



September 6, 2024

PH PROGRAM NEWS

HUD Announces Help Desk on Small Rural Frozen Rolling Base Program

In an [email](#) via the Financial Management Division (FMD) [mailing list](#), HUD’s Office of Public and Indian Housing ([PIH](#)) announced that it is hosting a Help Desk session on the Small Rural Frozen Rolling Base ([SR-FRB](#)) program on September 11, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. Eastern time. The session will cover the benefits of participating in the program, an overview of the application process for 2025 and available resources, creating a smaller project or a larger project, benchmarking, and questions from participants. Click [here](#) to register.

Under the SR-FRB program, eligible small rural PHAs can freeze their three-year rolling base consumption level that is used to calculate operating subsidy grants. The SR-FRB module is now open to submit applications in the [Public Housing Portal](#). The application submission due date is September 20, 2024. For further information on the program, please refer to Notice [PIH 2022-32](#) and the SR-FRB [user guide](#).

GENERAL NEWS

HUD Publishes Quarterly Regulatory Waivers

In a *Federal Register* [notice](#) today, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) published a list of the regulatory waivers that it granted during the fourth quarter of calendar year 2023. You’ll find the waivers granted by the Office of Public and Indian Housing on page 72872 of the notice (PDF page 9). The PIH office granted the following waivers during the quarter:

- One waived the regulation that prohibits a PHA from approving a unit if the owner is the parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister, or brother of any member of the family, unless it is a reasonable accommodation for a family member with disabilities
- One involved allowing a PHA to establish exception payment standards over 110 percent of the small area fair market rents (SAFMRs), where justified by statistically representative housing survey data
- Two involved allowing PHAs to apply the alternative requirements applicable to pre-conversion residents to new admission families for the initial term of the PBV housing assistance payment (HAP) contract
- One allowed a PHA to use a proposed definition of “project” so it can reduce the number of overall HAP contracts
- Two waived the regulation that prohibits a PHA from executing an agreement to enter into a housing assistance payment (AHAP) contract and attaching project-based voucher (PBV) assistance to units if construction or rehabilitation has commenced after proposal submission
- Several involved allowing PHAs to increase the payment standards for families at any time after the effective date of the payment standard increase, rather than waiting for the next regular reexamination, consistent with Notice PIH 2023-29
- Several involved allowing PHAs to adopt a payment standard above the basic range, up to 120 percent of the small area fair market rent, consistent with Notice PIH 2023-29
- Several involved allowing PHAs to adopt a payment standard above the basic range, up to 120 percent of the fair market rent, and apply it throughout their jurisdiction, consistent with Notice PIH 2023-29
- Several involved allowing PHAs to adopt a payment standard above the basic range, up to 120 percent of their approved small area fair market rent exception payment standards, consistent with Notice PIH 2023-29

HUD Awards Over \$32 Million to Fight Housing Discrimination

In a [press release](#) yesterday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced that it has awarded over \$32 million to support fair housing organizations across the country under the Department’s Fair Housing Initiatives Program ([FHIP](#)).

The funds will allow grantees to provide fair housing enforcement by conducting investigations, testing to identify discrimination in the rental and sales markets, and filing fair housing complaints with HUD or substantially equivalent state and local agencies. In addition, grantees will carry out education and outreach activities to inform the public, housing providers, and local governments about their rights and responsibilities under the [Fair Housing Act](#).

The FHIP awards are provided under the Private Enforcement Initiative (PEI) and Education and Outreach Initiative (EOI) grant categories. Click [here](#) for a state-by-state breakdown of the awardees.



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