



April 30, 2021

PH PROGRAM NEWS

PIH Posts Op Sub Obligation Letters for May and June

HUD’s Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) has [posted](#) the public housing operating subsidy obligation letters for May and June. As usual, the letters to all PHAs in the same state are combined in a single file, which you can access through the map on [this webpage](#). You’ll find links to the obligation letters on the [2021 operating fund grant processing page](#) at the [operating fund website](#).

HCV PROGRAM NEWS

HUD Updates HCV Data Dashboard

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has updated the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) [data dashboard](#), which provides an overview of the HCV program at the national and state levels. The tool includes aggregate data from budget and leasing utilization, reserve balances, attrition, per unit cost trends, and leasing potential. It also contains a snapshot of utilization for HUD’s special purpose voucher programs such as [Mainstream](#), the Family Unification Program (FUP), and HUD–Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD–VASH), allowing agencies to compare their own programs against state and nationwide trends.

The upgraded dashboard now incorporates additional pages, such as leasing changes, special purpose vouchers as a percentage of the HCV program, and project-based voucher portfolio. It also includes two comparison pages: budget and reserves, and leasing and per unit cost (PUC), which allow the user to compare different states or PHAs side by side. In addition, the dashboard now includes individual PHA information.

The dashboard presents information based on the most recently available data from the Voucher Management System (VMS) and other places. You’ll find the updated [dashboard](#), an [user guide and dictionary](#), and a [video tutorial](#) on [this page](#) at HUD’s website.

GENERAL NEWS

HUD Charges Alabama Landlord with Disability Discrimination

In a [press release](#) Wednesday, HUD announced that it is [charging](#) an owner of an apartment complex in Florence, Alabama, with discrimination on the basis of disability. HUD’s charge alleges that the owner violated the [Fair Housing Act](#) by refusing to rent a unit to a prospective tenant with disabilities who uses an assistance animal.

According to the charge, a woman who uses an assistance animal filed a complaint with HUD after she was denied the opportunity to rent an apartment she saw online because of the owner’s “no-pets” policy. When the woman called to inquire about the unit, the owner allegedly asked if she had a pet, and when the woman stated she had an assistance animal, the owner told her that she did not allow pets or animals and terminated the call.

Under the Fair Housing Act, it is unlawful to deny or limit housing to persons with disabilities, which includes refusing to make reasonable accommodations in policies or practices. Allowing people with disabilities to have assistance animals that perform work, tasks, or provide disability-related emotional support is considered a reasonable accommodation under the Act. That means that a housing provider who otherwise enforces a “no-pets” policy must waive it for a prospective renter or resident who needs an assistance animal because of a disability.

HUD’s charge will be heard by a United States administrative law judge unless any party elects to have the case heard in federal court. If the judge finds after a hearing that discrimination has occurred, the judge may award damages to the complainant for losses caused by the discrimination. The judge may also order injunctive relief and other equitable relief, as well as payment of attorney fees. In addition, the judge may impose civil penalties to vindicate the public interest.



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