



April 18, 2023

GENERAL NEWS

HUD Awards \$171 Million to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness

In a [press release](#) yesterday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced the second set of communities to receive grants and housing vouchers to address homelessness among people in unsheltered settings and in rural communities. The announcement includes \$171.2 million in grants for 115 new projects in 29 Continuum of Care (CoC) communities. This funding adds to the first set of grant awards [announced](#) in February, bringing the total value of grants to \$486 million to 62 CoC communities. Additionally, HUD is inviting 139 PHAs that partnered with grantee communities to accept approximately 3,300 stability vouchers to provide rental assistance to people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness, including survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or human trafficking. Click [here](#) for a full list of grantees. You can find further information in this [fact sheet](#).

HUD Announces Latest in PHA Occupancy Webinar Series

On the [HUD Exchange News webpage](#), HUD [announced](#) that it will be hosting the latest in its series of webinars on PHA occupancy. The trainings provide PHAs across the country with a series of requirements, conditions, and terms associated with each unit subcategory and improve the performance and management of operating subsidy funds. The training materials help gain a thorough understanding of a wide spectrum of topics related to occupancy as well as the knowledge on how to develop and implement solutions.

The latest scheduled webinar, titled "[The Future of Public Housing Achieving Optimal Occupancy](#)," will provide PHAs with a summary of occupancy tools and success stories from PHAs that have consistently achieved and maintained optimal occupancy. The live web conference is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17, 2023, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Eastern time. Click [here](#) for more information, including [instructions](#) on how to register.

DOJ Files Sexual Harassment Suit against KY Rental Property Owner

In a [press release](#) yesterday, the Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)) announced that it has filed a lawsuit against the owner and operator of rental properties in Kentucky alleging that he violated the [Fair Housing Act](#) by subjecting numerous female tenants to sexual harassment since at least 2010.

DOJ's [complaint](#), filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky, alleges that the owner made repeated and unwelcome sexual comments to female tenants, entered their homes without their consent, touched their bodies without their consent, offered reduced or free rent in exchange for sexual contact and took adverse housing-related actions against those who refused his sexual advances. The lawsuit seeks monetary damages to compensate persons harmed by the alleged harassment, a civil penalty to vindicate the public interest and a court order barring future discrimination. The complaint contains allegations of unlawful conduct, which must be proven in federal court.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits harassment of tenants and other forms of housing discrimination because of race, sex, color, national origin, disability, religion, and familial status. In October 2017, the DOJ's Civil Rights Division [announced](#) the [Sexual Harassment in Housing Initiative](#). The initiative specifically seeks to increase the Department's efforts to protect individuals from harassment by landlords, property managers, maintenance workers, security guards, and other employees and representatives of rental property owners. Since launching the Initiative, the Department has filed 30 lawsuits alleging sexual harassment in housing and recovered over \$9.8 million for victims of such harassment.



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