



# HUD NEWS

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Ben Carson, Secretary  
Joseph J. DeFelice, Regional Administrator, Region III

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## HUD AND LOCAL OFFICIALS KICK OFF ENVISION CENTER DEMONSTRATION IN HOPEWELL

HOPEWELL, Va. – To help low-income residents increase their income and gain self-sufficiency, the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Joseph J. DeFelice joined City of Hopewell Mayor Jasmine Gore in announcing a new designated HUD EnVision Center demonstration with the Hopewell Redevelopment and Housing Authority (HRHA), joining 60 communities across the country taking this vital step to offer support services for the benefit of its residents.

HUD's EnVision Center demonstration offers assisted families support to help them achieve self-sufficiency and, thereby, making limited federal resources available to others awaiting assistance. It is premised on the fact that financial support alone is insufficient to solve poverty. Intentional and collective efforts across various organizations are needed to realize a more holistic path to foster lasting self-sufficiency.

"We will not measure success by the number of people who enter this new EnVision Center," stated DeFelice. "Success will be measured by the number of individuals who achieve greater self-sufficiency – who no longer require assistance from our programs – who gain the financial independence to be able to rent, or even buy their own homes."

The announcement was made at the Davisville Community Center on 913 Rev CW Harris Street in Hopewell. Located on or near public housing developments, EnVision Centers provide communities with a centralized hub to access support in the following four pillars: Economic Empowerment, Educational Advancement, Health and Wellness, and Character and Leadership. Representatives from the offices of U.S. Senators Mark Warner (D-VA) and Tim Kaine (D-VA) and U.S. Congressman Donald McEachin (D-VA-4th District) were on hand for the event.

“HRHA is grateful and energized by the opportunity to participate as an EnVision Center provider. This will enhance the efforts already being taken by the authority to facilitate economic self-sufficiency for our residents and our community. Our mission is to promote adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity and a suitable living environment free from discrimination,” stated HRHA Chief Executive Officer Steven A. Benham, Sr. “A core value of HRHA is to provide exceptional customer service both internally and externally. Through responsible leadership, teamwork and collaboration we are a catalyst for positive change in the community.

The EnVision Center is a perfect complement to existing efforts to improve the quality of life of all low-income persons in Hopewell. We are fortunate to have great community partners at the table working to provide Economic Empowerment, Educational Advancement, Health and Wellness, and Character and Leadership. We are very excited to move our efforts to a higher level via the EnVision Center concept.”

“I am incredibly excited about this new opportunity that the HRHA was able to create for their residents!” exclaimed Mayor Gore. “Community advocates have known that equitable resources within the community is key to help everyone have the ability to reach their fullest potential. It is critical now more than ever to invest in human capital. The HRHA has demonstrated that they can leverage economic investment with economic mobility to ensure that residents can improve their quality of life.

In order to do this, services much like what will be offered in the EnVision Center are a necessity. The City is currently in the process of mirroring a similar layout to support Hopewell residents and promote cross-department collaboration. I look forward to seeing the positive results from the EnVision Center serve as a shining example throughout the City of Hopewell.”

Also on hand for the announcement was Kathryn Thompson, Executive Director of Southside Transformation Opportunities for Residents and Youth (STORY), HRHA’s nonprofit partner in the new venture.

"I am very excited about the opening of the Hopewell EnVision Center," added Thompson. "The Partnership for Healthy Public Housing Communities is committed to systems level change to benefit public housing and other low-income citizens of Hopewell. We are very excited about the potential for new federal, state and local partnerships and opportunities that will enable us to offer programs that rewrite the stories of these families. We are very proud of our work thus far and will continue to focus on trauma informed schools and communities as we expand into workforce training and development."

To learn more about HUD Secretary Carson’s EnVision Center demonstration, please visit [HUD.gov/EnVisionCenters](https://www.hud.gov/EnVisionCenters).

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Photo caption (left to right): Community partners including Tarvaris McCoy, Chief Development Officer, HRHA; Carrie Coyner, State Delegate, 62nd District which includes Hopewell; Sopenhia Pierce, Executive Director, Crater Regional Workforce Development Board; Randy Moore, Senator Mark Warner's office; Taylor Thornhill, Senator Tim Kaine's office; Carrie Schmidt, Director, HUD Richmond Field Office; Mayor Jasmine E. Gore, City of Hopewell, Virginia; Shamika Lewis, HRHA Commissioner; Kathryn Thompson, Executive Director, STORY; Joe DeFelice, Region III Regional Administrator, HUD; Steven Benham, CEO, HRHA; Valerie Liggins, Program Officer, Cameron Foundation; Kevin Foster, Program Officer, John Randolph Foundation and CaMicha Robertson, Property Manager, Davisville Community, HRHA; join together for a ceremonial photograph after the announcement of a new HUD EnVision Center opening in Hopewell, Virginia.

*HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. The Department's Mid-Atlantic region includes Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, D.C. and West Virginia. The regional office is in Philadelphia. Follow [HUD Mid-Atlantic](#) and Regional Administrator [Joe DeFelice](#) on Twitter and [Facebook](#). Watch regional video messages and #MidAtlanticMeetup, a virtual meeting series, on [YouTube](#), and read the [Region III Recap](#) for the latest news and activities.*

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