

HUD Celebrates First NSPIRE Virtual Workshops



HUD hosted its first virtual workshops for NSPIRE, bringing together several dozen representatives from non-profits, academia, and industry who were invited to weigh in on the developing standards and protocols. The purpose of the workshops was to engage with a diverse group of stakeholders to gather their feedback on many aspects of NSPIRE, including standards development, health and safety issues, the NSPIRE Demonstration, and resident wellbeing.

The first virtual workshop, *Hot Topics and Questions about NSPIRE*, was held on June 23rd. The HUD NSPIRE team asked questions and requested information around improvements and ideas for the NSPIRE standards, NSPIRE demonstration and implementation, NSPIRE for voucher programs, NSPIRE health and safety deficiencies, NSPIRE self-inspections, the NSPIRE scoring system, and resident input into the inspection process. The second and third workshops focused exclusively on standards and were held on July 29th. Representatives from academia and industry groups offered their thoughts on specific standards and how they can be applied effectively.

The NSPIRE workshop series facilitates interactive engagement and brainstorming opportunities in a live and remote format where a diversity of NSPIRE stakeholders can provide feedback to HUD on the development of NSPIRE. The advent of COVID-19 required HUD to find an alternative solution to its original plan to host in-person workshops to engage outside sources in discussions about the way NSPIRE is developed, implemented, and communicated to the public. Using virtual workshop software, HUD has found a way to gather and engage these important stakeholders.

HUD thanks the attendees for their participation and their valuable feedback. Some of the discussions have inspired plans for further workshops to discuss subjects in greater detail. HUD is scheduling workshops over the next 12 months that will cover a number of topics for a variety of audiences, with some workshops reserved specifically for NSPIRE Demonstration participants. For those unable to attend a virtual workshop, REAC will make webinars and webcasts on related topics available on its website.

[Click here to visit NSPIRE on HUD.gov.](#)

DAS Vargas Leads REAC Visit to Hudson Hills Manor



Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak earlier this year, REAC Deputy Assistant Secretary David Vargas traveled with several colleagues to oversee an inspection of the Hudson Hills Manor development in Pasco County, Florida. Two REAC inspectors conducted two inspections of the property, one using the standard UPCS inspection protocol and the other a modified UPCS inspection using the latest version of the NSPIRE standards. The team met with David Lambert, Chairman of the

Pasco County Board of Commissioners, and listened to his concerns regarding the property's most recent UPCS inspection. Management had made significant improvements to the property on the units where families live; however, this did not help the property's UPCS inspection score. Mr. Lambert pointed out that if he had invested in the site, rather than the units, he would have received a higher score under UPCS.

The team discussed how NSPIRE, which places greater emphasis on residents' homes and their health and safety, will impact how maintenance is performed at properties. While the NSPIRE scoring model is still under development, the advisory NSPIRE inspection showed how the property could receive a better outcome under the new inspection model. With NSPIRE, properties will not be expected to expend more resources, but rather shift their maintenance plans to prioritize residents' health and safety.

Secretary Carson has made it a priority for REAC inspections to better reflect the condition of the units where the people we serve reside in addition to things that impact the health and safety of residents. The UPCS protocol, developed over 20 years ago, reflects the Department's need at that time to measure capital needs and the status of the housing portfolio from an asset management perspective. REAC is now working with industry and stakeholders to have the protocol and scoring better reflect the quality of the units that our families call home. NSPIRE Program Manager Dan Williams and his team have been diligently developing protocols with industry experts and testing those protocols to make sure our families live in safe and habitable housing.



Over 3,900 Properties Have Joined the Demonstration



As of August 1st, over 3,900 Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) and Property Owners and Agents (POAs) have been approved for the NSPIRE Demonstration. While these numbers are a great milestone in the Demonstration, we are still seeking additional properties to participate in the Demonstration to help HUD shape the NSPIRE standards. PHAs and POAs are encouraged to register one or more properties for acceptance into the Demonstration, but there is no requirement to submit all properties within a portfolio. Submission of an

application does not constitute acceptance into the program nor does it obligate the PHA or POA in any way. Once accepted into the Demonstration, participants may voluntarily withdraw any or all properties at any time. [Click here](#) to view the latest lists of volunteer properties participating in the NSPIRE Demonstration.

- ✓ [Read about the many benefits for participating properties here](#)
- ✓ [View a 15-minute recorded webcast about the benefits of participation here](#)
- ✓ [Click here to sign up for the Demonstration](#)

NSPIRE Standards Webcast to Be Released in August

Have you been wondering what the NSPIRE standards are? Check out the *NSPIRE Standards* webcast being released August 26th, and hear what the NSPIRE standards are all about. This presentation covers the NSPIRE standards development, NSPIRE inspection types, CTQ deficiencies, and much more.

Future webcasts, webinars, and online workshops will cover topics such as the NSPIRE Demonstration and guidance for contract inspectors. Please join the [mailing list](#) to stay on top of these events!

Do you know someone who would benefit from any of these webcasts, webinars, and workshops? Please forward the newsletter!

[Click to view previous Webcasts and Webinars.](#)

Get NSPIRE Updates in Your Mailbox

Get NSPIREd and join our email news list!

Subscribing is an easy way to stay involved and informed on the latest NSPIRE news and events. You will receive periodic email messages that include essential information about NSPIRE, such as the newsletter, upcoming events, and NSPIRE updates. You are free to subscribe or unsubscribe at any time, and we never share your personal information with anyone outside of HUD.

Advisory: HUD is aware of misleading information circulating about NSPIRE, including the Demonstration. HUD encourages stakeholders to verify the information they receive from outside sources by consulting official sources such as HUD's [NSPIRE website](#) or the [Federal Register](#).

[Click here to subscribe to Get NSPIREd.](#)

Recent Events

- ✓ **Hot Topics and Questions about NSPIRE Workshop** June 23rd, 2020
- ✓ **NSPIRE Standards Workshops** July 29, 2020, August 11 and 18, 2020

Upcoming Events

- ✓ **August 25, 2020: NSPIRE Standards Workshop** This workshop enables information exchange between public housing agencies and property owners/agents and HUD on NSPIRE standards in development. Demonstration participants receive priority seating.
- ✓ **August 26, 2020: NSPIRE Standards Webcast** This presentation provides an overview of NSPIRE standards, CTQ deficiencies, CTQ+, stakeholder participation, and future expectations in the development of NSPIRE.
- ✓ **August 27, 2020: NSPIRE Overview for PHAs and POAs Webcast** This webcast provides a brief introduction to NSPIRE, the NSPIRE Demonstration, and how stakeholders can partner with HUD on the development of NSPIRE.
- ✓ **August 27, 2020: NSPIRE Business Process Design and Program Implementation for Program and Field Offices Webcast** This webcast presents an overview of the NSPIRE business process design and program implementation for HUD PO and FO personnel.
- ✓ **September 1, 2020: Resident Input into the Inspection Process Workshop** This workshop enables residents and resident groups to provide their feedback on NSPIRE.

Follow Us on Social Media



@HUD



@HUDREAC



@HUDgov

NSPIRE