



September 7, 2021

HCV PROGRAM NEWS

HUD Issues Notice on Foster Youth to Independence Initiative

Last Friday HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing ([PIH](#)) issued Notice [PIH 2021-26](#) to amend Notice [PIH 2020-28](#), published on October 6, 2020, which explains the eligibility and application requirements for the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) voucher funding and how applications will be processed. Through the FYI initiative, HUD provides housing choice vouchers (HCVs) for youth eligible under the Family Unification Program ([FUP](#)), subject to availability. Friday's notice provides the same content as Notice PIH 2020-28 except for the following amendments:

- It sets forth the process by which PHAs may apply for \$10 million in new incremental vouchers funded through the 2021 Appropriations Act.
- It changes eligibility requirements for PHAs seeking to administer FYI assistance.
- It clarifies program requirements for FYI Tenant Protection Voucher (TPV) awards made under Notice [PIH 2019-20](#).

Further information can be found in the [notice](#).

GENERAL NEWS

HUD Charges FL Homeowner Association with Disability Discrimination

In a [press release](#) last Friday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced that it is [charging](#) a condominium association in Florida with discrimination on the basis of disability. HUD's charge alleges that the housing providers violated the [Fair Housing Act](#) by denying a reasonable accommodation request. Specifically, because of the husband's respiratory disabilities, a couple asked to be able to keep their shoes outside their unit in order to limit exposure to outdoor allergens, chemicals, or pollutants inside their home.

According to the press release, the case came to HUD's attention when a married couple filed a complaint of housing discrimination. HUD's charge alleges that the condominium community's homeowner association refused to allow the couple to keep their shoes outside the front door to prevent tracking in contaminants that negatively impact the husband due to his disability. The charge further alleges that the couple provided medical documentation from the husband's physician advising of the need to keep their home free from outdoor allergens, chemicals, or pollutants. Nevertheless, the homeowner association refused to grant the couple's accommodation request, and instead made repeated demands for further documentation.

The Fair Housing Act makes it unlawful to refuse to make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices, or services, when such accommodations may be necessary to afford a person with disabilities an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling.

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



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