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GENERAL NEWS

HUD Terminates 2015 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule

In a [press release](#) yesterday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced that it will ultimately terminate the Obama Administration's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) regulation issued in 2015. According to the press release, the Department finds the rule to be "complicated, costly, and ineffective."

The AFFH rule will be replaced with HUD's new rule called [Preserving Community and Neighborhood Choice](#), which according to the Department, "defines fair housing broadly to mean housing that, among other attributes, [it] is affordable, safe, decent, free of unlawful discrimination, and accessible under civil rights laws." It also defines *affirmatively furthering fair housing* to mean "any action rationally related to promoting any of the above attributes of fair housing." Further details on the rule, including summary and background, can be found in the [notice](#). The effective date of the final rule will be determined once the notice is published in the *Federal Register*.

HUD previously published its [final AFFH rule](#) on July 16, 2015, to provide program participants with a revised planning approach to help them meet their legal fair housing obligations. In January 2018, HUD suspended the obligation of local governments to file plans under the regulation. Later on, in May 2018, HUD withdrew a computer assessment tool that local governments were required to use in preparing those plans, stating that "the tool was confusing, difficult to use, contained errors, and frequently produced unacceptable assessments."

Several prominent leading civil rights and housing organizations have come out in opposition to HUD's decision, as the National Low-Income Housing Coalition ([NLIHC](#)) and the National Fair Housing Alliance ([NFHA](#)) have [pointed out](#).

HUD Publishes Announcement of 2020-2021 Community Compass NOFA

Yesterday on [grants.gov](#), HUD [posted](#) the notice of funding availability ([NOFA](#)) for funding under the [Community Compass program](#) for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. Community Compass, which replaced the former OneCPD Plus program, is HUD's integrated technical assistance and capacity building initiative. The NOFA makes more than \$90 million available. The application deadline date is **September 21, 2020**. You'll find a link to the NOFA on [this page](#) at HUD's [Funding Opportunities](#) website.



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