



June 30, 2020

PH PROGRAM NEWS

PIH Posts Op Sub Obligation Letters for July, August, and September

HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) has [posted](#) the public housing operating subsidy obligation letters for July, August, and September. 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 [2020 operating fund grant processing page](#) at the [operating fund website](#).

GENERAL NEWS

DOJ Files Sexual Harassment Suit against Iowa Housing Providers

In a [press release](#) yesterday, the U.S. Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)) announced that it has filed a lawsuit against the owner and manager of rental properties in Iowa for subjecting a female tenant to sexual harassment and retaliation. [DOJ's complaint](#) alleges that the manager violated the [Fair Housing Act](#) by sexually harassing a female tenant from March 2018 until August 2018.

The Fair Housing Act makes it unlawful for housing providers to sexually harass a tenant, including conditioning housing on the tenant's acquiescence to sexual demands. According to the complaint, the manager made repeated and unwelcome sexual comments, touched the tenant's body without her consent on multiple occasions, and retaliated against her for filing a fair housing complaint. The lawsuit also names as a defendant the corporate owner of the rental property where the harassment occurred. The lawsuit seeks monetary damages to compensate the victim and a court order barring future discrimination. The complaint contains allegations of unlawful conduct, which must be proven in court.

In October 2017, the DOJ's Civil Rights Division [announced](#) the [Sexual Harassment in Housing Initiative](#). The initiative specifically seeks to increase the Department's efforts to protect individuals from harassment by landlords, property managers, maintenance workers, security guards, and other employees and representatives of rental property owners. Since launching the Initiative, the Department has filed 16 lawsuits alleging sexual harassment in housing.



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Nan McKay & Associates 1810 Gillespie Way Suite 202 El Cajon CA 92020 United States

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