



December 10, 2020

HCV PROGRAM NEWS

HUD to Host Webinar on Mainstream Vouchers During COVID-19

Yesterday on the [Mainstream Vouchers webpage](#), the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced that it will host a [webinar](#) to review ways PHAs can support leasing of Mainstream vouchers in the midst of COVID-19. The webinar will provide information on policies and procedures PHAs should consider establishing, including those outlined in Notice [PIH 2020-13](#) and Notice [PIH 2020-22](#).

The webinar, scheduled for December 14, 2020, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time, is relevant to PHA directors and staff responsible for the administration of the Mainstream vouchers and PHAs considering applying for new Mainstream vouchers. To register, click [here](#).

GENERAL NEWS

HUD Announces Latest in ConnectHome Webinar Series

HUD has also announced that it will be hosting the latest in its series of [training webinars](#) on the [ConnectHome](#) initiative. The webinar series is meant to serve as guidance to help ConnectHome participating communities achieve their goals in connecting households to broadband and assisting communities in their digital inclusion and digital literacy efforts. As such, the series is relevant for PHA staff and community members responsible for ConnectHome program implementation.

The latest scheduled webinar, titled "[Planning Your Convening: Tips for Implementation and Stakeholder Follow-Up](#)," is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15, 2020, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Eastern time. Click [here](#) for more information, including [instructions](#) on how to [register](#).

DOJ Files Disability Discrimination Lawsuit against Town in Connecticut

In a [press release](#) this week, the U.S. Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)) announced that it has filed a lawsuit alleging that a town in Connecticut has violated the [Fair Housing Act](#) by discriminating against persons with disabilities.

According to the press release, the lawsuit alleges that the town has discriminated by refusing to allow the operation of a group home for adults with disabilities. The department's [complaint](#) further alleges that the town amended its zoning regulations to prohibit any community residence for adults with disabilities from operating in the town. "The Fair Housing Act prohibits municipalities from applying their zoning laws in a manner that discriminates because of disabilities," said Eric Dreiband, Assistant Attorney General for the DOJ's Civil Rights Division.

The case arose when the town denied a special use permit to a property owner and group home operator who sought to open a residence for 13 adults with mental health disabilities. At the time, the town's zoning ordinance permitted the operation of community residences of up to 15 adults with disabilities so long as certain conditions were satisfied. The owner and operator filed a complaint with HUD after their special use permit application was denied.

The lawsuit seeks a court order prohibiting the town from applying its zoning regulations in a manner that discriminates against persons with disabilities. It also seeks monetary damages to compensate victims, as well as payment of a civil penalty.



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