

Welcome to the first edition of the new Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Community Connection newsletter. Thank you for taking the time to look over our new publication, and to learn more about our agency.

Many of you may know DHCD through one of our many programs and projects. With this publication, we aim to provide readers with a broader view of our agency, and the diverse programs and activities that we use to in our mission to create safe, affordable, and prosperous communities in which to live, work, and do business in Virginia.

While DHCD has many different programs and services, they are all unified by the mission of our agency.

DHCD is a partner for better communities. We partner with communities across the Commonwealth to develop their economic potential, improve the quality and affordability of housing, provide for basic building safety, and increase their capacity to address community development and housing needs. Each year, we invest more than \$100 million into housing and community development projects throughout the state – the majority of which are designed to help low-to-moderate income citizens.

Through our varying programs and partnerships, we are able to more effectively collaborate to address the unique needs facing communities across Virginia.

In this issue, you will learn how programs and partnerships of DHCD are striving to create safer homes for our citizens through a carbon monoxide detector grant program. You will see how DHCD is partnering with other agencies, and with community organizations to help low-income families reach their goal of homeownership. You will see how the agency is celebrating the achievements of downtown revitalization, and much more.

I encourage you to learn more about DHCD's programs and projects by visiting our Web site at: www.dhcd.virginia.gov. There, you can learn more about the agency, and sign-up to receive news by selecting the News Sign Up link on the bottom left of the page.

To all of our partners, we want to thank you for your continued support of our agency. Together, we can make a difference for those who call the Commonwealth home.

Bill Shelton, Director
Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development