



March 22, 2022

GENERAL NEWS

HUD to Host Virtual Event to Kick Off National Fair Housing Month

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has [announced](#) that it will be hosting a virtual celebration to kick off Fair Housing Month and showcase HUD's efforts to advance and protect fair housing rights to ensure that all people are entitled to obtain the housing of their choice, free from discrimination.

The event, hosted by the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity ([FHEO](#)), will take place via webcast on Tuesday, April 5 at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time, and it will conclude with a thought-provoking table talk conversation on disparate impact between HUD General Counsel, Damon Smith, and the U.S. Department of Justice Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Kristen Clarke. Click [here](#) to sign up.

This April HUD is celebrating the 54 anniversary of the [Fair Housing Act](#) with events highlighting the impact and significance of this landmark civil rights law. The theme of this year's Fair Housing Month is Fair Housing: More Than Just Words.

HUD Announces Assistance for Maine Disaster Survivors

In a [press release](#) last Friday, HUD announced the implementation of federal disaster assistance to supplement state, tribal, and local recovery efforts in the areas of Maine affected by a severe storm and flooding from October 30 to October 31, 2021.

A presidential [major disaster declaration](#) issued on March 15, 2022, allows HUD to offer assistance to state, tribal, eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of damaged facilities in impacted counties. Effective immediately, the Department will:

- Grant a [90-day moratorium](#) on foreclosures of FHA-insured homes
- Make mortgage insurance available under [HUD's Section 203\(h\)](#) program
- Make insurance available for both mortgages and home rehabilitation under [HUD's Section 203\(k\) program](#)
- Make [information on housing providers](#) and HUD programs available
- Provide flexibility to Community Planning and Development Grantees, which can apply for needed administrative flexibility in response to natural disasters. For more information on applying for a waiver or suspension of program requirements, [contact](#) your local CPD program office.
- Provide flexibility to PHAs, which can apply for needed waivers and flexibilities for disaster relief and recovery. To find detailed information on applying for a waiver, click [here](#) for the latest *Federal Register* disaster relief notice. The Department also released Notice [PIH 2021-34](#), which advises the public of HUD's expedited process for waivers and flexibilities from HUD regulatory and administrative requirements for various public housing and voucher programs.
- Provide administrative flexibility to tribes and their tribally designated housing entities through regulatory waivers
- Ensure [HUD-approved housing counseling agencies](#) are ready to assist
- Assist with housing discrimination

Federal funding, provided by FEMA, is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide. Click [here](#) for more information about disaster resources.



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