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March 8, 2022

## **PH PROGRAM NEWS**

## PIH Announces Preliminary OpFund Grant Eligibility for CY 2022

Yesterday via HUD's Financial Management Division (FMD) <u>mailing list</u>, HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing (<u>PIH</u>) <u>announced</u> that it has published the preliminary operating fund (OpFund) grant eligibility for CY 2022 for all public housing developments based on HUD-52723 and HUD-52722 submissions. PHAs can review their preliminary OpFund eligibility in the <u>OpFund web portal</u> by clicking on *PHA Reports & Submissions* in the left side navigation menu. If you do not have access to the portal, contact your PHA's WASS coordinator to provide access.

PHAs should contact their local field office by email with any questions or comments about their eligibility. Request for corrections must be provided by email to their field office by Thursday **March 17, 2022**. If you need additional assistance accessing the OpFund web portal, contact the REAC Technical Assistance Center (<u>TAC</u>) by calling 1-888-245-4860 Option #4 or by email to <u>REAC\_TAC@hud.gov</u>.

# **GENERAL NEWS**

## **REAC Posts Two Articles on NSPIRE Demonstration Inspections**

Recently on the <u>NSPIRE News and Events webpage</u>, HUD's Real Estate Assessment Center (<u>REAC</u>) posted the following two articles related to the NSPIRE demonstration inspections:

- <u>Update On NSPIRE Demonstration Inspections</u>
- What to Expect in an NSPIRE Demonstration Inspection

The NSPIRE <u>demonstration</u> was announced in 2019 to overhaul HUD's inspection process and test new approaches for making certain PHAs and owners provide housing that is safe and livable. NSPIRE will eventually be implemented as a single inspection protocol for public housing and HCV units.

#### **HUD Announces Latest in ConnectHome Webinar Series**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (<u>HUD</u>) has announced that it will be hosting the latest in its series of <u>training webinars</u> on the <u>ConnectHome</u> initiative. The webinar series is meant to serve as guidance to help ConnectHome participating communities achieve their goals in connecting households to broadband and assisting communities in their digital inclusion and digital literacy efforts. As such, the series is relevant for PHA staff and community members responsible for ConnectHome program implementation

During the upcoming webinar, titled "Affordable Connectivity Program for CHUSA Communities," representatives from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will provide an overview of the FCC's new Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which replaced the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program on December 31, 2021. FCC representatives will also discuss best practices for resident engagement, outreach, and program enrollment.

The ACP program provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

The webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2022, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Eastern time. Click <a href="here">here</a> for more information, including <a href="instructions">instructions</a> on how to register. Participants are encouraged to submit questions in advance to <a href="https://example.com/HUDwebinar@FCC.gov">HUDwebinar@FCC.gov</a> by March 9, 2022.



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