



April 12, 2021

PH PROGRAM NEWS

HUD Awards \$13.7 Million in Emergency Safety and Security Grants

In a [press release](#) Friday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced that it has awarded \$13.7 million to PHAs throughout the country for emergency and security improvements under the [Capital Fund Emergency Safety and Security program](#). The grants will be used to install, repair, or replace capital needs items, including security systems and surveillance cameras, fencing, lighting systems, emergency alarm systems, window bars, deadbolt locks, doors, and monoxide detectors. To view a complete list of the grantees, the amounts they were awarded, and project descriptions, [click](#) here.

HCV PROGRAM NEWS

HUD Updates List of Eligible Uses of CARES Act Funding

Last Friday HUD revised the [list of eligible activities](#) for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act administrative fee funds for the Housing Choice Voucher ([HCV](#)) program. As you know, the CARES Act provided \$1.25 billion in supplemental HCV program appropriations to enable PHAs to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. New eligible uses, which are vaccination-related expenses, are as follows:

- Coordinating with health units to provide on-site vaccinations at a PHA or other mutually agreed site;
- Costs to develop or distribute educational materials related to COVID-19 or the vaccine;
- Hiring health service coordination staff, including resident community health workers, to assist residents in locating and signing up for the vaccine and health insurance coverage; and
- Individual or shared computing devices, such as laptops or multifunction tablets with keyboards, to allow for online registration.

The document states that in addition to the above list, PHAs may consider other activities to support vaccination efforts provided they support preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19 and do not duplicate other federal benefits or subsidy.

GENERAL NEWS

HUD Announces Latest in ConnectHome Webinar Series

HUD has announced that it will be hosting the latest in its series of [training webinars](#) on the [ConnectHome](#) 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.

The latest scheduled webinar, titled "[FCC's New Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Overview](#)," will discuss the new [Emergency Broadband Benefit \(EBB\)](#) program funded by Congress to help low-income Americans cover the costs of in-home broadband service during the pandemic. The benefit may also cover a one-time subsidy toward a computing device. The webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 2021, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Eastern time. Click [here](#) for more information, including [instructions](#) on how to register.



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