



September 22, 2022

GENERAL NEWS

HUD to Host ConnectHome Virtual Summit

On the [HUD Exchange News webpage](#), HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing [announced](#) that it will be hosting a three-day [virtual summit](#) on timely digital inclusion topics for ConnectHomeUSA ([CHUSA](#)) communities, public housing authorities, tribes, multifamily housing owners and operators, public-private stakeholders, and anyone interested in digital inclusion.

The event, which will take place from October 25 to October 27, will feature training webinars and breakout sessions that will allow participants to engage directly with speakers and leave with tools for continued growth. Participants will hear from a wide range of organizations, including federal agencies tasked with administering new broadband funding programs, private-sector stakeholders who will provide updates about their programs, and CHUSA communities that have innovative programs to share.

The summit agenda includes sessions on enrolling residents in the affordable connectivity program, connecting to the new federal funding for broadband, and strategies to enhance broadband adoption, among other topics. Click [here](#) to register.

HUD Charges Minnesota Housing Provider with Disability Discrimination

In a [press release](#) yesterday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced that it has [charged](#) the owner and landlord of an apartment complex in Winona, Minnesota, with violating the [Fair Housing Act](#) by refusing to allow a prospective tenant, a woman with a mental health disability, to live with her assistance animal.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination because of disability. This includes refusing to grant reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, such as refusing to waive pet restrictions so that persons with disabilities can live with their assistance animals.

HUD's charge alleges that the landlord denied the applicant's reasonable accommodation request to live with her assistance animal and rescinded the offer of a lease when her disability-related need was presented. According to the charge, the applicant supported her reasonable accommodation request with a letter from her therapist. This letter provided all the information the landlord needed to approve her request, and the applicant even included information from HUD on the right to a reasonable accommodation. Nevertheless, the landlord refused to consider the request and told her to look elsewhere. He then told her he would return her security deposit and rescinded his lease offer. The applicant was then forced to seek another place to live under a tight time deadline.

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 applicant 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 applicant.

HUD Publishes FY 2022 Section 202 NOFA

Yesterday on [Grants.gov](#), HUD [published](#) the Notice of Funding Availability ([NOFA](#)) for the FY 2022 [Section 202](#) Supportive Housing for the Elderly program. The program provides capital advance funding for the development and operation of supportive rental housing for very low-income persons 62 and older and project rental assistance contract (PRAC) subsidies to maintain ongoing affordability. The idea is to provide very low-income elderly persons the opportunity to live independently with voluntary support services. Funding of approximately \$184,600,000 is available through this NOFA.

The application deadline date is **January 25, 2023**. You'll find materials related to the NOFA on [this page](#) at HUD's [Funding Opportunities](#) website.



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