



April 2, 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:
- [Accessing the MTW Supplement Module](#): it includes information on the URL external users should use as well as helpful information about usernames and passwords.
 - [Getting Started with the MTW Supplement Module](#) (updated): 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](#) (updated): it provides information on how to perform the various tasks in the system, including step by step instructions and tips.
 - [MTW Supplement Module PHA User Known Issues](#): this document will be updated as there are new issues or issues are resolved.

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

HUD Issues Final Rule Removing Criminal Conviction Restrictions for Fair Housing Testers

On the [HUD Exchange News](#) webpage, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced that it has published a [prepublication copy](#) of its final rule that removes criminal conviction restrictions for fair housing testers.

Through this final rule, HUD eliminates restrictions for Fair Housing Initiatives Program ([FHIP](#)) grantees and for Fair Housing Assistance Program ([FHAP](#)) agencies that currently bar FHIP and FHAP entities from using fair housing testers with prior felony convictions or convictions of crimes involving fraud or perjury.

The final rule also ensures FHIP and FHAP funded entities can fully investigate criminal background screening policies that are potentially discriminatory under federal civil rights laws by using a diverse group of testers with actual criminal convictions.

The effective date of the rule will be 30 days after publication in the *Federal Register*.

HUD Announces Assistance for Alaska and California Disaster Survivors

In two press releases last Friday, HUD announced the implementation of federal disaster assistance to supplement state, tribal, and local recovery efforts in the areas of the [Wrangell Cooperative Association](#) in Alaska affected by a severe storm, landslides, and mudslides on November 20, 2023, and in the areas of [California](#) affected by a severe storm and flooding from January 21 to January 23, 2024.

Two presidential major disaster declarations issued on [March 15, 2023](#), and [February 19, 2023](#), allow HUD to offer assistance to affected individuals living in impacted areas in the Wrangell Cooperative Association and California.

Effective immediately, for both states, the Department will:

- Grant a [90-day moratorium](#) on foreclosures of FHA-insured homes
- Make mortgage insurance available under [HUD's Section 203\(h\)](#) program
- Make insurance available for both mortgages and home rehabilitation under [HUD's Section 203\(k\) program](#)
- 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, [contact](#) 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
- Ensure [HUD-approved housing counseling agencies](#) are ready to assist
- Assist with housing discrimination

Federal funding, provided by FEMA, is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures in both states. Click [here](#) for more information about disaster resources.

NLHA's Education Fund Accepting Applications for Scholarship Program

In an email sent yesterday, the National Leased Housing Association ([NLHA](#)) announced that its [Education Fund](#) is currently accepting applications for the scholarship program. Applicants must be residents living in privately owned federally assisted rental housing (e.g. Section 8 project-based housing, housing choice vouchers, low-income housing tax credit, Rural Housing Service Section 515/8, etc.). High school seniors, current undergraduates, nontraditional students, and those seeking a technical/vocational degree are encouraged to apply for one of four different awards.

The deadline to submit the application is **April 12, 2024**, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern time. Successful applicants will be notified by mid-summer. Any funds awarded will be paid directly to the college/university or accredited school for the fall 2024 semester. The email includes a link to a [press release](#), a [flyer](#), and a [FAQ](#) document. For more information, please email nrogers@hudnlha.com or call 202/785-8888.



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