



July 30, 2020

GENERAL NEWS

HUD Announces Availability of FY 2019–FY 2020 Rural Capacity Building Funds

Tuesday on [grants.gov](#), the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) [posted](#) the notice of funding availability ([NOFA](#)) for the fiscal year (FY) 2019–FY 2020 Rural Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing Grants. The NOFA makes approximately \$10 million available for rural capacity building activities. The application deadline date is **September 28, 2020**. You'll find a link to the NOFA on [this page](#) at HUD's [Funding Opportunities](#) website.

The funding appropriated for this program is intended to serve high-need rural areas and help rural housing development organizations, community development organizations, community housing development organizations, local governments, and Indian tribes obtain financing, training, and technical assistance necessary to undertake effective community development activities.

HUD Charges Housing Providers with Disability Discrimination

In a [press release](#) yesterday, HUD announced that it has [charged](#) housing providers in Georgia with discrimination on the basis of disability. HUD's charge alleges that the housing providers violated the [Fair Housing Act](#) by refusing to grant the reasonable accommodation request of a tenant with disabilities who lived in one of their properties.

HUD's charge will be heard by a United States administrative law judge. If the judge finds after a hearing that discrimination has occurred, he or she may award damages to the complainant for harm caused by the discrimination. The judge may also order injunctive relief and other equitable relief, as well as payment of attorney's fees. In addition, the judge may impose fines to vindicate the public interest.

In another [press release](#) posted yesterday, HUD announced that it is also [charging](#) the owners of an apartment complex in New York and its rental manager with discrimination on the basis of disability. HUD's charge alleges that the housing providers violated the [Fair Housing Act](#) by refusing to grant the reasonable accommodation request of a tenant with disabilities. Specifically, the owner and manager denied the resident's request to have an assistance animal.

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 federal district court. If an administrative law judge finds after a hearing that discrimination has occurred, he or she may award damages to the tenant for harm caused by the discrimination. The judge may also order injunctive relief and other equitable relief, as well as payment of attorney's fees. In addition, the judge may impose fines to vindicate the public interest. If the matter is decided in federal court, the judge may also award punitive damages.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits housing providers from denying or limiting housing to people with disabilities, or from refusing to make reasonable accommodations so that those with disabilities can reasonably use and enjoy their housing. This includes having strict "no- pet" policies, charging additional fees for assistance animals, or imposing unnecessary and unfair rules upon individuals with disabilities.



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