



OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

WASHINGTON, DC 20410-5000

September 8, 2021

**SUBJECT: Taking Action to Prevent Evictions**

Dear Tribal Leader,

Last week, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Marcia L. Fudge issued a [statement](#) calling on state and local jurisdictions to take every action they can to safeguard their most vulnerable residents – and calling on every landlord, every housing owner, and every partner that receives HUD’s support to do all they can to help protect vulnerable renters in their communities. Secretary Fudge also issued a [joint letter](#) with the Departments of Treasury and Justice to governors, mayors, county executives, and chief justices and state court administrators to issue their own moratoria, and stay evictions while rental assistance applications process, as well as use Emergency Rental Assistance and State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to enhance tenant access to legal representation.

In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision that invalidated the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) eviction moratorium, HUD is using every tool at our disposal to help safeguard millions of the nation’s families and individuals now in danger of losing their homes.

HUD’s programs and resources protect HUD-assisted households from eviction and should be sought out by all Americans who are seeking assistance in avoiding eviction, relocating to new homes in the event an eviction moves forward, and fighting unfair evictions. Through our Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, we are ready to protect people of color, families with children, people with disabilities, LGBTQ people, and others who may disproportionately face eviction through discriminatory policies and practices.

HUD also has a responsibility to assist landlords, owners, Tribes, and tribally designated housing entities (TDHEs), and all of our stakeholders in weathering this public health crisis.

HUD and our partners are taking a broad range of actions to help prevent evictions. These actions include:

**Connecting people with rent and utility relief** – HUD is working with the Department of Treasury to help Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) grantees connect tenants behind on rent and utilities with [financial assistance](#). Throughout this year, HUD has brought our expertise on housing programs to Treasury, providing advice and assistance on program design and implementation, and engaged HUD-approved housing counseling agencies. As part of a whole-of-government approach, we call on state, Tribal and local ERAP grantees to lean into the flexibilities provided in this program and get assistance out quickly to those who need it the most.

**Providing Tools to Help Tribes, TDHEs, and People Experiencing Homelessness** – HUD program offices have delivered webinars, created documents answering frequently asked questions, granted waivers to ease administrative burdens created by the pandemic, and have distributed relief resources under the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan to keep Native families stably housed.

**Keeping people housed** – HUD has instituted an eviction moratorium to protect borrowers with HUD Section 184 Indian Home Loans and borrowers with HUD-supported or FHA-insured mortgages.

**Fighting unfair evictions** – HUD is making over \$19 million available to fair housing partners to help them respond to possible fair housing violations, many of which relate to the pandemic and evictions. The funds will enable private fair housing enforcement organizations to respond to fair housing inquiries and complaints, conduct fair housing testing, and implement education and outreach activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds will also be used to address fair housing issues affecting individuals and families experiencing housing instability, including those who may face displacement due to discriminatory evictions and foreclosures. HUD is also ramping up funding and education for HUD-approved housing counseling agencies to work with clients to understand their options if they are facing eviction.

**Providing legal assistance** – HUD is making \$20 million available to non-profit or governmental entities to improve the availability of legal assistance at no cost to low-income tenants at risk of or subject to eviction. These funds will provide services in areas with high rates of evictions or prospective evictions, including rural areas. This grant program plays an integral role in helping individuals and families—including people of color, people with limited English proficiency, and people with disabilities—avoid eviction or minimize the disruption and damage caused by the eviction process.

HUD is here to help. You can find more information at [https://www.hud.gov/rent\\_relief](https://www.hud.gov/rent_relief), and you can also reach out to your [ONAP Area Office](#).

Thank you for all of your efforts to promote housing stability during these unprecedented times.

Many thanks,



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