3/25/2021 Your PIH Alert for March 25, 2021



March 25, 2021

HCV PROGRAM NEWS

PIH Issues 2021 Funding Notice for Voucher Program

Late yesterday HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) issued Notice PIH 2021-10 to explain the funding provisions for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program in the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. The notice also sets forth the second-round application process for HAP set-aside funds remaining from the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 for per unit cost (PUC) increases that occurred in calendar year (CY) 2020 as a result of unforeseen circumstances, including but not limited to the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are some highlights of the 56-page notice:

- Section 4 of the notice explains the five-step process that the PIH office used to determine voucher renewal funding for PHAs in 2021.
- The 2021 Act calls for a set-aside of up to \$110 million to adjust PHA allocations in six categories, described in Section 5 of the notice. PHAs that may qualify for set-aside funds must apply by close of business May 14, 2021 (with the exception of shortfall set-aside funding, which will remain open all year, and <u>HUD-VASH</u>, which has a deadline of October 1, 2021). Submission requirements are described in Section 13 of the notice.
- With respect to tenant protection vouchers (TPVs), HUD will continue its policy introduced in 2019 where in addition to providing replacement vouchers for occupied units as described in Notice PIH 2018-09, it will also provide replacement TPVs for vacant units that were occupied within the previous 24 months and are no longer available as assisted housing, subject to the availability of funding. You can find details on tenant protection vouchers in Section 6 of the notice.
- PIH will make available up to \$30 million in administrative fee funding for homeownership fees, special fees for multifamily housing conversion actions, special fees for receiving PHAs where portability vouchers are a significant portion of vouchers under lease, special audit fees for declaring HCV programs, and for HCV voluntary transfers. Special fees needed for PHAs experiencing increased administrative expenses as a result of administering tenant protection rental assistance, disaster-related vouchers, HUD-VASH vouchers, and other special purpose incremental vouchers, are also eligible special fees.
- The Act also provides \$40 million for new incremental vouchers for the HUD-VASH program. These funds will be awarded based on the needs of homeless veterans.
- In addition, the Act provides \$314 million for the Mainstream program, \$25 million for the Family Unification Program (FUP), and over \$43 million for housing stability vouchers. HUD will implement guidance related to FUP at a later date, and it will provide additional information on housing stability vouchers at a later day.
- Approximately \$60 million remains from the \$100 million originally set aside by HUD for funding adjustments to PHA's CY 2020 renewal funding allocations in accordance with the 2020 Act. Due to the unprecedented increase in voucher costs during CY 2020 and the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, HUD has decided to provide a second round of funding for Category 2a, Unforeseen Circumstances. PHAs that experienced significant increases in their 2020 HAP costs may be eligible to apply for and receive funding from the CY 2020 set-aside funding under this second round. The eligibility and submission requirements for this second round are detailed in Section 14 of the notice.

MTW PROGRAM NEWS

HUD Publishes MTW Supplement to the Annual PHA Plan

This week on the Moving to Work Demonstration (MTW) webpage, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the MTW Supplement to the Annual PHA Plan, which describes the reporting requirements for MTW Expansion PHAs and will be submitted once per year as part of the standard PHA Plan process.

According to the announcement, "MTW Expansion PHAs will indicate the MTW activities they intend to implement from the list of MTW waivers provided in the MTW operations notice. In response to stakeholder feedback, HUD has attempted to simplify and streamline the reporting process, eliminate the standard metrics, and provide the same level of flexibilities through the MTW waivers, agency-specific waivers, and safe harbor waivers."

The MTW Supplement to the Annual PHA Plan will be submitted by MTW Expansion agencies using a web-based form, not using Word or PDF files as is the case for other documents in the PHA Plan.

GENERAL NEWS

HUD Posts Updated COVID-19 FAQs for PHAs

Yesterday on the Public and Indian Housing COVID-19 Resources webpage, HUD posted an updated version of its COVID-19 FAQs for Public Housing Agencies. Version 7 of the FAQs, dated March 24, 2021, contains several updates concerning waivers, utility allowances, income, stimulus payments, unemployment benefits and income, inspections, SEMAP, remote hearings, and annual reexaminations, among others. Updated and new questions are flagged as such. For details on specific topics, you can review the answers marked "Updated" and "New" in the FAQs. Note that question numbers may have changed from prior versions.

HUD Publishes NOFA for Housing-Related Hazards Capital Fund Program

Yesterday HUD published a notice of funding availability (NOFA) for its 2020 Housing-Related Hazard Capital Fund Program. The announcement was posted here on Grants.gov and here at HUD's Funding Opportunities website.

According to the program description, the purpose of the Housing-Related Hazards Capital Fund Program NOFA is to help PHAs identify and eliminate housing-related hazards in public housing such as mold, carbon monoxide, pest infestation, radon, and fire hazards, among others. \$20,000,000 is available for competitive grants under the NOFA. The application deadline is May 25, 2021.



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