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GENERAL NEWS

HUD Awards Over \$500,000 to Support Covid-19 Related Fair Housing Activities

In a [press release](#) yesterday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced over half a million dollars in additional funding to HUD Fair Housing Assistance Program ([FHAP](#)) agencies in 12 states to support COVID-19 related activities. These awards are part of the \$1.5 million in Partnership and Special Enforcement Effort funds provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ([CARES](#)) Act of 2020, which President Trump signed into law to provide federal agencies with the necessary resources to combat COVID-19. In June, HUD awarded approximately \$1 million of this funding to 19 FHAP organizations.

As the [FHAP COVID-19 Funds 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.

Partnership funds allow FHAP agencies to utilize the services of individuals and/or public, private, for-profit, or not-for-profit organizations that have expertise in enforcing federal, state, and local fair housing laws. Similarly, Special Enforcement Effort funds enhance the fair housing enforcement activities of FHAP agencies. The [press release](#) includes a list of the agencies receiving funding, the amounts they will receive, and project descriptions.

HUD Settles Disability Discrimination Case against Hawaii Housing Providers

In a [press release](#) yesterday, HUD announced that it has reached a [conciliation agreement](#) with the owners and property management company of an apartment complex in Hawaii resolving allegations that they discriminated against a tenant with disabilities. The defendants denied the claims but agreed to settle the complaint. Under the terms of the agreement, the respondents will pay the complainant \$8,000, attend fair housing training, adopt and follow the nondiscrimination in housing policy, and comply with all other provisions of the Fair Housing Act.

The [Fair Housing Act](#) prohibits housing providers from discriminating against tenants based on disability, including denying a reasonable accommodation request.

HUD Settles Familial Status Discrimination Case against CA Housing Providers

In another [press release](#) yesterday, HUD announced that it has approved a [conciliation agreement](#) between the owners and management company of rental properties in California and a couple who alleged that the housing providers refused to rent a two-bedroom unit to them because they have three children. Under the settlement, the housing providers agreed, among other things, to pay \$6,000 to the couple.

The [Fair Housing Act](#) makes it unlawful to deny or limit housing because a family has children under the age of 18, make statements that discriminate against families with children, or impose different rules, restrictions or policies on them.



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