



May 24, 2024

EDITOR’S NOTE

The NMA office will be closed Monday for the Memorial Day holiday and will reopen Tuesday morning. Enjoy your holiday.

GENERAL NEWS

HUD Announces SAFMRs Office Hours Sessions

On the [HUD Exchange News](#) webpage, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [announced](#) that it will be hosting Small Area Fair Market Rents (SAFMRs) office hours sessions to review SAFMR-related topics and provide PHAs the opportunity to ask questions. According to the announcement, the office hours are related to the [SAFMR Virtual Convening](#) that was held on February 21, 2024.

The first office hour, [Decreasing Payment Standards](#), will take place on May 29, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern time. It will review SAFMRs and the options that PHAs can use if payment standards decrease due to SAFMRs, including phase out, hold harmless, and decrease at the second reexamination. PHAs within the required SAFMR areas and PHAs choosing to implement SAFMRs are encouraged to attend. Click [here](#) to register.

FHWA Publishes Uniform Relocation Assistance Final Rule

On the [HUD Exchange News](#) webpage, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [announced](#) that on May 3, 2024, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published in the *Federal Register* a [final rule](#) that amends the regulations of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (URA), a federal law that provides protections for people affected by the acquisition, rehabilitation, or demolition of real property for federal or federally funded projects.

As the document states, the benefits of the final rule primarily relate to improved equity and fairness to persons that are displaced from their properties or that move as a result of federal projects or projects receiving federal funds. The final rule will apply to all HUD programs to which URA applies. The Department encourages grantee and participating jurisdiction staff, particularly those responsible for acquisition and relocation activities and compliance, familiarize themselves with the final rule and begin identifying and updating policies, procedures, and citations to reflect regulatory changes. The effective date of the rule is **June 3, 2024**.

HUD Announces Assistance for Texas Disaster Survivors

In a [press release](#) yesterday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the implementation of federal disaster assistance for the State of Texas to assist state, tribal, and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, and flooding beginning on April 26, 2024, and continuing.

A presidential [major disaster declaration](#) issued on May 17, 2024, allows HUD to offer assistance to affected individuals in the counties of Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity, and Walker. 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 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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