

January 13, 2025

GENERAL NEWS

HUD Announces Assistance for California Disaster Victims

In a <u>press release</u> last Friday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (<u>HUD</u>) announced the implementation of federal disaster assistance for the State of California and ordered federal aid for state, tribal, and local recovery efforts in areas affected by wildfires and straight-line winds beginning on January 7, 2025, and continuing.

A presidential <u>major disaster declaration</u> issued on January 8, 2025, allows HUD to offer assistance to affected individuals in Los Angeles County. Effective immediately, the department will:

- Grant a 90-day moratorium on foreclosures of FHA-insured homes as well as foreclosures
 of mortgages to Native American borrowers guaranteed under the Section 184 Indian
 Home Loan Guarantee program. There is also a 90-day extension granted automatically
 for Home Equity Conversion Mortgages.
- Make mortgage insurance available under <u>HUD's Section 203(h)</u> program.
- Make financing available for both mortgages and home rehabilitation under <u>HUD's</u> <u>Section 203(k) program</u>.
- Make information on housing providers and HUD programs available.
- Provide flexibility to Community Planning and Development grantees, which can apply for needed administrative flexibility in response to natural disasters. For more information on applying for a waiver or suspension of program requirements, <u>contact</u> your local CPD program office.
- Provide flexibility to PHAs, which can apply for needed waivers and flexibilities for disaster relief and recovery. To find detailed information on applying for a waiver, click here for the latest Federal Register disaster relief notice. The Department also released Notice PIH 2021-34, which advises the public of HUD's expedited process for waivers and flexibilities from HUD regulatory and administrative requirements for various public housing and voucher programs.
- Provide administrative flexibility to tribes and their tribally designated housing entities through regulatory waivers.
- Ensure <u>HUD-approved housing counseling agencies</u> are ready to assist.
- · Assist with housing discrimination.

Federal funding is also available to state, tribal, and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work in Los Angeles County. In addition, federal funding is available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide. Click here for more information about disaster resources.

HUD Announces More than \$14 Million to Support Homeless in Florida

In another <u>press release</u> last Friday, HUD announced \$14.1 million to support people experiencing homelessness in Florida communities impacted by Hurricane Helene and Milton. The funds, provided through the Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (RUSH) program, will be allocated to the State of Florida and 16 jurisdictions to address needs not otherwise served or fully met by existing federal disaster relief program. The eligible activities for the funding include:

- For people experiencing homelessness before the disaster: emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, which provides up to 24 months of rental assistance, financial assistance for move in costs, and supportive services, and
- For people who were at-risk of experiencing homelessness before the disaster: homelessness prevention, which provides up to 24 months of rental assistance, utility assistance, and supportive services for people at risk of homelessness, and outreach assistance, including assistance to meet urgent needs.

The jurisdictions that are receiving the funding are listed in the press release.

HUD Issues Distressed Cities Technical Assistance NOFO

Last Friday on grants.gov, HUD posted the notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the fiscal years 2024 and 2025 Distressed Cities Technical Assistance program. The NOFO makes approximately \$4,675,000 to provide technical assistance to units of general local government, and in some instances their nonprofit partners, serving communities with populations of 50,000 or less that are experiencing economic hardship. The application deadline date is **March 10, 2025**.



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