



February 11, 2021

GENERAL NEWS

FHEO Issues Memorandum on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Discrimination

In a [press release](#) today, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced that the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity ([FHEO](#)) issued a [memorandum](#) implementing President Biden's [Executive Order 13988](#) on preventing and combating discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation. The order directed executive branch agencies to examine further steps that could be taken to combat such discrimination. The memorandum, dated February 11, 2021, states that HUD interprets the [Fair Housing Act](#) to bar discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and directs HUD offices and recipients of HUD funds to enforce the Act accordingly. Specifically, the memorandum directs the following:

- HUD will accept and investigate all jurisdictional complaints of sex discrimination, including discrimination because of gender identity or sexual orientation, and enforce the Fair Housing Act where it finds such discrimination occurred.
- HUD will conduct all activities involving the application, interpretation, and enforcement of the Fair Housing Act's prohibition on sex discrimination consistent with its conclusion that such discrimination includes discrimination because of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- State and local jurisdictions funded by HUD's Fair Housing Assistance Program ([FHAP](#)) that enforce the Fair Housing Act through their HUD-certified substantially equivalent laws will be required to administer those laws to prohibit discrimination because of gender identity and sexual orientation.
- Organizations and agencies that receive grants through the Department's Fair Housing Initiative Program ([FHIP](#)) must carry out their funded activities to also prevent and combat discrimination because of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- FHEO Regional Offices, FHAP agencies, and FHIP grantees are instructed to review, within 30 days, all records of allegations (inquiries, complaints, phone logs, etc.) received since January 20, 2020, and notify persons who alleged discrimination because of gender identity or sexual orientation that their claims may be timely and jurisdictional for filing under this memorandum.

HUD Posts Bolstering Growth in Opportunity Zones Webinar Series Materials

This week on the [HUD Exchange News webpage](#), the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced that it has posted the [training materials](#) for the Bolstering Growth in Opportunity Zones webinar series. The materials for each session include recordings of the training, transcripts, copies of the slides presented during the webcast, and other resources. The purpose of the webinar series was to assist participants in developing their own action plan to support short and long-term community objectives for potential investments in Opportunity Zones.



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