

# NEW DIMENSIONS

ELDERLY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT & OPERATIONS CORPORATION



## Federal Actions to Assist the Elderly Announced at the 2015 White House Conference on Aging

On July 13th, President Obama hosted at the White House and nationwide via a live broadcast, the 2015 White House Conference on Aging. This was the 6th White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA) that has usually been held every decade since 1961 to bring together government officials, senior citizens, housing and healthcare practitioners, and advocates in the aging and long-term care field to address priority issues and concerns facing increasing numbers of Older Americans; address means to improve their quality of life; and to prepare for the future and next generation.

White House Conferences on Aging have been recognized as catalysts for the development of key national aging policies; and have had a significant role in establishing improvements of many major federal programs to assist the elderly including: Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and the Older Americans Act. Recognizing these past achievements in his opening comments, President Obama noted that this year marks the 80th



anniversary of Social Security and the 50th anniversary of Medicare.

He pointed out that, "We choose to do big things here in America. Three generations ago, we chose to end the era where seniors were left to languish in poverty. Two generations ago, we chose to end an age when Americans in their golden years didn't have the guarantee of health care. In this anniversary of those incredible achievements, we need to recommit ourselves to finishing the work that earlier generations began-- make sure this is a country that remains one where no matter who you are or where you started off, you're treated with dignity, your hard work is rewarded, your contributions are valued, you have a shot to achieve your dreams whatever your age."

Prior to the convening of the White House Conference on Aging, a series of policy briefs

were prepared and posted on the WHCOA website [www.whitehouseconferenceonaging.gov](http://www.whitehouseconferenceonaging.gov) to stimulate comments and discussion. These policy briefs were on issues affecting: Healthy Aging, Long-term Services and Supports, Elder Justice, and Retirement Security.

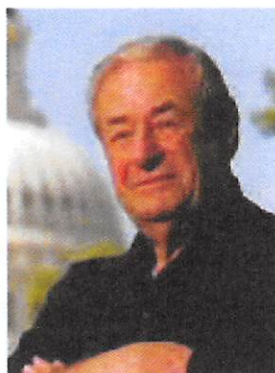
Throughout the year, five regional WHCOA conferences were held (Tampa, Phoenix, Seattle, Cleveland and Boston) to facilitate discussions and generate ideas on priority concerns. Speaking at the Cleveland regional WHCOA conference, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Julian Castro, discussed the need for a 21st century vision of planning that puts housing and communities at the center.

President Obama and other government leaders announced during the WHCOA conference a



# THE "AMERICAN" DREAM

By Morton Bahr, President



Do you support the right of all Americans to live the "American Dream?"

Do you believe that all low-income seniors should be able to enjoy their "Golden Years?"

If we asked these questions of Members of Congress, we would get an almost unanimous affirmative response. But, unfortunately, for the vast majority it would merely be lip service.

Federal money allocated to homeless and low-income Americans has been dramatically cut back. And, this comes at a time when America's older population is undergoing unprecedented growth.

The trend downward began some 20 years ago, where today virtually no government money is available for low-income senior housing. Nationally there are currently ten applicants waiting for a vacancy in an existing low-income senior building. There are about ten seniors on the EHDOC waiting list which is 3-5 years at virtually all of our properties. We have seen desperate seniors when they have no where to live and we cannot offer them an apartment.

There is a common thread that runs through the two questions posed at the outset of this column. That is, the right to live with dignity whether you are a low-income senior or anyone else. And, there is no question that you cannot live with dignity if you do not have a decent, affordable place to call home.

There are some bright spots as we look to meet the future needs of this growing population. We, in EHDOC, are learning

how to use tax credits to fund future building. In addition, a number of state and local office holders have shown an interest to work with EHDOC in their states and local areas.

- The mayor of Canton, Ohio, attended our Board meeting last February. We have announced that we will build a 60-unit complex in that city.
- At our Board meeting, the Mayor of Miami Beach presented us with a proclamation and stated how he wanted to work with us to provide low-income senior housing in areas where other more affluent housing exists.
- In New York, Governor Andrew Cuomo personally told me of his interest to work with EHDOC, and a meeting has been held with New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's top staff. The latter was arranged by Chris Shelton, newly-elected President of Communications Workers of America (CWA) and a member of the EHDOC Board of Directors.
- President & CEO Steve Protulis and I, through Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, met with the director of Housing and Community Development and the senior manager of the Virginia Housing Authority. The director told me they are working on identifying a project for us.

I became associated with EHDOC about eight years ago when Steve Protulis asked me to join the Board. It has given me an opportunity to continue to work to improve lives as I did for 51 years in the CWA.

There is still an enormous challenge ahead of us. But, you can be assured that EHDOC will continue to lead the way toward providing a better life for thousands in need.

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# DOES YOUR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SUPPORT AFFORDABLE SENIOR HOUSING?

By Steve Protulis, President & CEO



Recently, I had the privilege to meet at a small private party one of the leading Presidential candidates. I was very pleased for the opportunity to discuss directly with the candidate the need for affordable senior housing, including concerns over recent Congressional actions that drastically cut funding, particularly to construct the only

federal housing program that is specifically for low-income seniors -- Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly.

The critical shortage of affordable housing combined with the projected increase in elderly population makes it vital that each of the Presidential candidates be well informed of the issues and supports an expansion of affordable senior housing.

Over the next few months there will be extensive public debates, interviews, articles, press releases, rallies, websites, a saturation of political ads to help the general public and active party members learn the qualifications and policy differences among the various candidates.

Following are a few key issues that each candidate should be aware of regarding affordable senior housing:

- There are over 4.2 million (9.5%) seniors living below the poverty level with 25% receiving housing assistance; the shortage of affordable housing will continue to escalate as baby boomers retire and the senior population doubles from 35 to 70 million by 2030.
- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2015 report to Congress classified that 37 percent of very low income older Americans are paying more than fifty percent of their income on housing or live in severely inadequate conditions.
- The Congressional Commission on Affordable Housing and Health Facility Needs for Seniors to which I was honored to be appointed, recommended over a decade ago the need to build annually an additional 40,000 units of senior housing. However, not only has there been a significant shortfall in the construction

of affordable housing, but the shortage has been compounded by a steady loss of existing affordable housing. The private sector isn't producing housing that is affordable or suitable for very low-income older persons without federal assistance.

- The only federal housing program specifically for very low-income seniors, Section 202 Supportive Housing for Elderly, enables non-profit organizations to build and operate affordable and suitable housing for very low-income seniors, primarily older women living alone on a fixed annual income less than \$13,000. Yet, despite extensive multi-year waiting lists, sound management and cost effectiveness, the Section 202 senior housing program has experienced funding cuts in recent years.
- Over a third (38%) of Section 202 older residents have more than one disability. The staffing of service coordinators trained to link community health and supportive services enables residents to age-in-place, thus delaying or avoiding admission to expensive institutional care. Alternatives to costly nursing homes through supportive senior housing could save health and long-term care costs of government, as well as savings for taxpayers, older persons, their families and care givers.

A recent study of the Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies (JCHS) concludes that "America's older population is in the midst of unprecedented growth, but the country is not prepared to meet the housing needs of this aging population." What actions would your candidate take to prepare our nation for the dramatic increase in Older Americans and to address the critical shortage of affordable senior housing?

There will be a lot of money spent by undisclosed contributors to try to convince voters how to vote in the 2016 Presidential election. While most older persons won't have sufficient funds to contribute to their candidate, there are other ways to have your voice heard and to make a positive impact. Are you registered to vote, and will you take time to learn the positions among the candidates and volunteer to assist your candidate? Each American needs to vote – it is a right, a privilege, and a civic duty; and therefore, it is critical that you (and others) know the candidate's record and position on issues that are important to Older Americans, particularly affordable senior housing.



# HOUSING WITH A HEART...

## Cha Des Amis, Ville Platte, Louisiana

The Cajun Area Agency on Aging provided a coach, Lynda Southard, to teach residents strategies to reduce fear of falling and increase activity levels. Residents graduating from "Matter of Balance" Fall Prevention Class are featured below.



## Hugh Carcella Apartments Reading, Pennsylvania

The "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive was started by the residents of Hugh Carcella Apartments in Reading, PA in April. They donated 2 boxes of non-perishable food to this worthy cause for those less fortunate.

## Edward Romero Terrace Albuquerque, New Mexico

On March 19th, Silver Horizons and Edward Romero Terrace staff conducted the first healthy and "hard to get" nutritious food box distribution, delivering to residents hand selected meats, fruits and vegetables. Between the Edward Romero Terrace resident association and staff, Silver Horizons processed 36 food boxes. As a result of this program, residents are able to enjoy quality and nutritious meal preparations using heart healthy recipes and ingredients.



## Robert Sharp Towers I & II, Miami Gardens FL

On April 15th & 16th staff assisted applicants who came to apply for future residency at Robert Sharp Towers I & II. Staff explained the application process and assisted more than one hundred applicants.



# EVERY DAY AT EHD OC RESIDENCES



## Lynn Williams Apartments Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Local middle school students of Project Destiny held conversations with the senior residents by way of conducting personal interviews. The students learned how to communicate with the seniors and were told about different historical eras and cultures.

## Teamsters Residences, Maumee, Ohio

Resident Judy Bialecki, of Teamsters Residences provided a craft class to make pins and flowers. She made a full garden worth of button flowers to send to Ridgewood, an excellent rehabilitation transition home for seniors. They were given to Lori, who is from Ridgewood on April 20th to take and hand to the seniors there for a fun spring decoration for their room. Lori comes each month and hosts BINGO for the tenants. Judy wanted to give back to the Ridgewood seniors that were recovering.



## Torre Jesus Sanchez Erazo Bayamon, Puerto Rico

On March 27 the Community Torre Jesus Sanchez Erazo celebrated the 2nd Anniversary of their library. A group of senior writers, named "Complices de la palabra" were invited to share some of their tales with our residents and donate a copy of their *Anthology of Tales* to the library.



## Sunshine Center Apartment, Leesville, Louisiana

The Good Food Project is a model community garden network that feeds, educates, and connects Food Bank clients and the broader CENLA community, empowering people to achieve better health through sustainable gardening and access to nutritious food. The garden creates an opportunity for residents to spend quality time with one another while being active in our community.



## MISSION STATEMENT

EHDOC develops and manages safe, secure and affordable housing for senior citizens across the United States. EHDOC advocates for the highest quality of life for the seniors of today and tomorrow.

## EHDOC Senior Relief Fund

The EHDOC Senior Relief Funds assists seniors in paying their security deposit, and provides needed support in order for them to be able to live in a safe and secure EHDOC property.

Donations can be made by check or credit card; they are tax deductible.

Visit [www.ehdoc.org](http://www.ehdoc.org) today to make your donation.

Thank you.

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## 7 IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION TIPS FOR SENIORS

Here are some simple, but important steps seniors can take to secure their identity:

### **Don't carry your Medicare card in your wallet.**

Make a copy of your Medicare card and block out the last four digits of your Social Security number so if you lose it or your wallet is stolen, no one can get your full Social Security number. Carry the photocopy and keep your Medicare card in a secure place.

### **Be wary of requests for information by phone.**

Don't respond to incoming phone calls requesting personal information. If a creditor or organization calls with a seemingly legitimate need for your personal information (account numbers, Social Security number, or credit card information), hang up and verify the phone number and legitimacy of the caller before returning the call.

### **Secure your information.**

Don't carry more personal documents than necessary with you when you leave the house. Leave Social Security numbers, checks, extra credit cards, Medicare cards, and financial statements in a locked security box at home or another secure location.

### **Shred it.**

Shred anything you don't need to keep, such as documents that contain account information, Social Security numbers, PINs, or sensitive information -- including credit card statements, other bills, credit card receipts, unused checks, canceled checks, and credit reports.

### **Protect your computer.**

Install antivirus software, anti-spyware, and firewall software to prevent cyber-programs that steal personal information. Use unique passwords for your computer and any online accounts and change them on a regular basis. A strong password includes a mix of numbers, symbols, and both upper and lowercase letters. Don't use your birthday or pet's name, your phone number, or anything that could be easy to guess.

### **Check your credit regularly.**

Monitor and review your credit report annually. If you believe you have been a victim, consider placing a fraud alert or credit freeze on your credit report. Request a free credit report via [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) on a regular basis.

### **Register for the National Do Not Call list.**

To prevent telemarketers from calling your home with unsolicited offers, register for the National Do Not Call List. Visit [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) to register or call 1-888-382-1222.





## EHDOC WELCOMES A NEW BOARD MEMBER



Larry Williams

Larry E. Williams is founder and president of Structural Waterproofing Co., Inc. Structural Waterproofing performs remedial waterproofing on high rise buildings for institutional accounts in some 20 states and the Virgin Islands.

Mr. Williams is also founder of Eucalyptus Properties in Winter Park, Florida. Eucalyptus develops free standing properties in

downtown Winter Park.

By way of philanthropy, the Larry and Joy Williams Foundation was formed in 2003. The Foundation supports missions in Haiti and Africa as well as Habitat for Humanity of Winter Park and Nemours Children's Hospital in Orlando. It also supports individuals with serious financial need.

Larry resides in Winter Park with his wife Joy. He is the father of three adult sons and has five grandchildren.

### Federal Actions to Assist the Elderly (continued from page 1)

series of Administrative initiatives, policy actions, and private sector collaborations that would be taken to assist older Americans, including a new government-wide aging website [www.Aging.gov](http://www.Aging.gov); use of new technologies; improved Social Security information; efforts to combat Alzheimer's and other dementias; supporting elder caregiving; modernizing federal rules for long-term care and elder justice; and facilitating aging-in-place through home modifications. [www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/07/13/fact-sheet-white-house-conference-aging](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/07/13/fact-sheet-white-house-conference-aging).

Leading Age summarized and posted on their website the "8 Things That Happened at the White House Conference on Aging" that would be of interest to their non-profit members, including EHDOC, and their residents.

- **Caregiver Support Systems** – establishing support systems for professional and family caregivers.
- **Funding for Workforce** – \$35.7 million for a new Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program Dementia Friendly America - foster communities that are equipped to support people with dementia and their families, with plans to build 15 new pilot sites across the country.



- **Aging.gov** – one-stop resource providing federal information and resources to older Americans, their families, and caregivers.
- **Workplace Retirement Savings Program** – proposed Americans to workplace-based retirement savings by requiring employers not currently offering a retirement plan to automatically enroll their workers in an IRA.
- **Culture of Prevention** – national awareness campaign on the importance of a combination of healthy nutrition, physical activity and mental health care.
- **SNAP to Fund Meals on Wheels** – U.S. Department of Agriculture will increase accessibility to critical nutrition for homebound, older Americans and people with disabilities by enabling Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.
- **Elder Abuse Protection** – Department of Justice will fund a multi-year project to evaluate how to avoid and respond to elder abuse; and to train prosecutors on how to effectively curb elder abuse and financial exploitation.
- **LeadingAge Hackfest** – Federal open data to help create technology-driven tools that help older adults and their families.

Additional WHCOA information is available at: [www.whitehouseconferenceonaging.gov/](http://www.whitehouseconferenceonaging.gov/) and [www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/07/13/fact-sheet-white-house-conference-aging](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/07/13/fact-sheet-white-house-conference-aging).



# EHDOC Communities Nationwide

Working to meet the need for senior housing across the country

## ARKANSAS

### Jacksonville Towers

Jacksonville  
100 units • 9 story

### Worley's Place

Jacksonville  
44 units • 3 story

## CALIFORNIA

### Dino Papavero Senior Centre

Fontana  
150 units • 11 story

### Murray Place

Bell  
71 units • 5 story

### Steel Plaza

Los Angeles  
65 units • 11 story

### Piazza Apartments

Fontana  
59 units • 4 story

### Minerva Manor

Fontana  
Opening Fall 2015  
62 units • 3 story

## CONNECTICUT

### Anthony J. DeLorenzo Towers

Bristol  
90 units • 5 story

### Stonington Arms

Pawcatuck  
75 units • 2 story quadraplex

## FLORIDA

### Council Towers North

Miami Beach  
125 units • 12 story

### Council Towers South

Miami Beach  
125 units • 12 story

### EHDOC MC Pepper Towers

Miami  
150 units • 12 story

### Palermo Lakes Apartments

Miami  
109 units • 15 story

### Robert Sharp Towers I

Miami Gardens  
109 units • 7 story

### Robert Sharp Towers II

Miami Gardens  
109 units • 7 story

### Stanley Axlrod Towers

Miami  
272 Units • 17 story

## ILLINOIS

### North Park Village Apartments

Chicago  
180 units • 2 & 3 story

### Prete Apartments

Chicago  
75 units • 4 story

### Senate Apartments

Chicago  
240 units • 4 story

### Edward M. Marx Apartments

Chicago  
31 units • 2 story

### J. Michael Fitzgerald Apartments

Chicago  
Opening Summer 2016  
63 units

## LOUISIANA

### Chateau des Amis

Ville Platte  
49 units • 2 story

### Leisure Lane Apartments

Rayne  
19 units • Garden Style

### Morse Manor

Morse  
19 units • Garden Style

### Oakwood Apartments

Cheneyville  
16 units • Garden Style

### Pine Grove Apartments

Pineville  
77 units • 2 story

### Point Villa Apartments

Church Point  
19 units • Garden Style

### Riverbend Apartments

Mermentau  
22 units • Garden Style

### Savoy Heights Apartments

Mamou  
54 units • 2 story

### Sunshine Center Apartments

Leesville  
37 units • Garden Style

### Village de Memoire

Ville Platte  
115 units • 2 story

## MAINE

### Chateau Cushnoc

Augusta  
60 units • 3 story

### La Maison Acadienne

Madawaska  
62 units • 3 story

### Spring Rock Park Leeds

Leeds  
20 units • 2 story

### John Marvin Tower

Augusta  
32 units • 3 story

## MARYLAND/ WASHINGTON, DC

### Council House

Marlow Heights  
161 units • 9 story

### Johnson Towers

Washington  
54 units • 5 story

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Robert A. Georgine Tower

Charlestown  
42 units • 6 story

### South Boston

Boston  
50 units • 3 story

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

### Earl M. Bourdon Centre

Claremont  
80 units • 3 story

## NEW MEXICO

### Ed Romero Terrace

Albuquerque  
40 units • 4 story

## NEW YORK

### Clyde F. Simon Lakeview I

Bath  
150 units • 5 story

### Clyde F. Simon Lakeview II

Bath  
39 units • 3 story

### Jack Kenney Memorial

Rochester  
91 units • 6 Bldg - 2 story

## OHIO

### Mayfield Manor I

Canton  
144 units • 6 story

### Mayfield Manor II

Canton  
66 units • 8 story

### Mayfield Manor III

Canton  
40 units • 4 story

### William Burga Tower

In development

### Teamsters Residence

Maumee  
52 units • 1 story quadraplex

### William W. Winpisinger

Cleveland  
42 units • 7 story

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Hugh Carcella Apartments

Reading  
120 units • 11 story

### I.W. Abel Place

Pittsburgh  
49 units • 6 story

### Lloyd McBride Court

Millvale  
58 units • 5 story

### Lynn Williams Apartments

Pittsburgh  
42 units • 5 story

### Steelworkers Tower

Pittsburgh  
79 units • 11 story

## PUERTO RICO

### Torre Jesus Sanchez Erazo

Bayamon  
100 units • 11 story



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