	37,100 (56%)	66,300	50%	\$0.223
Totals -	440,900	203,100	245,100	311,400	435,600	1,450,000	2,159,400	56% (Avg.)	\$7.443

Total Alabama Households	80,900
Total Florida Households	180,600
Total Georgia Households	118,000
Total Kentucky Households	73,800
Total Mississippi Households	51,400
Total North Carolina Households	111,400
Total South Carolina Households	56,400
Total Tennessee Households	94,300
Total Virginia Households	91,500
Total West Virginia Households	30,800
Grand Total of all Households	889,100

***Note** – All statistics are from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Some statistics may include persons that fit into multiple categories. For example, an assisted senior may be raising their grandchildren, therefore, they would be included in the statistics for Assisted Seniors and Assisted Persons in Families with Children.

Some statistics have been rounded to the nearest 100 for convenience.

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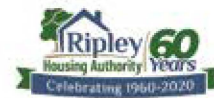
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