



February 26, 2021

PH PROGRAM NEWS

PIH Posts Op Sub Obligation Letters for March and April

HUD’s Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) has [posted](#) the public housing operating subsidy obligation letters for March and April. As usual, the letters to all PHAs in the same state are combined in a single file, which you can access through the map on [this webpage](#). You'll find links to the obligation letters on the [2021 operating fund grant processing page](#) at the [operating fund website](#).

GENERAL NEWS

HUD Announces FSS Awards

In a [press release](#) yesterday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that it has awarded approximately \$1.5 million to 13 PHAs under the family self-sufficiency (ESS) program. As previously announced, funding for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) and public housing (PH) FSS programs was combined again this year.

According to the press release, due to COVID-19, HUD did not receive applications for FSS renewal funding from every eligible PHA with an existing FSS Program. As a result, the Department issued a supplemental notice of funding availability (NOFA) inviting those eligible PHAs with FSS programs to apply competitively for the residual FY 2020 funds.

A state-by-state list of all funded recipients can be found in the press release.

HUD Charges Pennsylvania Housing Provider with Disability Discrimination

In a [press release](#) Wednesday, HUD announced that it is [charging](#) a housing provider in Pennsylvania with discrimination on the basis of disability. HUD's charge alleges that the owners and managers of rental properties violated the [Fair Housing Act](#) by refusing to allow assistance animals.

The case came to HUD's attention when a HUD fair housing initiatives program agency, located in Pennsylvania, filed a complaint after testers posing as prospective tenants who said they had assistance animals were told that the animals were not allowed. According to HUD's charge, the rental agents told testers that only registered service animals that had been trained for a specific duty would be permitted, and that they were not obligated to accept "emotional support" animals.

Under the Fair Housing Act, it is unlawful to deny or limit housing to persons with disabilities, which includes refusing to make reasonable accommodations in policies or practices. Allowing people with disabilities to have assistance animals that perform work, tasks, or provide disability-related emotional support is considered a reasonable accommodation under the Act.

HUD's charge will be heard by a United States administrative law judge unless any party elects to have the case heard in federal court. If the administrative law judge finds after a hearing that discrimination has occurred, the judge may award damages to the complainant for losses caused by the discrimination. The judge may also order injunctive relief and other equitable relief, as well as payment of attorney fees. In addition, the judge may impose civil penalties to vindicate the public interest.



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