



October 28, 2021

GENERAL NEWS

HUD Announces Assistance for Mississippi and Delaware Disaster Survivors

In two press releases posted yesterday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced the implementation of federal disaster assistance for areas in the State of [Mississippi](#) impacted by Hurricane Ida from August 18 to September 1, 2021, and for areas in the State of [Delaware](#) affected by the remnants of Hurricane Ida from September 1 to September 7, 2021.

Two presidential major disaster declarations issued on [October 23](#) and [October 25](#), 2021, allow HUD to offer assistance to affected individuals living in impacted counties in Mississippi and to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations in New Castle County, Delaware. Effective immediately, for both states, the Department will:

- Grant a [90-day moratorium](#) on foreclosures of FHA-insured homes
- Make mortgage insurance available under [HUD's Section 203\(h\)](#) program
- Make insurance available for both mortgages and home rehabilitation under [HUD's Section 203\(k\) program](#)
- Make [information on housing providers](#) and HUD programs available
- Provide flexibility to Community Planning and Development Grantees, which can apply for needed administrative flexibility in response to natural disasters. For more information on applying for a waiver or suspension of requirements, [contact](#) your local CPD program office.
- Provide flexibility to PHAs, which can apply for needed administrative flexibility through disaster waivers. Click [here](#) to see the notice for PHAs on disaster waivers and administrative flexibilities and [here](#) for the latest *Federal Register* disaster relief notice.
- Ensure [HUD-approved housing counseling agencies](#) are ready to assist
- Assist with housing discrimination

For Mississippi, HUD will also provide administrative flexibility to tribes and their tribally designated housing entities. Click [here](#) for more information about disaster resources.

HUD Announces Forum on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Housing Discrimination

On the [HUD Exchange News webpage](#), HUD [announced](#) that the National Fair Housing Training Academy ([NFHTA](#)) and the National Fair Housing Alliance ([NFHA](#)) will be hosting a forum titled "[Strategies for LGBTQI+ and Gender Identity Housing Discrimination Investigations](#)." The conversation will outline how sexual orientation and gender identity are covered by the [Fair Housing Act](#), establish what constitutes a prima facie case of discrimination, provide some training to improve cultural competency in this field, and specify testing and investigative tools that may be utilized to investigate cases that allege discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

In January 2021, President Biden issued [Executive Order 13988](#) on preventing and combating discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation, which extends federal laws that prohibit sex discrimination to include sexual orientation and gender identity. According to the announcement, based on this order, HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity ([FHEO](#)) willfully enforce the Fair Housing Act to address discrimination inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity; this applies to [FHAP](#) and [FHIP](#) agencies as well.

The forum will take place on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Click [here](#) to register.



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Nan McKay & Associates, 1810 Gillespie Way, Suite 202, El Cajon, CA 92020, USA, 1-800-783-3100
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