

July 19, 2024

GENERAL NEWS

HUD Publishes July Edition of PHA Newsletter

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (<u>HUD</u>) has published the <u>July edition</u> of its PHA Newsletter. The publication, sent each month to PHA executive directors, includes news from HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing (<u>PIH</u>). Some of the articles featured in this month's edition include:

- HIP Implementation Notice Rescinded
- NSPIRE for Vouchers Compliance Extended to October 2025
- Public Comment Period on the Revised PHA Plan Templates Closes July 22
- Change to Notifications of Intent to Project-Base Vouchers Process
- CY 24 Per Unit Subsidy Report Now Available
- Updated HCV Landlord Website

You can access the latest PHA Newsletter as well as previous issues on this page.

HUD Publishes NOFO for Healthy Homes Production Grant Program

Yesterday on <u>grants.gov</u>, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (<u>HUD</u>) <u>posted</u> the notice of funding opportunity (<u>NOFO</u>) for the FY 2024 Healthy Homes Production Grant program, part of HUD's overall <u>Healthy Homes Initiative</u>. The program takes a comprehensive approach to addressing multiple childhood diseases and injuries in the home by focusing on housing-related hazards in a coordinated fashion, rather than addressing a single hazard at a time. Funding of approximately \$40,000,000 is available through this NOFO. The application deadline date is **September 3, 2024**. You'll find more information on <u>this page</u> at HUD's <u>Funding Opportunities</u> website.

DOJ Files Sexual Harassment Suit against Illinois Landlord

In a <u>press release</u> yesterday, the Department of Justice (<u>DOJ</u>) announced that it has filed a lawsuit against a landlord of residential rental properties in Peoria, Illinois, for sexually harassing female tenants and housing applicants in violation of the <u>Fair Housing Act</u>.

The <u>lawsuit</u>, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois, alleges that, since at least 2002, the landlord subjected female tenants and applicants to unwelcome sexual harassment that included, among others, sexual contact and comments about their physical appearances, offers to strip for female tenants, asking female tenants on dates, requesting sex in exchange for reduced rent or other housing benefits, and evicting female tenants when they did not give in to his sexual advances. The lawsuit seeks monetary damages to compensate persons harmed by the alleged harassment, civil penalties to vindicate the public interest, and a court order barring future discrimination.

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 <u>announced</u> the <u>Sexual Harassment in Housing Initiative</u>. 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 44 lawsuits alleging sexual harassment in housing.



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