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GENERAL NEWS

OIG Reviews Use of Landlord Incentives in the HCV Program

HUD’s Office of Inspector General ([OIG](#)) has recently released a limited review titled “[Use of Landlord Incentives in the Housing Choice Voucher Program](#).” The evaluation was conducted to determine the use of landlord incentives to increase landlord participation and retention and expand housing options for program participants outside areas of low-income or minority concentration.

OIG developed and sent a questionnaire to 34 Moving to Work ([MTW](#)) PHAs regarding the use of landlord incentives. MTW PHAs were selected due to the program flexibilities that allow these PHAs to design and test innovative, locally designed strategies, including the option of offering landlord incentives. The review covered the period from January 1, 2016, to December 31, 2019. Some of the findings are as follows:

- Of the 34 PHAs that responded to the questionnaire, 28 (82 percent) indicated that they used some form of incentive to recruit or retain landlords in the Housing Choice Voucher ([HCV](#)) program.
- Of those 28 PHAs, 27 (96 percent) used nonmonetary incentives, 20 (71 percent) used monetary incentives, and 19 (68 percent) used a combination of both.
- The five nonmonetary incentives that were most popular among the PHAs included direct housing assistance payment deposit, online access specifically for landlords’ use (a portal), workshops and outreach activities, landlord liaison, and streamlining the inspection process.
- The five monetary incentives that were most popular among the PHAs included a bonus to landlords new to the HCV program, property damage reimbursement, vacancy loss or bonus for renting to another program participant (re-rent), higher payment standard for high-opportunity areas, bonus for new landlord in high-opportunity areas, and security deposit assistance.
- Eighty two percent of the PHAs indicated that the incentives were effective in keeping landlords in the program, while 61 percent indicated that incentives were not as effective at getting existing landlords to add more units to the program.

As the document states, these insights from PHAs can help HUD better serve and connect with its crucial partners, the landlords. At the same time, it should be acknowledged that the effectiveness of an incentive varies widely, depending on the environment in which the PHA operates. To read the complete review, click [here](#).

OLHCHH to Host Webinar Program on Radon Hazards

HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes ([OLHCHH](#)) has [announced](#) that it will be hosting a webinar program titled “Let’s Get Serious About Radon.” According to the announcement, radon gas poses one of most deadly potential health and safety risks for families at home, especially when many people are staying at home more because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The webinars dates and links are as follows:

- [Fix. Save a Life](#) – February 23, 2021, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Eastern time. Note that this webinar will be delivered in Spanish.
- [Building Partnerships to Increase Radon Awareness](#) – February 24, 2021, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Eastern time.
- [Providing Radon Education: Most Common Questions and Misconceptions](#) –February 25, 2021, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Eastern time.

Click on each link to register. Registration is limited to the first 500 registrants. Once you have registered, you will receive confirmation by email, including instructions for connecting to the webinar on the day of the event.



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