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## GENERAL NEWS

### Treasury Makes Available Portal of ERA Local Programs

Last Friday on the [HUD Exchange News webpage](#), the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) [announced](#) that the U.S. Department of Treasury ([Treasury](#)) released a [collection of websites](#) associated with grantees' [Emergency Rental Assistance \(ERA\)](#) programs to help tenants and landlords find rental assistance programs in their local areas.

The ERA Program, funded through Treasury, makes funding available to assist households that are unable to pay rent or utilities. Two separate programs have been established: ERA1 provides up to \$25 billion and ERA2 up to \$21.55 billion. The funds are provided directly to states, U.S. territories, local governments, and, in the case of ERA1, Indian tribes. Grantees may use the funds to assist eligible households through existing or newly created rental assistance programs.

According to the new ERA portal, each ERA grantee has some flexibility to develop their rental assistance program to suit the needs of their local community, while complying with requirements outlined in their ERA financial assistance agreement, the ERA statute, and Treasury's guidelines. These websites may include resources not funded with the ERA award issued by Treasury. Check [here](#) to find local ERA programs in your area.

### HUD Settles National Origin Discrimination Case against CA Housing Providers

In a [press release](#) Friday, HUD announced that it has reached a [conciliation/voluntary compliance agreement](#) resolving allegations that an apartment complex and its management company in California violated the [Fair Housing Act](#) and [Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#). In particular, respondents allegedly failed to provide language access services to Vietnamese residents and retaliated against an apartment complex employee for advocating for residents with limited English proficiency (LEP) to receive oral interpretation services and translated vital documents.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits housing providers from discriminating against persons based on their national origin. Additionally, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of national origin by recipients of federal financial assistance and requires such recipients to take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access for LEP persons.

The case came to HUD's attention when an agent at the apartment complex, which receives HUD funding, filed a complaint alleging that the owners and managers of the property failed to provide language access services to the complex's Vietnamese residents and retaliated against an employee because she advocated for the housing providers to provide language services to LEP residents.

Under the terms of the settlement, the management company agrees to, among other things, pay \$10,000 to the employee who filed the complaint. The management company will also provide \$20,075 in compensation to residents of the property, with each household receiving \$275 as either a check or as a rent credit. In addition, a notification letter will be sent to each household in their primary language notifying them of the agreement, including that the management company will provide LEP applicants with free oral interpretation services and translated documents when required by law.



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