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## GENERAL NEWS

### HUD Announces Racial Equity Agreement with NY Housing Provider

In a [press release](#) yesterday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced that it has entered into a [voluntary compliance agreement](#) with the owners and managers of a federally subsidized development in New York resolving a compliance review concerning nondiscrimination in marketing and tenancing procedures. According to the press release, the 130-unit building provides affordable subsidized housing through the Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment and the Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly programs.

The agreement arises from a compliance review conducted by HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity ([FHEO](#)) under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. FHEO opened the review based on information indicating disproportionately low participation rates of Black, Hispanic, and Asian residents relative to the housing market area. "The review sought to ensure eligible persons were not discriminated against in opportunities to learn about, apply for, and reside in HUD-subsidized housing on the basis of race, color or national origin."

The [Fair Housing Act](#) prohibits discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, familial status, national origin, and disability. In addition, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the ground of race, color, or national origin in programs or activities that receive federal funds.

The agreement mandates the creation of a new waitlist after strong marketing to those least likely to apply. In addition, the agreement requires recipients to commit to expending a minimum of \$50,000 to advance fair housing choice in the region, with a minimum of \$10,000 towards advertising and outreach (including website development); making applications available and accepting them by mail, email, in person, and online; revising any policies that include an evaluation of credit or rental history consistent with civil rights laws and HUD's guidance; developing a revised language access plan; and temporarily waiving fees ordinarily charged to newly admitted residents. As the announcement states, the agreement does not constitute admissions by the housing providers or evidence of a final determination by HUD of violations of Title VI or any other laws.



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