



October 26, 2021

MTW PROGRAM NEWS

HUD Updates Special Purpose Vouchers FAQs for MTW Agencies

The Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) has updated its frequently asked questions ([FAQs](#)) on special purpose vouchers (SPVs) administered by Moving to Work ([MTW](#)) agencies. The 14-page document, dated October 2021, covers various topics related to SPVs, such as MTW fungibility, applying MTW program flexibilities, new SPV types including Emergency Housing Vouchers ([EHV](#)), and reporting requirements for SPVs. You'll find the updated FAQs on the [MTW Policy Guidance page](#) at HUD's website.

GENERAL NEWS

Treasury Posts New ERAP Resources

Yesterday the U.S. Department of Treasury ([Treasury](#)) posted the following resources to the Emergency Rental Assistance Program ([ERAP](#)) website:

- [September ERA report showing](#) that more than 510,000 households received emergency rental assistance in September, totaling nearly \$2.8 billion in payments
- [A letter](#) to all grantees providing additional information on the reallocation process
- [Obligated Funds Certification form](#)
- [Program Improvement Plan form](#)
- [Request for Reallocated Funds form](#)

You can find more ERA resources on the [ERAP website](#).

HUD Settles Discrimination Case against AZ Housing Providers

In a [press release](#) yesterday, HUD announced that it has reached a [conciliation agreement](#) with a company that owns HUD-funded apartments in Phoenix, Arizona, as well as its property manager. The agreement resolves allegations that they violated the [Fair Housing Act](#) and [Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#) when they failed to provide adequate language services for a resident with limited English proficiency (LEP).

The Fair Housing Act prohibits housing providers from discriminating against persons because of national origin. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of national origin by recipients of federal financial assistance and requires such recipients to take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to language services.

The case came to HUD's attention when a woman from Chad, who has limited English proficiency, filed a complaint alleging that the owner and manager of the apartments, where she and her daughter live, failed to provide her with the language services she needed to make informed decisions about her housing. The woman also alleged that respondents insisted that she sign English-language housing documents when she cannot adequately speak or read English.

Under the agreement, the company will pay the woman \$1,000 and each household with limited English proficiency \$500, up to a total compensation of \$34,000, provide interpretation services, ensure that signage in English, Somali, Arabic, Kinyarwanda, Tigrinya, and Spanish stating that interpretation services are available to current and prospective residents, free of charge, is posted at the entrances to the property, develop and implement a language access plan to provide for translated documents, and have its employees attend fair housing training.



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