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July 25, 2024

## MTW PROGRAM NEWS

#### **HUD Posts MTW Job Aids**

On the HUD Exchange <u>resource library</u> webpage, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (<u>HUD</u>) has posted the following Moving to Work (<u>MTW</u>) job aids:

- Implementing QC in the MTW Program
- Avoiding Common Errors in Retrospective Income Calculation
- Rent Calculation Checklist

# **GENERAL NEWS**

## **HUD Awards \$6 Million to Protect Families from Home Health Hazards**

In a <u>press release</u> yesterday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (<u>HUD</u>) announced that it has awarded \$6 million to two nonprofit organizations and a city government to protect children and families from home health hazards. The funds, provided through the Healthy Homes Production grant program, will help identify and remediate housing-related health and safety hazards in privately owned, low-income rental or owner-occupied housing, especially in units or buildings where families with children, adults 62 years and older, or families with persons with disabilities reside. You can see the list of grantees and the amounts they were awarded at the bottom of the press release.

## **HUD Charges Wisconsin Housing Providers with Disability Discrimination**

In a <u>press release</u> last Friday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (<u>HUD</u>) announced that it has <u>charged</u> the owners of a duplex in Appleton, Wisconsin, with violating the <u>Fair Housing Act</u> by refusing to grant a tenant with a disability a reasonable accommodation to live with her assistance animals.

HUD's charge alleges that the owners denied the tenant's reasonable accommodation request by applying unlawful breed restrictions, fines, and fees to the request. Respondents also interfered with the complainant's attempt to obtain a service dog and threatened the tenant with eviction, and eventually didn't renew her lease, citing the reasonable accommodation requests in the nonrenewal notice. The tenant was forced to rent more expensive housing elsewhere.

A United States administrative law judge will hear HUD's charges unless any party elects to have the case heard in a federal district court. If the administrative law judge finds after a hearing that discrimination has occurred, the judge may award damages to the complainant for her losses caused by the discrimination. The judge may also order injunctive relief and other equitable relief to deter further discrimination, as well as payment of attorney fees. In addition, the judge may impose fines to vindicate the public interest. If the case is heard in a federal court, the judge may also award punitive damages to the complainant.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination because of disability, including the denial of reasonable accommodations. Individuals with disabilities have the right to reasonable accommodations when such accommodations are necessary to afford them equal access to their home, including the use of assistance animals. Additionally, individuals are protected from coercion, intimidation, threats, or interference when they assert their fair housing rights or file a complaint with HUD.



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