



October 7, 2020

HCV PROGRAM NEWS

HUD Issues Notice on Foster Youth to Independence Initiative

Yesterday HUD’s Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) issued Notice [PIH 2020-28](#) announcing an expansion of the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative that will create new opportunities for communities to leverage this resource. Through the FYI initiative, HUD will provide housing choice vouchers (HCVs) for youth eligible under the Family Unification Program (FUP), subject to availability. This allocation of vouchers is funded through a \$10 million set-aside in the 2020 Appropriations Act.

The notice, which supersedes Notice [PIH 2019-20 \(HA\)](#), explains the eligibility and application requirements for FYI voucher funding, and how applications will be processed. According to a [press release](#) issued by HUD yesterday, the new notice makes several changes that aim to increase participation in the FYI Initiative, including:

- Opens the opportunity to request vouchers to every PHA that administers an HCV program, including those PHAs that have a 90 percent utilization rate of their FUP program.
- Increases the maximum award to a maximum cap of 50 vouchers per fiscal year for those PHAs that have an FYI voucher utilization rate of 90 percent or greater.
- Recognizes the importance of community partners by encouraging partnerships with state, local, philanthropic, or faith-based organizations as well as Continuum or Cares (CoCs).
- Allows PHAs to request funding on a rolling basis to the extent funding remains available.

Since the initiative was launched in June of 2019, 31 states and 91 PHAs have received FYI funding, for a total of 844 vouchers and over \$6.8 million in funds to prevent or end homelessness among young adults under the age of 25 who are leaving, or have recently left, the foster care system. Since the first round of awards in October of 2019, the FYI program has expanded by 25 states.

HUD Updates COVID-19 FAQs for HCV Landlords and Posts New Material

Yesterday on the [HCV Landlord Resources](#) webpage, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) posted an [updated version](#) of the COVID-19 FAQs for Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Landlords. The FAQs, dated October 5, 2020, use the following resources as references:

- [COVID-19 FAQs for Public Housing Agencies, Round 2](#) (dated March 31, 2020)
- [COVID-19 FAQs for Public Housing Agencies, Round 3](#) (dated April 22, 2020)
- [PIH Notice PIH-2020-08](#) (issued April 28, 2020)
- [COVID-19 FAQs for Public Housing Agencies, Round 4](#) (dated May 29, 2020)
- [Notice PIH 2020-13 \(HA\), REV-1](#) (issued July 2, 2020)
- [COVID-19 FAQs for Public Housing Agencies, Round 5](#) (dated July 16, 2020)
- [COVID-19 FAQs for Public Housing Agencies, Round 6](#) (dated September 29, 2020)

The reference used and its corresponding date of issue is listed after each question in the [FAQ document](#). HUD has also added a document titled “[Myth-busting and Benefits for HCV Landlords](#),” to its [HCV Landlord Resources](#) webpage.

GENERAL NEWS

HUD Awards \$4 Million in Veteran Housing Rehab Grants

In a [press release](#) yesterday, HUD announced that it is awarding \$3.9 million to four communities to assist disabled veterans with modifying or rehabilitating their homes, making them more accessible. The funding was awarded through the **Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Pilot Program** (VHRMP). Grantees will make necessary physical modifications to address the needs of eligible veterans, including wheelchair ramps, widening doors, reconfiguring bathrooms, and modifying homes to accommodate a veteran’s caregiver. A complete list of awardees, the amounts they will receive, and a summary of how grant funding will be utilized can be found in the [press release](#).



For help with your PIH Alert subscription, email [Laurie Durrett](#). For questions and comments on content, email [Olga Vélez](#). To view or post job announcements at our website, click [here](#). To view our seminar calendar, click [here](#). To read the NMA blog, click [here](#).

