



June 25, 2020

GENERAL NEWS

HUD Awards Nearly \$200,000 through the Foster Youth to Independence Initiative

In a [press release](#) yesterday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced that it is awarding nearly \$200,000 to nine PHAs in the latest installation of grants to assist young people aging out of foster care and who are at risk of experiencing homelessness.

The funding, awarded under HUD’s Foster Youth to Independence ([FYI](#)) Initiative, will offer housing vouchers to local PHAs to prevent or end homelessness among young adults under the age of 25 who are leaving, or have recently left, the foster care system. Funding is provided in the form of tenant protection vouchers (TPVs) to certain PHAs that do not participate in HUD’s Family Unification Program ([FUP](#)).

Since the initiative was launched in June of 2019, 26 states have received FYI funding, for a total of 665 individual vouchers and over \$5.4 million in funds. A complete list of awardees and the amounts they will receive can be found in the [press release](#).

HUD Awards Nearly \$1 Million to Support COVID-19 Related Fair Housing Activities

In a [press release](#) yesterday, HUD announced that it is awarding \$962,160 in Partnership and Special Enforcement Effort funds to 19 HUD Fair Housing Assistance Program ([FHAP](#)) agencies to support COVID-19 related activities. The funds are being provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ([CARES](#)) of 2020, which President Trump signed into law to provide federal agencies with the necessary resources to combat COVID-19. Click [here](#) to read the FHAP COVID-19 Funds notice.

As the notice states, examples of fundable activities include: partnering with grassroots, faith-based or other community-based organizations to conduct COVID-19 related education and outreach, procurement and/or development of up-to-date or advanced technology to do such related education and outreach, and hiring temporary staff to address any increase in fair housing complaints, among others.

The [press release](#) includes a list of the grant recipients, the amounts they will receive, and project descriptions.

HUD Charges Wisconsin Housing Providers with Disability Discrimination

In a [press release](#) yesterday, HUD announced that it has [charged](#) the owners and manager of apartment units in Wisconsin with discrimination on the basis of disability. HUD’s charge alleges that the housing providers violated the [Fair Housing Act](#) by refusing to rent a unit to an applicant with disabilities and his/her partner because the applicant requires an assistance animal.

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. The Act also prohibits housing providers from threatening and coercing persons who seek to exercise their fair housing rights.

“Assistance animals are not pets. They provide the support persons with disabilities need to live independent lifestyles,” said Anna María Farías, HUD’s Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. “Having the opportunity to keep an assistance animal is a right and HUD is committed to ensuring that housing providers not only recognize it but meet their obligation to uphold that right.”

According to the press release, HUD’s charge will be heard by a United States administrative law judge unless any party to the charge elects to have the case heard in a federal district court.



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