



August 20, 2024

GENERAL NEWS

HUD Makes Available NSPIRE Technical Review Guidance

In an [email](#) yesterday, HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing ([PIH](#)) announced that it has received feedback that PHAs and property owners/agents have been experiencing issues when submitting appeals in the NSPIRE IT system. To address this, HUD has made available a [Technical Review Guidance](#) that provides a summary of the basis for technical review along with instructions for how to submit an appeal.

According to the email, if a property owner/agent believes that a property's inspection results and score should be reviewed due to verifiable reasons, they may request a technical review. They should submit the request electronically through the NSPIRE system within 45 calendar days following the day HUD provides the inspection report.

A request for a technical review must be accompanied by evidence supporting the claim. HUD recommends seeking a technical review only if the correction will result in a significant improvement in the overall score of the property, such as an increase to 60 or above or a change in the inspection frequency.

DOJ Explains that Certain Housing Programs May Violate Federal Law

In a [press release](#) last Thursday, the Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)) announced that it has issued a [letter](#) to state and local law enforcement and government agencies explaining that that "crime-free" or "nuisance" programs might violate federal fair housing protections when they unfairly penalize communities of color, individuals with disabilities, or survivors of domestic violence.

The letter describes how these programs may specifically violate the [Fair Housing Act](#), [Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#), the Americans with Disabilities Act ([ADA](#)), and the Violence Against Women Act ([VAWA](#)). The document also explains that while the objective of these programs may be to reduce crime, there is no evidence to support that they accomplish that goal. Instead, as shown in recent enforcement actions, these programs often disproportionately harm survivors of domestic violence, deny individuals with disabilities equal opportunity to receive emergency services, and disproportionately impact communities of color.

The letter highlights examples of certain practices that may violate federal laws:

- Restrict housing based on past criminal records or an arrest record alone
- Don't consider individual circumstances when deciding if someone is a safety risk
- Punish entire households for one person's actions
- Adopt practices with the intent to discriminate against certain protected classes
- Create programs with discriminatory intentions, often in response to diversity or racial tensions
- Threaten or impose penalties for calls for disability-related issues, including designating a medical or disability-related call as a nuisance
- Publicize confidential information about individuals' disabilities
- Fail to make reasonable modifications to avoid disability-related discrimination

The letter also summarizes recent challenges to "crime-free" and "nuisance" programs by the Justice Department and others that resulted in repeals or substantial changes to the programs as well as significant monetary awards for affected individuals.

CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS NEWS

HUD Issues August Newsletter

HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing ([PIH](#)) has issued the [August edition](#) of its e-newsletter for [Choice Neighborhoods](#) grantees. This month's issue features the following:

- Grantees spotlight
- HUD Awards \$325 Million in Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant Awards
- Request for Information for HUD's Choice Neighborhoods Grant Selection Process and Award Implementation
- Grantees in the news
- Funding opportunities
- Events, tools, and publications

Although the latest newsletter has yet to be posted online, you can access previous issues on [this page](#). Click [here](#) to join the Choice Neighborhoods e-newsletter mailing list.



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