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GENERAL NEWS

HUD Awards \$13.6 Million to Support COVID-19 Related Fair Housing Activities

In a [press release](#) yesterday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced that it is providing \$13.6 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding to enable 51 HUD Fair Housing Initiatives Program ([FHIP](#)) agencies to conduct fair housing enforcement and education and outreach activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including addressing discriminatory practices in underserved communities.

The funds, awarded under FHIP's Private Enforcement Initiative (PEI) component, are the first ARP competitive grants in FHEO that focus directly on the unequal impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on communities of color, low-income communities, and other vulnerable populations. Activities that will be carried out include responding to housing inquiries, investigating fair housing complaints, conducting fair housing testing, providing legal assistance, conducting education and outreach, and covering costs associated with providing services related to the pandemic.

According to the announcement, another \$5,757,663 in ARP funding will be made available to eligible applicants that did not receive funding in this first round. You can see a complete list of the grantees and the amounts they were awarded at the bottom of the press release.

HUD Publishes New REAC Property and Unit Inspections Website

On the Real Estate Assessment Center ([REAC](#)) webpage, HUD announced that it has made available a new [REAC Property and Unit Inspections website](#), which includes important inspections updates and notices relevant for housing professionals and residents.

The new website includes a [section](#) specifically for residents living in HUD-assisted housing (public housing, multifamily, or housing choice voucher rental properties) where they can learn about inspections, how to report housing issues, where to get help, and find out what's changed due to COVID-19. The site also includes the [Property and Unit Inspections](#) flyer, which provides more details for residents and is available in 19 languages.

PD&R Issues Notice on Unsolicited Research Proposals

This week on [grants.gov](#), HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research ([PD&R](#)) [announced](#) that it has the authority to accept unsolicited research proposals that address current research priorities. The research proposals must be submitted by eligible applicants and provide cost sharing for at least 50 percent of total project cost from philanthropic entities or federal, state, or local government agencies. Proposals are due by June 30, 2022. The full [announcement](#) and [additional information](#) have been posted to HUD's [Funding Opportunities](#) website.



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