



**PIH**

OFFICE OF PUBLIC & INDIAN HOUSING

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PHA Newsletter: May 2023**

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

## **PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK**

Happy Public Service Recognition Week! Thank you for your dedication to public service. The housing and supportive service you provide are essential to the wellbeing of so many residents and communities. Together, housing authorities across the country make a difference in the lives of almost 3 million low-income households, including seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, and families with children. Thank you for dedicating your talents and energy each and every day to this important work. Your work inspires us. We are honored to be your partner.

## **NSPIRE UPDATES**

### **HUD Publishes NSPIRE Final Rule**

Joined by more than 60 resident leaders from across the country, HUD Secretary Marcia L. Fudge announced the publication of the [Final Rule](#) for the National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate (NSPIRE) yesterday. The rule proposes a new approach to defining and assessing housing quality and reduces regulatory burdens. NSPIRE improves HUD's oversight through the alignment and consolidation of the inspection regulations used to evaluate HUD housing across multiple programs. Read more about the Final Rule in yesterday's [press release](#).

Inspections under NSPIRE will begin in two phases this year:

- **July 1** – Public Housing properties
- **October 1** – Housing Choice Voucher and Multifamily Housing

For more information on NSPIRE, visit the [NSPIRE Resources page](#) and view YouTube recordings of the NSPIRE Get Ready sessions in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#). Questions about NSPIRE can be sent to [NSPIRE@hud.gov](mailto:NSPIRE@hud.gov).

## **NSPIRE Score Calculator and Demo Video**

HUD has released the [NSPIRE Score Calculator](#) (MS Excel file download) and an accompanying [NSPIRE Score Calculator Demo Video](#) to help PHAs, property owners, and agents calculate an **estimate** of their inspection score under the new protocol, which will focus on defects inside of units to better protect the health and safety of residents.

## **SYSTEM INNOVATION**

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

## **Housing Information Portal**

The [Housing Information Portal \(HIP\)](#) will eventually replace IMS/PIC and reduce the administrative burden on PHAs for providing information to HUD. In April, we successfully made the system available to users and notified MTW Supplement module users of the updates that were made. We are working with software vendors and PIH program offices to help ensure a smooth transition for PHAs. PHAs can email questions to [PIH\\_HIP@hud.gov](mailto:PIH_HIP@hud.gov). Software vendors can email questions to [HUDITVendorComms@hud.gov](mailto:HUDITVendorComms@hud.gov).

## **Operating Fund Web Portal**

HUD recently deployed the HUD-52723/52722 online submission module in the OpFund Portal to calculate more than \$5 billion in Operating Fund eligibility for more than 2,700 PHAs. PHAs submitted more than 7,400 Operating Fund submissions in the OpFund Portal, and HUD staff completed 100% of the submissions. In addition to reducing the time to complete submissions, the online submission module provides the status of their submissions in real time and gives PHAs full access to their historical and current data. For questions about the OpFund Portal, contact [opfundwebportal@hud.gov](mailto:opfundwebportal@hud.gov).

## Enterprise Voucher Management System

Onboarding of the first phase of PHAs to the [Enterprise Voucher Management System \(eVMS\)](#) is delayed and will begin late summer. HUD's eVMS team is addressing a technical issue that has caused the delay and is preparing a revised rollout schedule for PHAs. We want to thank the PHAs that have worked with us to resolve errors in their 50058 submissions. The improved submissions have allowed for more accurate fund disbursements.

## 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 94.78%, a slight increase from 94.74% 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 provides PHAs with information and tools to improve public housing occupancy and the management of Operating Funds. Register for these upcoming webinars:

- Achieving Optimal Public Housing Occupancy | May 17, 2023 | 1:30-3:00 PM ET | [Register here!](#)
- 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

May 16, 2023 | 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

[Register here!](#)

The third webinar in this series will discuss Section 102 and 104 of the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016 (HOTMA), which require changes to income reviews and asset limits for Section 8 and public housing residents.

[View Materials and Get Credit](#) for previous HOTMA trainings.

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## HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM

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### Historic Housing Choice Voucher Funding

On April 13, 2023, HUD [announced](#) the availability of \$30.3 billion for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program for 2023. This historic, \$2.9 billion (10.5 percent) increase over the prior year will help PHAs address recent inflation in rents and enable more low-income families to use housing vouchers to afford a safe, decent place to call home. HUD recently hosted a webinar on the [2023 Funding Provisions for the Housing Choice Voucher Program](#) notice published in early April. The [webinar recording](#) is now available.

Please note that the first deadline to apply for additional HCV set-aside funds is June 16, 2023. [Click here](#) to learn about the various set-aside categories and apply.

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### 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, this utilization rate is now 95%. [Click here](#) for a list of resources PHAs can use to improve their HCV program utilization.

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### 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!](#)

- PBV Program Updates | May 18, 2023 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

- Best Practices in HUD-VASH | June 15, 2023 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

### **Special Purpose Vouchers**

New resources are now available on the [Special Purpose Vouchers \(SPV\) webpage](#) on HUD Exchange, including an SPV Fact Sheet and the March SPV Webinar recording and slides. The webinar recording explains how PHAs and their partners can strategically deploy Special Purpose Vouchers to target rental assistance resources to specific populations to advance a community's plan to end homelessness, support a community's equity outcomes, and meaningfully engage with people who have experienced homelessness and involvement with various systems.

### **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Capital Fund Emergency Safety and Security Grants – Applications due June 28, 2023**

The [FY23 Capital Fund Emergency Safety and Security Grants](#) notice makes available \$10 million for PHAs to install, repair, or replace capital equipment or systems that contribute to a safer living environment for residents. HUD has also issued the [Notice of Due Date for Applications](#). There is a webinar on **May 18, from 1pm - 2 pm ET** to review the application process and discuss changes in [PIH Notice 2023-10](#). [Click here to join the meeting](#).

#### **Family Unification Program Vouchers – Applications due May 25, 2023**

The [FY22 Family Unification Program Notice of Funding Availability](#) makes available \$5 million for new FUP vouchers for PHAs that partner with public child welfare agencies and Continuums of Care. FUP vouchers may be used to serve families for whom the lack of adequate housing is a primary factor in the imminent placement of or the discharge from a child or children in out-of-home care, and youth between the ages of 18 and 24 who have left foster care or will leave foster care within 90 days and are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. For more information, see the [press release](#).

#### **HUD-VASH Registration of Interest – Applications due June 5, 2023**

The [2023 Mid-Year Registration of Interest for HUD-VASH Vouchers](#) makes available \$94.4 million for new HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers for homeless veterans. The notice outlines how PHAs can apply to receive additional HUD-

VASH vouchers, which would be administered in partnership with VA. Interested PHAs should complete the online form by **June 5, 2023**.

### **Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants – Applications due June 6, 2023**

The [FY23 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants Notice of Funding Availability](#) makes available \$10 million for grants that support the development of plans to revitalize severely distressed public housing and/or HUD-assisted housing and the surrounding neighborhood. Communities will develop a neighborhood revitalization strategy, or Transformation Plan, to achieve the program's three core goals: Housing, People, and Neighborhood. For more information, see the [press release](#).

### **Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grants – Applications due May 30, 2023**

The Joint Office of Energy and Transportation is accepting applications for [Charging and Fueling Discretionary Infrastructure Grants](#), a new \$2.5 billion program to fund electric vehicle charging and alternative-fueling infrastructure. This is a key step towards the President's goals of building a national network of 500,000 public electric vehicle charging stations and reducing national greenhouse gas emissions. More information can also be found on the [Joint DOE/DOT Office webpage](#).

### **Buildings Upgrade Grants – Applications due July 18, 2023**

The Department of Energy is making more than \$22 million available for [Buildings Upgrade Grants \(Building UP\)](#) to build capacity and accelerate equitable and efficient building upgrades across the country. Buildings UP provides cash awards and technical assistance to support the transformation of existing buildings into more energy-efficient and clean energy-ready homes, commercial spaces, and communities. Buildings UP is open to teams of organizations that may include PHAs, municipalities, states, counties, Tribal governments, regional planning organizations, and community-based organizations.

## **SPECIAL TOPICS**

### **Cybersecurity Awareness for PHAs**

May 23, 2023 | 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

[Add the webinar to your calendar!](#)

HUD's Office of IT Security is hosting a cybersecurity awareness session for PHAs. As technology changes and cyber threats become more sophisticated, PHAs need a robust cybersecurity program to protect their data and secure the infrastructure used for day-to-day operations. This webinar will focus on best practices for building an effective cybersecurity program, including the core security controls required to prevent and respond to common cybersecurity attacks. It is intended to be introductory, and all are welcome to attend. Publicly available resources provided by federal partners such as the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the Department of Justice will also be shared.

### Join the Free Cybersecurity Partnership

[Learn more and apply for your free membership!](#)

The Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) serves as a cybersecurity partner for more than 15,000 U.S. State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial government to share cybersecurity information. Membership is free for any non-federal public entity in the U.S. and its Territories. MS-ISAC members receive incident response and remediation support from a team of cybersecurity experts to improve ransomware defense. The free membership also includes:

- The Security Operations Center for threat intelligence, detection, and response
- Regular cybersecurity webinars and monthly members-only webcasts
- Cyber alert map, cybersecurity advisories, and notifications
- Malicious Code Analysis Platform (MCAP) and weekly malicious domains/IP report
- Access to the Nationwide Cybersecurity Review to measure your cybersecurity maturity and other no-cost cybersecurity tools and resources

### Federal Flood Risk Management Standards Proposed Rule Listening Session

May 15, 2023 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET

[Register here!](#)

HUD is hosting a listening session for interested members of the public and stakeholder groups on the [Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands: Minimum Property Standards for Flood Hazard Exposure; Building to the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard](#) proposed rule recently published in the Federal Register. The proposed rule would revise HUD's regulations to implement the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) to better protect communities and federal investments from flooding. **Public comments are due by May 23, 2023.** Information on how to submit comments can be found in the Federal Register notice. Learn more about the proposed rule on [HUD's FFRMS webpage](#).

## **Disaster Preparedness**

The [PHA Disaster Preparedness website](#) provides resources for PHAs and residents, including the PHA Disaster Readiness, Response, and Recovery Guidebook, Hurricanes webinar, and fact sheets on Disaster Management Fundamentals, Rehousing Families, and more.

## **Assess Your Risks Before a Disaster**

As part of disaster preparedness, learn the specific risks to your PHA portfolio and residents using the [FEMA Interactive Flood Map](#) and [NOAA Environmental and Climate Hazards Interactive Map](#). Type your property's address using the magnifying glass, then scroll down the left sidebar to determine its flooding, wildfire, and other risks.

## **Getting to the Heart of Healing: Trauma-Informed Solutions Through Community Engagement**

May 17, 2023 | 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

[Register and add the webinar to your calendar!](#)

Coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for mental health services is greater than ever. Looking for resources to help those in need in your community? Join speakers from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to learn more about incorporating trauma-informed solutions into your work. The first in a multi-part series for National Mental Health Awareness Month.

## **FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

[HUD Announces \\$30.3 billion in Housing Choice Voucher Funding](#)

[HUD Awards \\$98 Million in Supplemental Funds to Existing Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grantees](#)



## NOTICES

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

### [View PIH Notices](#)

- [PIH-2023-10](#) Emergency Safety & Security Grants Funding/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/Application Process
- [PIH 2023-03](#) Supplemental Guidance for Implementation of Section 103 of HOTMA

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

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### **Tulsa, OK Opens New Park in Choice Neighborhood**

Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum and the Tulsa Housing Authority (THA) recently celebrated the official opening of the newly renovated Celebration Park at the heart of the River West Choice Neighborhood. Celebration Park is a Critical Community Improvement project funded by a HUD Choice Neighborhoods grant and local funding. It features two garden-themed playgrounds, a splash pad, a multi-use sports court, a custom pavilion with picnic tables and grills, a lighted sports field, open grassy play areas, and earthen and artificial turf berms. Before the renovation, the park was mostly used for overflow parking for city events. Now the park is the cornerstone of a significant neighborhood revitalization effort led by the City and the Tulsa Housing Authority to create more housing opportunities and a stronger neighborhood.



*An Aerial View of Celebration Park*

“This park will serve as a cornerstone not only of the River West community but for this area of our city,” said Aaron Darden, President & CEO of Tulsa Housing Authority. “Members of the River West community deserve this level of investment and I’m excited that families will be able to create memories here for years to come.”



*One of the Garden Themed Playground at Celebration Park*

The Choice Neighborhoods Tulsa River West Transformation Plan includes the construction of up to 450 mixed-income apartments, extensive public infrastructure and stormwater improvements. This six-phase project is expected to be completed in 2024. HUD’s Choice

Neighborhoods program helps communities transform neighborhoods by not only not only replacing severely distressed HUD-assisted housing with new, high-quality, mixed-income housing but also by catalyzing amenities such as new businesses, parks, and grocery stores in the surrounding neighborhood.

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.