



PIH

OFFICE OF PUBLIC & INDIAN HOUSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHA Newsletter: June 2023

News from HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing sent to PHA Executive Directors

SPECIAL TOPICS

Richard J. Monocchio Sworn in as HUD's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing



On May 22, 2023, Richard J. Monocchio was sworn in as the HUD's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing. Rich brings over 30 years of housing experience to PIH and a deep commitment to connecting people to their communities and connecting communities to opportunities.

Rich most recently served as the Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC) in Illinois. Before joining HACC in 2011, he served as First Deputy Housing Commissioner and Building Commissioner for the city of Chicago under the Daley administration, worked at HUD under the Clinton administration, and served as senior advisor to the late U.S. Rep. George E. Sangmeister from 1989 to 1994.

Among his other notable positions, he has served as the vice chairperson for the Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County and as a board member for both the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership and the Cook County Land Bank Authority.

Rich is focused on addressing the challenges Public Housing Authorities face, including the need for more affordable housing, better access to capital, and supportive services dedicated to children as they grow in their communities. He is looking forward to meeting with you to discuss solutions to the issues that are most important to your agency and the households you serve.

HUD Launches New LGBTQI+ Youth Homelessness Initiative During Pride Month

On June 8, 2023, the White House announced that HUD is launching a new federal initiative to partner with local communities, service providers, and directly affected young people to address barriers to housing and shelter access for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI+) youth. Nearly 40 percent of all youth experiencing homelessness identify as LGBTQI+, and these disparities are especially pronounced for transgender youth and other black and brown LGBTQI+ youth. In this new initiative, HUD will encourage communities to develop collaborative solutions to address the specific needs of LGBTQI+ youth experiencing homelessness and housing instability.

In the coming months, HUD will release a toolkit focused on best practices for supporting LGBTQI+ youth and Frequently Asked Questions that provide clarity about complying with the Equal Access Rule and Fair Housing Act. HUD will also launch a regular training series for communities and providers committed to improving their support for LGBTQI+ youth.

To learn more, read HUD's [press release](#) about the launch of this initiative and other actions the Biden-Harris Administration is taking to protect LGBTQI+ people.

SYSTEM INNOVATION

Welcome to HUD's monthly progress update on our information technology modernization. In 2023, we are launching updated systems to improve the user experience, payment accuracy, and cybersecurity. The system improvements will also reduce PHA staff time and increase efficiency. We want to ensure PHA leadership and staff understand these changes and can successfully transition to the improved systems.

System Innovation Event for Software Vendors and Training Partners

On May 17-18, 2023, HUD hosted an event for over 100 software and training stakeholders on the upcoming rollouts of NSPIRE, HIP, and other information technology and policy initiatives. The two-day event was designed to build capacity among software vendors and training partners to support PHAs with upcoming changes resulting from these initiatives.

NSPIRE

The National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate, or NSPIRE, focus on the health and safety of residents. Beginning in July 2023, HUD will use these new standards when inspecting the public housing portfolio. Along with new standards, NSPIRE uses

enhanced technology to increase timeliness and transparency in the inspection process. The improved technology streamlines many aspects of the inspection process, including scheduling and coordination of inspections, visual verification during inspections, information flow and quality control after inspections, and appeals submission and tracking. For more information on NSPIRE, visit the [NSPIRE Resources](#) webpage, watch [this video](#), and view recordings of the NSPIRE Get Ready sessions in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#). Questions about NSPIRE can be sent to NSPIRE@hud.gov.

Housing Information Portal (HIP)

The [Housing Information Portal \(HIP\)](#) will eventually replace IMS/PIC and reduce the administrative burden on PHAs for providing information to HUD. This month, the HUD HIP team will be contacting third-party 50058 software vendors regarding the status of their testing efforts on integrating with the HIP system. As needed, the HUD HIP team will hold technical troubleshooting sessions. If your 50058 software vendor has not provided HUD their contact information, they can do so by following the instructions on the [HIP Technical Information](#) webpage.

Operating Fund Web Portal

Recently HUD deployed the Quality Control (QC) submission module for HUD-52723/52722 in the Operating Fund Web Portal. The QC module provides HUD staff with the ability to review and recommend second level review by subject matter experts in HUD's Financial Management Division. The module also provides PHAs with the status of their submissions in real time and provides PHAs with full access to their historical and current data.

HUD annually conducts QC reviews of the submissions. HUD's QC process checks Operating Fund data for anomalies and non-compliance with Federal regulations. For questions about the Operating Fund Web Portal, please contact opfundwebportal@hud.gov.

PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAM

Public Housing Occupancy: Agency Priority Goal

One of HUD's priorities is to maximize the reach of HUD's rental assistance programs by increasing the number of public housing units that are occupied. The current national occupancy rate is 94.79%, a slight increase from 94.78% last month, and continuing the upward trend since the beginning of the fiscal year. Our goal is to increase occupancy to

95.5% by September 30, 2023. We encourage you to take advantage of occupancy resources for PHAs, such as the [PHA Occupancy Webinar Series](#).

PHA Occupancy Webinar Series

This training series offers PHAs the latest information and tools to improve public housing occupancy and the management of Operating Funds. Register for these upcoming webinars:

- Best Practices for Shorter Vacant Unit Turnaround Time | June 14, 2023 | 1:30-3:00 PM ET | [Register here!](#)

[View recordings of previous webinars](#) on HUD Exchange.

HOTMA Training Series

If you missed the HOTMA Income and Assets Training Series, you can [view the recording and materials](#) on HUD Exchange.

Repositioning Webinar Series

This training series explores the tools available to PHAs to make decisions about the future of their public housing properties. PHAs will leave the webinar with a stronger understanding of which tools to tap into to improve physical conditions, stabilize financial performance, and ensure long-term operations for their properties. Register for the next webinar:

- Public Housing Reinvestment, Recapitalization, and Repositioning Tools | June 7, 2023 | 1:00-3:00 PM ET | [Register here!](#)

[View recordings of previous webinars](#) on HUD Exchange.

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM

HCV Utilization: Agency Priority Goal

HUD is committed to helping PHAs fully utilize their historic increase in HCV funding and excess reserves in 2023. To track progress, HUD has an Agency Priority Goal of spending 100% of the 2023 HCV funding by September 30, 2023. The national utilization rate began 2023 at 92.7%, but thanks to the great work of PHAs, the utilization rate is now 96%, an increase from 95% last month. Please take advantage of the [HCV Utilization Tools](#) available to you, including this one-pager on [PHA Resources to Improve Utilization](#). Information about HCV funding is available on the [2023 HCV Funding Opportunities](#) webpage.

HCV Utilization Webinar Series

The HCV Utilization Webinar Series shares the latest HCV resources, program guidance, policy changes, and best practices in HCV administration. Each month will focus on a different topic.

[Register here!](#)

- Best Practices in HUD-VASH | June 15, 2023 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET
- Mainstream Vouchers | July 20, 2023 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET
- Supply-side Constraints | August 17, 2023 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

New FAQs for Mainstream Vouchers Available

HUD has published new [FAQs for Mainstream Vouchers](#) that answer questions related to Mainstream Vouchers, including length of assistance, SEMAP reporting, and project-basing Mainstream Vouchers. Additional questions can be sent to MainstreamVouchers@hud.gov.

Housing Mobility Toolkit Webinar Series

This webinar series shares information about HUD's new [Housing Mobility Toolkit](#), designed to help PHAs and their partners implement a Housing Mobility Program in their community. Housing Mobility Programs enable more families with vouchers to access areas of opportunity.

[Register here!](#)

- Housing Mobility Toolkit – Program Overview | June 27, 2023 | 3:00 – 4:00 PM ET
- Housing Mobility Toolkit – Program Setup | August 1, 2023 | 3:00 – 4:00 PM ET
- Housing Mobility Toolkit – Program Framework | August 15, 2023 | 3:00 – 4:00 PM ET

- Housing Mobility Toolkit – Updating Program Materials | September 12, 2023 | 3:00 – 4:00 PM ET

COMMUNITY AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

ConnectHomeUSA Webinar: Preparing HUD-Assisted Residents for Workforce Development Opportunities

June 14, 2023 | 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

[Register here!](#)

This webinar, in collaboration with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), will show you how the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and the Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) grant programs are supporting the development of new workforce opportunities tied to expanding high-speed internet infrastructure across the country.

FCC Announces Second Round of Affordable Connectivity Program Outreach Grants

The FCC recently announced a second round of funding for Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) outreach grants under the [National Competitive Outreach Program \(NCOP\)](#), making up to \$5 million available for eligible governmental and non-governmental entities in certain States and Territories. For questions about the grant opportunity, please review the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#). Questions can be sent to ACPGrants@fcc.gov. The application deadline is 6 pm ET on June 30, 2023.

Choice Neighborhoods Toolkit: Supporting Economic Success and Stability

The [Supporting Economic Success and Stability Toolkit](#) series provides promising practices and ready-to-use tools to help PHAs and their partners improve residents' economic mobility. Developed by HUD's Choice Neighborhoods Program in partnership with grantees and expert consultants, the series includes briefs on [Good Jobs](#), which focuses on how to help residents navigate to better jobs, and [Good Employers](#), which shares strategies for developing relationships with employers.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Housing Mobility-Related Services – Applications Due August 30

The [Housing Mobility-Related Services Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFO\)](#) makes \$25 million available for PHAs to offer housing mobility-related services to address barriers to housing choice and increase the number of voucher families with children living in areas of opportunity. Housing Mobility-Related Services are services, financial assistance and incentives that help families move to opportunity areas. These include pre-move support and housing search assistance, landlord outreach and support, post-move and subsequent-move supports, as well as family financial assistance such as security deposit assistance and landlord financial incentives. See the [press release](#) for more information. Applications are due August 30, 2023.

Jobs Plus – Applications Due August 21

On June 6, 2023, HUD published the [FY23 Jobs Plus Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFO\)](#), making \$22.5 million available to PHA applicants to advance employment outcomes and increase earnings for residents of public housing. This place-based program incentivizes and enables employment through earned income disregards for working residents and services designed to support work, including employer linkages, job placement and counseling, educational advancement, and financial counseling. Applications are due August 21, 2023.

Capital Fund Grants for Receivership, Troubled, or Otherwise High-Risk PHAs – Applications Due August 21

This [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) makes \$12.5 million available for PHAs in receivership, designated troubled or substandard, or otherwise at risk for capital improvements at public housing asset management projects (AMPs). Applicants will be competitively scored based on how the funding will improve physical condition and management to provide residents access to safe and decent public housing, increase occupancy, and reduce long-term vacancies through capital improvements. Applicants may submit one application with only one AMP, which may include multiple properties or scattered sites. Applications are due August 21, 2023.

Capital Fund Emergency Safety and Security Grants – Applications Due June 28

The [FY23 Capital Fund Emergency Safety and Security Grants Notice](#) makes \$10 million available for PHAs to install, repair, or replace capital equipment or systems that contribute to a safer living environment for residents. Please submit a PDF copy of the application (in one, single PDF file) with all applicable documents listed in Paragraph 5 of the Notice to PIHOCI@hud.gov. For more information, please see the [Notice of Due Date for Applications](#). Applications are due at 5 pm ET on June 28, 2023.

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

[HUD Provides \\$45 Million to PHAs for Stability Vouchers to Help Households Experiencing or At Risk of Experiencing Homelessness](#)

[HUD Provides \\$688 Thousand to PHAs for Foster Youth to Independence Vouchers to Help Youth Aging Out of Foster Care](#)

NOTICES

Below is a list of recent PIH notices, which provide guidance, extensions, instructions, clarifications, announcements, and other policy information.

[View PIH Notices](#)

- [PIH-2023-12](#) Extension of Period of Availability for American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act
- [PIH-2023-10](#) Emergency Safety & Security Grants Annual Funding and Application Process
- [PIH-2023-09](#) 2023 Mid-Year Registration of Interest for HUD-VASH Vouchers
- [PIH-2023-08](#) MTW Agency Regionalization Process and Requirements
- [PIH-2023-07](#) 2023 Funding Provisions for the Housing Choice Voucher Program
- [PIH-2023-06](#) Remedies for Poor Performing Owners in the HCV and PBV Programs
- [PIH-2023-05](#) Guidance on Reporting PHA Executive Compensation
- [PIH-2023-04](#) Foster Youth to Independence Initiative Funding and Application Process
- [PIH 2023-03](#) Supplemental Guidance for Implementation of Section 103 of HOTMA
 - As a reminder, the HOTMA final rule requires all PHAs with a public housing program to fully implement the over-income requirements by **June 14, 2023**. See the Notice PIH 2023-03 for more information. If you have questions, please reach out to HOTMAquestions@hud.gov.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Birmingham Housing Authority Aims to Close the Digital Divide

The Housing Authority of the Birmingham District (HABD) in Birmingham, Alabama, was recently awarded a *Your Home, Your Internet* grant from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The grant will allow the housing authority to help more households receiving federal housing assistance learn about and enroll in the FCC's [Affordable Connectivity Program \(ACP\)](#), a benefit that provides low-income households up to \$30 per month for internet service.

Because HUD-assisted households are enrolling in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) in lower numbers than other eligible households, the FCC launched the *Your Home, Your Internet* grant program to promote outreach and enrollment strategies that can successfully drive ACP uptake among HUD-assisted households. HABD was one of twenty-three PHAs to receive an award.

Prior to winning this award, HABD was already working to narrow the digital divide. HABD joined HUD's [ConnectHomeUSA](#) initiative in 2018. Since that time, the housing authority has worked with the city and other local organizations to bring affordable internet connectivity and devices to residents. When the ACP became available, HABD proactively informed residents about the benefit. In November 2022, HABD registered more than 100 households for the ACP through Birmingham's Connect99 campaign, which aims to close the digital divide in all of Birmingham's 99 neighborhoods. Now, with the support of the FCC's *Your Home, Your Internet* grant, the housing authority can help more households enroll in the ACP.

"It's no secret that the digital divide disproportionately affects residents who are low-income," said Dontrelle Young Foster, President and CEO of HABD. "Now, with the support of a grant of more than \$250,000, we look to continue our partnership with the city and EducationSuperHighway, expanding our efforts and registering even more eligible Birmingham families for the broadband benefit."



HABD staff member helping a resident to register for the Affordable Connectivity Program (photo provided by HABD)

HUD's ConnectHomeUSA initiative has supported 100 PHAs and tribes in their efforts to narrow the digital divide in their communities. HUD's national nonprofit partner, [EducationSuperHighway](#), is not only working closely with ConnectHomeUSA PHAs like HABD, but also has developed ACP-related tools and training for all PHAs:

- **ACP Pre-Enrollment Tool for Residents:** Residents can use EducationSuperHighway's ACP pre-enrollment tool to determine what documentation they need to demonstrate eligibility for the ACP: getacp.org.
- **ACP Enrollment Training Course for PHAs:** PHAs can use EducationSuperHighway's free [training course](#) to equip their staff and partners to support households to enroll in the ACP and sign up for a high-speed home internet plan.

Research from the Pew Research Center [shows](#) that in 2021, 43% of adults with annual household incomes under \$30,000 did not have broadband internet at home, compared with just 8% of those earning \$75,000 or more. The Affordable Connectivity Program is making a difference. As of May 2023, more than 18 million households are enrolled in the ACP.

Broadband is a necessity for all households, yet many HUD-assisted families lack access to reliable, affordable, high-speed internet. Through our partnerships with the FCC, other federal agencies, and the national nonprofit EducationSuperHighway, HUD is committed to helping PHAs increase internet access for work, school, health care, and other essential services among the households we serve.

We hope you enjoy receiving these messages from HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing.

Public Housing Agency contact information is retrieved from HUD's Public Housing Information Center (PIC).

If your agency's contact information is out of date, please update PIC with the correct contact information.

We update our email lists from PIC twice a month, so you should see your change reflected after two weeks.

Thank you for furthering HUD's mission in the communities you serve.