



September 14, 2022

PH PROGRAM NEWS

PIH Posts Op Sub Obligation Letters for October and November

HUD’s Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) has posted the public housing operating subsidy obligation letters for October and November. As usual, the letters to all PHAs in the same state are combined in a single file, which you can access through the map on this webpage. You’ll find links to the obligation letters on the 2022 operating fund grant processing page at the operating fund website.

GENERAL NEWS

HUD Publishes 2022 Private Enforcement Initiative NOFA

This week on Grants.gov, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published the fiscal year 2022 notice of funding availability (NOFA) for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) Private Enforcement component. The NOFA makes available \$15,000,000 to private, nonprofit fair housing enforcement organizations that meet statutory requirements to conduct testing, investigate violations, and obtain enforcement of the rights granted under the Fair Housing Act or state or local laws that are substantially equivalent to the rights and remedies provided in the Act.

The application deadline date is December 5, 2022. You’ll find a link to the NOFA and additional information on this page at HUD’s Funding Opportunities website.

OLHCHH Announces Webinars on Two NOFOs

HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) has announced that it will be holding the following webinars on two notices of funding opportunity:

- 2022 Healthy Homes Production Grant Program NOFO Overview: The event will be hosted by OLHCHH programs division director in order to provide attendees an additional opportunity to ask questions concerning the funding opportunity. It will take place on September 26, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Older Adults Home Modification Grant Program: On this webinar, attendees will learn about this funding opportunity from OLHCHH. Speakers will review key aspects of the program and answer questions related to the presentation. It will take place on September 28, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Click on each link to register.

DOJ Files Discrimination Suit against Rental Property in Wisconsin

In a press release last Friday, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) announced that it has filed a lawsuit alleging that the owner and managers of a rental property in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, violated the Fair Housing Act by harassing a tenant because of his sex, including his sexual orientation and his disability.

The lawsuit alleges that the onsite manager of the property subjected a gay male tenant with a disability to unwelcome harassment, both verbally and through numerous text messages during his tenancy in 2020 and 2021. The complaint also alleges that the onsite manager struck the tenant in the groin and threatened to evict him in retaliation for reporting the harassment to the police. The lawsuit also names as defendants the company that owns the property and its manager. The complaint alleges that the onsite manager ran the property on behalf of these defendants.

According to the press release, the tenant, who later moved out of the property, filed a complaint with HUD alleging that the defendants had violated the Fair Housing Act. After an investigation, HUD determined that the defendants had discriminated against the tenant in violation of the Act, and it issued a charge of discrimination. After the tenant chose to have the matter decided in federal court, HUD referred the matter to the Justice Department. The lawsuit seeks an order requiring the defendants to pay monetary damages to the tenant and cease discrimination against any tenant based on sex and disability.

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 announced the Sexual Harassment in Housing Initiative. 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 25 lawsuits alleging sexual harassment in housing.



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