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GENERAL NEWS

HUD Announces National Fair Housing Month

HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) has announced that April is National Fair Housing Month. This year's theme is *Choices for All Voices: Building an Equitable Future*. Throughout the month, HUD will host activities that enhance public awareness of fair housing rights, highlight fair housing enforcement efforts, and emphasize the importance of addressing housing discrimination in all its forms.

The Fair Housing Month virtual open ceremony will take place on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern time. Click here to register. Later in the month, HUD will host the Fair Housing Month National Event, Building an Equitable Future: A Housing Policy Conversation with Gen Z College Students, on Wednesday, April 26, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern time. Click here to register.

Every April, HUD, local communities, and fair housing advocates across the country commemorate the Fair Housing Month with events that highlight the impact and significance of the <u>Fair Housing Act</u>. This year HUD is commemorating the 55th anniversary of the signing of this law that made discrimination in housing transactions unlawful. The Act prohibits discrimination in housing because of race, color national origin, religion, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, and familial status.

HUD Allocates More than \$3.3 Billion in Disaster Funding, Streamlines Disaster Recovery Process

In a <u>press release</u> yesterday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (<u>HUD</u>) announced the allocation of more than \$3.3 billion in Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (<u>CDBG-DR</u>) funds to help communities in Alaska, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Puerto Rico recover from disasters and build resilience, with a specific focus on low and moderate-income populations. The funds will be specifically used for disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, economic revitalization, and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas. You can see the states, grantees, and allocations at the bottom of the press release.

In the same press release, HUD announced the establishment of the Office of Disaster Management (ODM) and the Office of Disaster Recovery (ODR) to better serve communities who face the direct impacts of weather-related disasters, as well as the addition of dozens of new HUD staff members to help expedite the recovery processes. According to the announcement, these steps will streamline the agency's disaster recovery and resilience work by increasing coordination, reducing bureaucracy, and increasing capacity to get recovery funding to communities more quickly by facilitating collaborative, transparent disaster recovery planning with communities earlier in the process.



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