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SECRETARY CARSON KICKS OFF ENVISION CENTER DEMONSTRATION ***Centralized hubs to help HUD-assisted households become self-sufficient***

DETROIT - U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben Carson traveled to his hometown of Detroit today to announce the first round of 'EnVision Center' designations in 17 communities around the nation. One of Secretary Carson's signature initiatives, EnVision Centers will offer HUD-assisted families access to support services that can help them achieve self-sufficiency, thereby making scarce federal resources more readily available to a greater number of households currently waiting to receive HUD assistance. Read more about HUD's EnVision Center Demonstration.

Secretary Carson and Detroit Mayor Michael Duggan met with public housing residents, community leaders and other stakeholders at Life Remodeled's (<http://liferemodeled.com/>) Durfee Innovation Society, among the first group of demonstration communities named today.

"Housing assistance should be more than just putting a roof over someone's head," said Secretary Carson. "These EnVision Centers offer a more holistic housing approach by connecting HUD-assisted families with the tools they need to become self-sufficient and to flourish."

Mayor Duggan added, "EnVision Centers are about bringing services to people in neighborhoods and I am thankful that our partners at HUD chose Detroit to open the first one in the country. This new center will help make the most of these services and facilities that serve the community."

Located on or near public housing developments, EnVision Centers will be centralized hubs that serve as an incubator to support four key pillars of self-sufficiency - (1) Economic Empowerment, (2) Educational Advancement, (3) Health and Wellness, and (4) Character and Leadership.

Through results-driven partnerships with organizations such as: federal agencies, state and local governments, non-profits, faith-based organizations, corporations, public housing authorities, and housing finance agencies, EnVision Centers will leverage public-private partnerships to connect HUD-assisted households with services that offer pathways to self-sufficiency.

After the groundbreaking each demonstration community receiving the EnVision Center designation will convene with their local stakeholders and resident councils to assist in the selection of services to be offered at the Center, as a means of ensuring that many voices are heard and the needs identified are addressed. HUD will develop tools to track and measure resident outcomes of EnVision Center participants and services - the goal of which is to ensure the EnVision Centers are able to achieve and monitor progress against the goals of the program.

The EnVision Center demonstration communities announced today include:

State	City	Housing / Community Partnering Organization	Municipal Partnering Agency
California	San Diego	San Diego Housing Commission & San Diego Workforce Partnership	City of San Diego
Connecticut	Hartford	Hartford Housing Authority & Catholic Charities	City of Hartford
District of Columbia	Washington	District of Columbia Housing Authority	District of Columbia
Illinois	Chicago	A Safe Haven Foundation	City of Chicago
Kansas	Kansas City	aSTEAM Village, Kansas City Kansas Housing Authority	City of Kansas City, Kansas
Kentucky	Bowling Green	Housing Authority of Bowling Green & WROTE, Inc.	City of Bowling Green

Michigan	Detroit	Detroit Housing Commission	City of Detroit
	Detroit	Life Remodeled	City of Detroit
	Inkster	Inkster Housing Commission	City of Inkster
Missouri	Kansas City	aSTEAM Village, Kansas City Missouri Housing Authority	City of Kansas City, Missouri
New Jersey	Phillipsburg	Community Prevention Resources of Warren County & Phillipsburg Housing Authority	Town of Phillipsburg
North Carolina	Hickory	Western Piedmont Council of Governments Regional Housing Authority	City of Hickory
North Dakota	Grand Forks	Grand Forks Homes, Inc. & Grand Forks Housing Authority	City of Grand Forks
Ohio	Youngstown	United Returning Citizens Inc & Youngstown Metropolitan Housing Authority	City of Youngstown
Oklahoma	Choctaw Nation	Choctaw Nation & Choctaw Nation Housing Authority	City of Poteau
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Philadelphia Housing Authority	City of Philadelphia
Texas	Fort Worth	Fort Worth Housing Solutions	City of Fort Worth
Washington	Spokane	Spokane Area Workforce Development Council & Spokane Housing Authority	City of Spokane

To learn more about Secretary Carson's EnVision Center demonstration, please visit HUD.gov/EnVisionCenters.

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HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at www.hud.gov and <http://espanol.hud.gov>.

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