

June 9, 2023

Dear Fair Housing Initiatives Program Partner Applicant:

On March 27, 2023 the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), through the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO), <u>announced</u> the availability of additional American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to help HUD's Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) agencies combat housing discrimination related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This notice of funding opportunity (FR-6700-N-78-A) closed on May 11, 2023, with seventy-seven submissions.

While FHEO recognizes the negative impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be experienced by many communities, we know that our FHIP partners are uniquely positioned to address the housing discrimination concerns of vulnerable populations. However, according to the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, HUD regretfully no longer has the authority to issue these ARP funds. To better understand this circumstance, I invite you to read the <u>Statement from</u> <u>President Biden on Passage of the Bipartisan Budget Agreement</u> as we all move forward in investing in America.

FHEO understands the time and effort required to apply for grants. The work put into responding to this funding opportunity is appreciated, and your recognition of the importance of preventing and combatting housing discrimination is appreciated even more. My hope is that you will remain motivated to respond to future fair housing notices of funding opportunities. On behalf of the FHEO team, I look forward to our continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Demetria L. McCain Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary