



September 23, 2021

HCV PROGRAM NEWS

HUD Updates Emergency Housing Vouchers FAQs

The Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) has updated the frequently asked questions ([FAQs](#)) on Emergency Housing Vouchers ([EHVs](#)). Updated and new questions are flagged as such in this new version, dated September 22, 2021.

Funding for EHV was appropriated under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Through EHV, HUD is providing 70,000 housing choice vouchers to local PHAs to assist individuals and families who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness, fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, or who were recently homeless or have a high risk of housing instability.

You can find the FAQs and other EHV resources on [this page](#) at HUD’s website.

GENERAL NEWS

HUD to Host Webinar on How PHAs Can Assist Homeless

Yesterday on the [HUD Exchange News webpage](#), HUD’s Office of Public and Indian Housing ([PIH](#)) [announced](#) that it will be holding a webinar to introduce the new “*How PHAs Can Assist People Experiencing Homelessness*” guidebook, which will be published soon. The guide will outline strategies and approaches for how PHAs can play an important role in reducing homelessness in their communities through their Housing Choice Voucher ([HCV](#)) and public housing programs.

The webinar, which will be held on October 5, 2021, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time, will present best practices, including establishing partnerships with the local Continuum of Care (CoC), utilizing waiting list preferences, using the CoC’s Coordinated Entry (CE) systems, and adapting the application and lease up process. PHAs that have had success in these areas will share examples of what has worked well in their communities. Click [here](#) to register.

**DOJ Settles Disability Discrimination Suit against Developer and Owners of Senior Living Complexes in Five States**

In a [press release](#) last Friday, the Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)) announced that it has reached an agreement to resolve a lawsuit alleging that the developer and owners of eight senior living complexes in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee violated the [Fair Housing Act](#) and the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) by failing to build the properties with the required accessible features for people with disabilities.

Under the [consent order](#), approved by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama, the defendants will pay all costs related to the retrofits, \$400,000 into a settlement fund to compensate individuals harmed by the inaccessible housing, and \$50,000 in civil penalties to the government. The defendants also will undergo training, ensure that any future construction complies with federal accessibility laws and make periodic reports to the Justice Department.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. The Act also requires housing built after March 1991 to contain accessible features for persons with disabilities. Failure to meet these standards it is considered unlawful discrimination. Likewise, the ADA protects individuals with disabilities from discrimination in public accommodations.



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