



January 4, 2022

HCV PROGRAM NEWS

HUD to Host Webinar on HCV Utilization

The Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) has announced that it will host a webinar titled “HCV Utilization Webinar – Payment Standard Waiver and Two-Year-Tool Overview.” The live web conference will highlight the new expedited waiver made available in Notice [PIH 2021-34](#) that will allow most PHAs to increase their payment standard up to 120 percent of the Fair Market Rent (FMR). It will also present a live demonstration of the Two-Year Tool (TYT) and provide examples of how the TYT can help you fully utilize your HCV program funds.

The webinar, scheduled for January 12, 2022, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time, is intended for all HCV program administrators. To register, click [here](#). You can find more information and watch previous webinars [here](#) on the [HCV website](#).

GENERAL NEWS

DOJ Settles Racial Discrimination Case against Housing Authority in OK

In a [press release](#) yesterday, the Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)) announced that it has reached a settlement with a housing authority in Oklahoma and two of its former employees to resolve allegations that they violated the [Fair Housing Act](#) and [Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#) by denying housing to an African-American applicant and her young daughter because of their race.

According to the press release, the lawsuit alleged that the housing authority told a legal aid employee who contacted them on behalf of the applicant that units were available and invited her to apply. But when the housing authority employees learned from her application that she and her child were black, they denied the application and falsely told the applicant that no apartments were available. Legal aid then conducted testing confirming that the housing authority, which receives funds from HUD and manages 25 apartments, was discriminating against black applicants. The applicant and legal aid subsequently filed a complaint with HUD, which after an investigation determined that the defendants had violated the Fair Housing Act and Title VI and referred the matter to the Department of Justice.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, familial status, national origin, and disability. In addition, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the ground of race, color, or national origin in programs or activities that receive federal funds.

Under the [consent decree](#), which was approved by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, the defendants will pay a total of \$65,000 to the applicant and her child and \$10,000 to the legal aid organization. In addition, the consent decree requires the housing authority employees and board members to undergo training on the Fair Housing Act and Title VI, implement nondiscriminatory procedures, and submit to compliance and reporting requirements.

Milwaukee Soldiers Home Wins Historic Preservation Award

HUD’s Office of Policy Development and Research ([PD&R](#)) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation ([ACHP](#)) announced that the Milwaukee Soldiers Home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was the recipient of the [2021 ACHP/HUD Secretary’s Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation](#). This annual award recognizes developers, organizations, and agencies for successfully advancing historic preservation, while providing affordable housing and expanding economic opportunities for low and moderate-income families and individuals.

As the announcement states, after the Civil War, Congress created a national system of homes for disabled veterans. The Milwaukee Soldiers Home was established in 1867. It is the most intact home remaining in the country and the only one with the majority of its surrounding recuperative village remaining. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2005, became a National Historic Landmark in 2011, and was recognized as a National Treasure in 2012. When preservation efforts began in 2010, the Victorian Gothic Old Main building had been vacant and deteriorating for 20 years and had a substantial hole in its roof. The Milwaukee Soldiers Home project was completed in March 2021, and it included the rehabilitation of six buildings into 101 supportive housing units for veterans and their families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homelessness.

You can learn more about the winning project and the Excellence in Historic Preservation award program [here](#).



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