



December 8, 2021

HCV PROGRAM NEWS

HUD Makes Available HCV Financial Management Expertise Learning Pathway

Yesterday on the [HUD Exchange News webpage](#), the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) [announced](#) that it has made available a learning pathway to learn how to effectively execute financial management for the Housing Choice Voucher ([HCV](#)) program, utilize funding properly and optimally, and reduce compliance risk.

According to the announcement, this learning pathway teaches financial management staff at PHAs about the HCV funding process, the importance of timely and accurate reporting, and using systems and resources correctly. After reviewing the five sets of resources in the learning pathway, participants will know the policy framework as well as system capabilities and tools available to support effective delivery of the HCV program. Click [here](#) to explore it.

GENERAL NEWS

DOJ Settles Disability Discrimination Lawsuit against Town in Connecticut

In a [press release](#) Monday, the Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)) announced that it has reached an agreement with a town in Connecticut to settle a [lawsuit](#) alleging that the town violated the [Fair Housing Act](#) when it denied a special use permit to a property owner and group home operator, which sought to open a residence for 13 adults with mental health disabilities in a residential neighborhood.

According to the press release, at the time, the town’s zoning regulations permitted the operation of community residences of up to 15 adults with disabilities so long as certain conditions were satisfied. The United States alleged that the town’s permit denial was because of the disabilities of the proposed residents. The complaint also alleged that, after learning about the proposed group home, 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

Under the [settlement](#), which still must be approved by the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut, the town will allow the group home to operate with up to 13 residents and will amend its zoning regulations to comply with federal antidiscrimination laws, including permitting group homes for persons with disabilities in residential districts, with the same size limitations applied to families of similar size, and implementing a reasonable accommodation policy. The town will also pay \$350,000 in monetary damages to the housing provider and property owner of the proposed group home, as well as \$10,000 to the United States. The town also agreed to take other actions to protect against housing discrimination, including training town officials and employees about their obligations under federal law, designating a fair housing compliance officer, and reporting periodically to the Justice Department.



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