



April 22, 2022

GENERAL NEWS

HUD to Review Policies to Increase Inclusivity of Individuals with Criminal Histories

On April 12, 2022, HUD Secretary Marcia L. Fudge issued a [memorandum](#) titled “Eliminating Barriers That May Unnecessarily Prevent Individuals with Criminal Histories from Participating in HUD Programs.” The memo directs HUD to review its programs and put forth changes that ensure that funding recipients are as inclusive as possible of individuals with criminal histories.

Within six months of the date of the memorandum, all relevant HUD program offices must identify all existing regulations, guidance documents, and other policies and sub-regulatory documents (including model leases and other agreements) that may pose barriers to housing for persons with criminal histories or their families. HUD offices are also directed to propose updates and amendments to ensure that individuals with conviction records have increased access to HUD-assisted housing.

According to the memo, this review should include an assessment for each of these regulations or documents as to whether it is legally permissible and practically feasible to make such policies more inclusive for persons with criminal histories and their families. The document also states that, in the meantime, any policy or document currently under development should be implemented in a way that supports persons with criminal histories and their families, consistent with this directive as well as existing rules and requirements.

HUD has also published a [webpage](#) that include resources to help Continuums of Care (CoCs) to prevent homelessness among people leaving prisons and jails by creating alliances with justice system partners.

HUD to Host Webinars on Engaging the Disability Community in Fair Housing Planning

On the [HUD Exchange News webpage](#), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [announced](#) that it will be holding a webinar series titled “Engaging the Disability Community in Fair Housing Planning.” Participants will learn how to best affirmatively further fair housing to support individuals with disabilities and engage them in the fair housing planning process. The series features two online sessions:

- [Part I: AFFH for Individuals with Disabilities](#) – April 27, 2022, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time.
- [Part II: Community Engagement Best Practices](#) – April 28, 2022, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Click on each link for more information and to register.

HUD Announces Assistance for Massachusetts Disaster Survivors

In a [press release](#) Wednesday, HUD announced the implementation of federal disaster assistance to supplement commonwealth, tribal, and local recovery efforts in the areas of Massachusetts affected by the severe winter storm and snowstorm from January 28 to January 29, 2022.

A presidential [major disaster declaration](#) issued on April 18, 2022, allows HUD to offer assistance to commonwealth, tribal, and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of damaged facilities in impacted counties, including the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. Effective immediately, 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 through regulatory waivers
- 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 statewide. Click [here](#) for more information about disaster resources.



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