



April 22, 2021

HCV PROGRAM NEWS

HUD Announces Webinar on Administering HCVs During COVID-19

The Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) has announced that it will be hosting the latest in its series of [training webinars](#) titled "PHA Best Practices During COVID-19." The series provides PHAs with best practices, recommendations, and solutions related to improving operations, program compliance, and financial management during the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the webinars are relevant for PHA staff at all levels of the Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing programs, including property management, inspections, housing specialist, and program management staff.

The latest scheduled webinar, titled "[Administering HCVs](#)," will discuss some of the challenges PHAs face to effectively administer and manage vouchers during COVID-19 and strategies PHAs are implementing to maintain demands on business processes. During the webinar, participants will:

- Understand the permitted use of funding provided to retain and support participating owners and encourage new owners leasing to HCV families during the pandemic.
- Learn practical strategies and landlord incentives to encourage leasing for HCV families during the pandemic.
- Review how other housing agencies implemented strategies for engaging landlords using COVID-19 funding.
- Manage strategies for tracking and reporting outcomes from landlord outreach programs.

The webinar is scheduled for Thursday, April 29, 2021, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Eastern time. Click [here](#) for more information, including [instructions](#) on how to register.

GENERAL NEWS

OIG Issues Report on HUD Radon Policies

HUD's Office of Inspector General ([OIG](#)) has recently released a [final report](#) on the evaluation of the radon policies for the Offices of Community Planning and Development ([CPD](#)), Multifamily Housing Programs ([Multifamily](#)), and Public and Indian Housing ([PIH](#)). According to the report, HUD does not have a departmentwide policy for dealing with radon contamination. Instead, HUD relies on each program office to develop radon policies that align with HUD's environmental regulation.

The three program offices reviewed do not have consistent radon policies. Only Multifamily's radon policy includes radon testing and mitigation requirements. PIH's policy strongly encourages but does not require public housing agencies (PHAs) to test for radon and to mitigate excessive radon levels, if possible. CPD does not have a radon policy. Instead, both PIH and CPD use the environmental review process to test for and mitigate excessive radon levels in their properties. Relying on the environmental review process to test for and mitigate excessive radon may result in radon testing that occurs too infrequently, if at all. Further, the flexibility PIH gives to PHAs in its radon policy does not align with statements in HUD's environmental regulations.

Radon is a radioactive substance that could negatively affect the health and safety of residents. HUD's environmental regulations state that it is HUD policy that all properties proposed for use in HUD programs be free of radioactive substances where a hazard could affect the health and safety of occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property.

The report includes seven recommendations to help HUD better protect residents from hazardous health risks of indoor radon exposure, including to develop and issue a departmentwide policy. Further information can be found in the [report](#).



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