



February 12, 2024

PH PROGRAM NEWS

HUD Posts ESSG Application Process Webinar Materials

HUD’s Office of Capital Improvements ([OCI](#)) has [posted](#) the [recording](#) and [presentation slides](#) for the webinar titled “PIH Housing Capital Fund Emergency Safety and Security Grant (ESSG) Application Process - FY24” that was held on February 1, 2024. The webinar discusses the details of Notice [PIH 2023-10](#) and provides guidance on submitting applications for the ESSG program by the deadline of March 27, 2024.

GENERAL NEWS

HUD Posts HIP MTW Supplement Module Documents

On the Housing Information Portal ([HIP](#)) webpage, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) has posted the following documents:

- [Getting Started with the MTW Supplement Module](#): it provides the details of what a PHA needs to know to request access to the HIP MTW Supplement module and should also be used by new users when they login for the first time.
- [How to Use the MTW Supplement Module](#): it provides information on how to perform the various tasks in the system, including step by step instructions and tips.

You'll find the links to the documents [here](#) on the HIP System Training webpage.

HUD Announces Funding to Support Homeless in Hawaii After Wildfires

In a [press release](#) last Friday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced that it has awarded \$6.9 million to the state of Hawaii to assist communities in Maui in the wake of the wildfires. The funding will support individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness through the department’s Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (RUSH) program. The eligible activities for the funding include:

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

RUSH funding helps to fill gaps in federal disaster assistance for people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. According to the announcement, in addition to this RUSH allocation, HUD has provided and will continue to provide remote and on-the-ground technical assistance to the state of Hawaii, impacted jurisdictions, and homeless assistance providers to help better serve people who have special needs, including those experiencing homelessness.

DOJ Settles Sexual Harassment Suit against Wisconsin Landlords

In a [press release](#) last Friday, the Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)) announced that it has reached an agreement with a landlord who owns more than 100 residential rental units in and around Janesville, Wisconsin, to resolve a [Fair Housing Act](#) lawsuit alleging that he sexually harassed female tenants over more than 20 years.

The lawsuit, filed in May 2022, alleged that, since at least 2000, the landlord harassed female tenants by making repeated and unwelcome sexual comments, touching tenants’ bodies without their consent, demanding sexual activity in exchange for rent and housing-related benefits and taking adverse actions against tenants who resisted his sexual advances or complained about the harassment. The lawsuit also named as a defendant his wife, who co-owns some of the properties.

Under the terms of the proposed [consent decree](#), which still must be approved by the court, the landlords will pay \$500,000 in monetary damages to 13 female tenants harmed by the harassment. The defendants are also required to seek to vacate any retaliatory eviction judgments obtained against these tenants and to take steps to correct the tenants’ credit histories. The defendants are also permanently enjoined from managing residential rental properties in the future and must retain an independent property manager to manage their rental properties for the duration of the decree. Finally, the defendants must pay a \$123,965 civil penalty to the government, the maximum civil penalty allowed under the Fair Housing Act.



For help with your PIH Alert subscription, email [Lizbeth Perez](#). For questions and comments on content, email [Olga Vélez](#). To view or post job announcements at our website, click [here](#). To view our seminar calendar, click [here](#). To read the NMA blog, click [here](#).

