



August 9, 2021

HCV PROGRAM NEWS

HUD Notifies PHAs of VMS Issues

In an email last Friday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced that the Voucher Management System ([VMS](#)), which opened on August 4 for the July 2021 reporting cycle, was presenting some problems. According to the email, the following are the known VMS issues and the resolution as of Friday:

- EHV hard edit when reporting: PHAs with no EHV awards were getting hard edits stating they had the program and needed to report in the EHV field. **This issue has been resolved**, and PHAs should no longer receive the hard edit.
- EHV after the first of the month reporting: PHAs were getting an error message telling them that this field was mandatory, and they must enter a value. **This issue will be resolved Monday, August 9, 2021**, and the PHAs should no longer receive the error after that time.
- DCR: Users were unable to generate a DCR beyond June 2021. **This issue has been resolved** and the DCR now functions as designed.

HUD recommends that PHAs wait until all issues have been resolved to enter the VMS data for July 2021.

HUD Announces Latest in Emergency Housing Vouchers Webinar Series

HUD has announced that it will be hosting the latest in its Emergency Housing Vouchers ([EHVs](#)) webinar series. The purpose of this webinar series is to introduce PHAs, Continuums of Care (CoCs), and other housing stakeholders to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ([HHS](#)) opportunities that fund and provide housing-related supports and services. Each webinar provides information on partnership opportunities and on-the-ground examples of successful approaches to pairing HHS agency resources with HUD housing assistance for people experiencing homelessness, including the 70,000 EHV's awarded by HUD to PHAs through the American Rescue Plan.

The latest scheduled webinar, titled "[ACF Resources for Housing Supportive Services](#)," will capture ACF resources for housing supportive services that can be coordinated with HUD housing assistance. It is scheduled for Monday, August 16, 2021, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Eastern time. Click [here](#) to register.

GENERAL NEWS

DOJ Settles Sexual Harassment Suit against California Housing Providers

In a [press release](#) Friday, the Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)) announced that it has reached an agreement to resolve a lawsuit alleging that a property manager of residential apartment buildings in Los Angeles, California, violated the federal [Fair Housing Act](#) by sexually harassing female tenants since at least 2006. The settlement also resolves claims against the owner of the rental properties where the harassment took place.

According to the press release, the lawsuit, which was filed in 2020, alleged that for more than a decade the property manager subjected female tenants to harassment that involved unwanted sexual touching, including sexual assault, frequent unwelcome sexual advances and comments, offers to reduce rent or excuse late or unpaid rent in exchange for sex, and unannounced visits to the homes of female tenants without their consent to make sexual advances.

Under the consent decree, which still must be approved by the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, defendants are required to pay a total of \$105,000, which includes \$100,000 in monetary damages to women who were harmed by the harassment, and a \$5,000 civil penalty. The consent decree also bars future discrimination, prevents the property manager from participating in the rental or management of residential properties in the future, requires that he vacates the premises and leaves his post as on-site property manager, mandates Fair Housing Act training and requires extensive monitoring and reporting regarding property management activities and compliance with the terms of the consent decree.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits harassment of tenants and other forms of housing discrimination because of race, sex, color, national origin, disability, religion, and familial status. 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 21 lawsuits alleging sexual harassment in housing.



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