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GENERAL NEWS

PD&R Publishes PHA CARES Waivers Evaluation Report

Last Friday, HUD’s Office of Policy Development and Research ([PD&R](#)) published a [study](#) that explores how PHAs implemented waivers and flexibilities authorized by Congress and the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) to mitigate operational and programming challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Researchers conducted in-depth interviews with leadership, staff, and members of resident advisory boards from 59 PHAs – 53 that adopted waivers and six that did not – to analyze PHA stakeholders’ perspectives on the utility of select waivers. Researchers also analyzed data from HUD’s CARES Act Waiver Reporting Tool (CAWRT), a collection of survey data reported by PHAs, to understand the characteristics of all PHAs that implemented waivers, including PHA size, geographic area, and the specific waivers adopted. The study also included a review of PIH notices and guidance to add context to the analysis.

According to the executive summary:

The CARES Act waivers played a crucial role in helping PHAs navigate operational challenges, ensure housing stability, and enhance efficiency during the pandemic. Above all, the report’s findings show that most PHAs thought the CARES Act waivers were useful, often going beyond responding to pandemic challenges. For example, virtual engagement through remote inspection and online briefings improved communications with the tenants and reduced staff workload. PHAs also support continuing these waivers through a simplified waiver process. Although the waivers brought significant benefits, some challenges and suggestions for improvement emerged from interviews with PHA staff.

You’ll find a link to the report on [this page](#) at PD&R’s website.



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