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GENERAL NEWS

HUD Charges Kansas Housing Provider with Disability Discrimination

In a [press release](#) yesterday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced that it is [charging](#) the owner and property manager of an apartment complex in Shawnee, Kansas, with violating the [Fair Housing Act](#) by refusing to allow a prospective tenant, a veteran with a mental health disability, to live with his assistance animal.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination because of disability. The Act makes it unlawful to refuse to grant reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including failing to waive pet restrictions so that persons with disabilities can live with their assistance animals.

HUD's charge alleges that the property management company denied both the applicant's reasonable accommodation request to live with his assistance animal and his application for housing for his family. According to the charge, the applicant had provided the necessary information to support his reasonable accommodation request through a letter from his psychiatrist at the Veterans Administration. However, the management company denied the request and application after insisting, just before the applicant's move-in date, that the applicant's psychiatrist complete an additional, unnecessary form, which did not happen because the psychiatrist was on vacation. The applicant was then forced to seek housing elsewhere.

HUD's charge will be heard by a United States administrative law judge unless any party elects to have the case heard in federal district court. If the administrative law judge finds after a hearing that discrimination has occurred, the judge may award damages to the family for their 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 civil penalties to vindicate the public interest. If the case is heard in federal court, the judge may also award punitive damages to the family.

HUD Publishes Older Adult Homes Modification Program NOFA

Yesterday on [grants.gov](#), HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes ([OLHCHH](#)) [posted](#) the notice of funding availability ([NOFA](#)) for the FY 2022 Older Adults Home Modification Grant Program. The NOFA makes approximately \$15 million available to assist experienced nonprofit organizations, state and local governments, and public housing authorities in undertaking comprehensive programs that make safety and functional home modification repairs and renovations to meet the needs of low-income elderly adult homeowners. The goal of the home modification program is to enable older adults to remain in their homes rather than move to nursing homes or other assisted care facilities. The application deadline date is **October 13, 2022**. You'll find a link to the NOFA on [this page](#) at HUD's [Funding Opportunities](#) website.



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