



Homes and Community Renewal

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

News from HCR

RuthAnne Visnauskas
Commissioner/CEO

February 2017

HCR Welcomes Commissioner RuthAnne Visnauskas

[HCR recently announced](#) **RuthAnne Visnauskas** has succeeded Jamie Rubin as Commissioner of HCR.

Commissioner Visnauskas previously served as HCR's Executive Deputy Commissioner for Housing Development, where she was responsible for strategic leadership and oversight of all housing and finance programs.

Prior to joining HCR, RuthAnne was Managing Director of the Housing Advisory Board for the Robin Hood Foundation, New York's largest poverty-fighting organization. She also held several key positions at the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, including the role of Commissioner.

Additionally, **Linda Manley** has been appointed General Counsel of HCR. Ms. Manley has served as Acting General Counsel for HCR since May 2016 and oversees the agency's legal departments, the Tenant Protection Unit and the Fair and Equitable Housing Office.

Prior to joining HCR, Linda served in several capacities at Lawyers Alliance for New York and practiced law at the firms Jones Day, Reavis & Pogue and Weil, Gotschal & Manges and served as a law clerk to Hon. Loretta A. Preska in the Southern District of New York.

In the release announcing the appointments, Commissioner Rubin remarked, "RuthAnne and Linda are both experienced and outstanding public servants who share the Governor's deep commitment to expanding affordable housing opportunities and creating stronger communities across the State. It was a privilege having them on my leadership team at HCR and I know I'm leaving the agency in strong, capable hands."

HCR In Action



[HCR Staff Participates at the Annual Legislative Conference for the Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators](#)

Every February, NYS Black and Puerto Rican legislative leaders put on a three-day weekend of events whose proceeds benefit the Association's scholarship fund. HCR staff was in attendance to meet with legislative leaders and assist constituents.

[HCR Highlights CDBG at the New York Association of Towns Annual Meeting and Training School](#)

HCR staff spoke with local municipal leaders about



the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which provides grants to local governments for projects that create jobs, eliminate blight, provide housing and homeownership assistance, improve public infrastructure and facilities, and more.

[Learn more about the CDBG program and how to apply.](#)



[HCR, OMH, HPD and Community Access Announce the Start of Construction on a \\$53 Million Affordable and Supportive Housing Development in the Bronx](#)

The development, located in the Mount Eden neighborhood, features 126 apartments with on-site support services for 60 individuals in need of supportive services.

The building will include amenities to encourage healthy lifestyles, including a community garden, where residents will grow produce, and a community kitchen, where they will learn how to turn that food into healthy meals.



[Binghamton Gateway Development Receives Award from the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce](#)

The Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce recognized the development for the improvement it has brought to the neighborhood and the potential it brings for further investment in the First Ward.

First Ward Action Council's Executive Director Jerry Willard said, "The project is a real home run: providing attractive housing, removing blight on a main route into town, and helping to create a better environment for business."

[Read more about Binghamton Gateway](#)



[Governor Cuomo Announces \\$20.2 Million Investment in New Affordable Apartments in Auburn](#)

The formerly vacant West Middle School will be developed into 59 affordable apartments with 20 set aside for single adults with psychiatric disabilities.

The development of West Middle School Apartments complements "Central NY Rising," the region's comprehensive blueprint to generate robust economic growth and community development.

[NYS HCR, Selfhelp Community Services And Partners Dedicate Van Cortlandt Green, Affordable Independent Senior Housing in Riverdale](#)

The \$26.4 million development will provide affordable housing for low and middle-income



seniors in the Riverdale community of the Bronx. The 85 studio apartments were designed to enable residents to live independently and with dignity.

Sustainability was a priority during the development and the residence is designed to be certified as LEED Silver. The building includes 4,000 square feet of community facility space which will be leased as a social adult day care center.



[Governor Cuomo Announces \\$4.4 Million to Construct, Rehabilitate and Repair 170 Owner-Occupied Homes Across New York](#)

The funds are awarded through HCR's Affordable Home Ownership Development Program, administered by the Affordable Housing Corporation. [Look for AHC grants in your area.](#)

In the Spotlight: Office of Economic Opportunity and Partnership Development

This unit is responsible for ensuring and increasing economic opportunities for Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) within the HCR agencies. OEOPD's mission is to: analyze the agencies expenditures; identify areas for MWBE opportunity; work with the various departments to create procurement strategies; and identify the obstacles the agencies may face in achieving the overall goal. Lastly, OEOPD is responsible for monitoring and quarterly reporting to the Empire State Development Corporation and the Executive Chamber.

OEOPD established an [Economic Opportunity Corner](#) on the HCR website to help MWBEs find opportunities within the agencies. The Economic Opportunity Corner provides useful information and links to ESD's website for certification information. There are links to procurement opportunities and information on approved projects so MWBEs are able to market their services directly to developers and community groups. The site also has a listing of certified MWBEs who have been engaged on agency projects.

Additionally, OEOPD is responsible for increasing opportunities for [Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises](#). This program is administered by OGS.

HCR's [#SONYMA](#) provides financial assistance for 1st time homebuyers! Call 1-800-382-HOME (4663) or visit www.sonyma.org

If you are a first-time homebuyer in New York State,
click above for more information.



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Affordable Housing Lotteries



Our Lady of Lourdes Apartments, 1875
Broadway, Brooklyn

Deadline to apply is March 8, 2017.

[Learn how to apply](#)

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