

The HCV Connect

Program Updates, tools and tips to help with HCV Program administration.

May 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HUD Announces \$30 Billion in Funding

On May 14th HUD issued a [Press Release](#) announcing \$30 billion in contract renewal funding for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program. This is a \$2 billion increase over last year, which will allow Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) to maintain housing assistance for over 2.3 million households. All PHAs should have received an email outlining their specific allocation details. You can see a summary of the funding by PHA [here](#).

HOTMA Voucher Final Rule

On May 7, 2024, HUD published the “Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016 (HOTMA)—Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) and Project-Based Voucher (PBV) Implementation; Additional Streamlining Changes” final rule. View the final rule at [89 FR 38224 \(May 7, 2024\)](#). This final rule amends HUD’s regulations, particularly those governing the HCV and PBV programs, to implement sections 101, 105, and 106 of HOTMA and streamline rules to reduce administrative burden. Some notable reforms in the final rule include:

- Allowing PHAs struggling with success rates or high rent burdens to adopt an exception payment standard of up to 120 percent through a simple notification process.
- Allowing manufactured housing to be used in the PBV program.
- Providing an option for automatic Operating Cost Adjustment Factor rent adjustments in PBV projects.
- Allowing for owner-maintained, site-based PBV waiting lists.
- Providing a new option to allow rehabilitated housing to undergo some or all development activity during the term of the HAP contract under certain conditions.

HUD is in the process of developing additional guidance and technical support. You can find the latest materials on the [HOTMA website](#). Additionally, please send inquiries regarding the rule to HOTMAVoucher@hud.gov.

Enterprise Voucher Management System (eVMS) Update

To ensure that eVMS addresses the needs of PHAs, PIH has invited a group of PHAs to participate in a monthly focus group to discuss how PIH can improve and enhance the PHA user experience in future eVMS development activities. The eVMS team is excited to expand this group to all 101 PHAs currently using eVMS. If you are interested in joining the focus group, please email AskEVMS@hud.gov.

We are currently planning to onboard additional PHAs to eVMS this summer. More details will be shared in June. As a reminder, additional eVMS information including the Wave 1 Onboarding Webinar can be found on the [eVMS website](#).

We encourage all PHAs to actively review and utilize the [PIC Error Dashboards](#) to help get ready for migrating to eVMS. There is **free Technical Assistance** available for PHAs in need of assistance or training in 50058 reporting for the HCV Program. If interested, please contact your local Field Office and PIC Coach.

Reminder: Sign Up for the HCV Landlord Engagement Newsletter

We are about to send out a spring edition of the HCV Landlord Newsletter. The bi-annual newsletter is intended for landlords, and provides valuable HCV program updates, industry news, and best practices for landlords. You can find prior editions of the HCV Landlord Newsletter on the [HCV Landlord Engagement Website](#).

[Sign-up for the HCV Landlord Engagement Newsletter](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

HUD-VASH Administrative Fee Notice

Under [Notice PIH 2024-10](#), \$20 million was made available for eligible HUD-VASH Additional Administrative fees. Funding is available for uses such as landlord recruitment, housing search assistance activities, owner incentives, and other HUD-VASH expenses. All applications should be submitted via the electronic submission form on the [HUD-VASH webpage](#). The **deadline to apply is May 31, 2024**. Please send questions to VASH@hud.gov.

Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Fiscal Year 2024 Publication Announcement – Deadline June 17

The [FYI Competitive NOFO-Fiscal Year 2024](#) was published on April 17, 2024, and makes available approximately \$12,746,450. This includes \$10,000,000 of fiscal year 2023 funds and \$2,746,450 of fiscal year 2022 funds. HUD expects to make approximately 20 awards from the funds available under this NOFO. PHAs should consider applying for vouchers under this NOFO to:

- Have additional vouchers on hand while awaiting HUD's FYI non-competitive funding process.
- Access additional vouchers other than what is available through the FYI non-competitive process (a total of 50 in the Federal Fiscal Year); and
- Facilitate longer-term planning to meet need throughout the year.

Training on the FYI Competitive NOFO is available on the [FYI webpage](#). Questions regarding the NOFO content should be directed to FYICompetitive@hud.gov. The NOFO and application package are available [under Opportunity Number FR-6800-N-41](#). The **application deadline is June 17, 2024**. Applications must be submitted through [Grants.gov](#).

EVENTS AND TRAININGS

Reminder of HCV Utilization Webinar Series

The third Thursday of every month from 2:00 to 3:00PM Eastern, we host an HCV Utilization Webinar. These webinars are intended to update HCV Program Administrators and stakeholders on recent program changes and highlight best practices in program administration. Register for the webinars by clicking on the [Webinars and Trainings](#) icon at hud.gov/hcv. All past webinars are recorded and posted on [Past Trainings and Webinars](#).

NSPIRE for Vouchers Webinar – Join Us May 28th

HUD is hosting a webinar for public housing agencies (PHAs) on the National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate, or NSPIRE, for Vouchers on **Tuesday, May 28 from 1-3 p.m. ET**. [Use this link to join](#) and to learn about the new inspection standards.

PHAs are reminded that they must have converted from the prior Housing Quality Standards, or HQS, to the NSPIRE Standards, by October 1, 2024, for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) and Project-Based Voucher (PBV) programs as announced in the [Federal Register](#).

PHAs that manage the HCV inspections can use their own inspection software to conduct NSPIRE inspections, or a checklist that HUD made available on the [NSPIRE website](#) that also includes tools, information and additional resources. Questions can be sent to NSPIRE@hud.gov.

Small Area Fair Market Rent (SAFMR) Office Hours

To support public housing agencies (PHAs) located in newly designated mandatory areas with implementing Small Area Fair Market Rents (SAFMRs), HUD is offering office hours to review best practices and how to implement policies. These sessions will conclude with question-and-answer sessions to address individual concerns.

The first office hours will be held on **May 29, 2024 from 1–2 PM EST** and will focus on **policies for areas where payment standards may decrease**.

Participants must have a HUD Exchange account to register for and attend the first office hours.

1. Log into your HUD Exchange account.
2. Then, visit [this link](#).
3. Click the blue **Enroll** button on the right side of the page.
4. Within 10 minutes, the system will send a confirmation email containing information about the meeting, including how to join.

[Register Here](#)

Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Convenings

HUD, in partnership with the HHS Children's Bureau, will host regional action-oriented convenings to improve the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) program utilization, enhance local collaboration, and center the experience of youth and young adults. Regionally targeted registration and more detailed information about the convenings will be sent to PHAs administering FYI and serving youth through the Family Unification Program (FUP).

The following convening dates and locations have been finalized. PHAs that administer the FYI program in or around these locations should expect an invitation shortly.

- Philadelphia, PA, June 11-12
- Boston, MA, July 24-25
- Kansas City, MO, July 30-31
- Seattle, WA, August 15-16
- Chicago, IL, August 27-28
- Miami, FL, September 17-18

Additional dates and locations to follow. For more information about these convenings, please email FYIConvenings@hud.gov. Additional details on the FYI program are available on the [FYI webpage](#).

Landlord Engagement Event on May 30th – Mississippi

Join HUD for a virtual session covering Public and Indian Housing programs, Multifamily Housing programs such as the Green Retrofit Program for sustainable development, essential information on becoming a Housing Choice Voucher Landlord, and much more! As a highlight of the session, we'll be showcasing a compelling case study on an energy-efficient development in Greenville, MS. Explore how innovative approaches are reshaping the landscape of housing.

Date: Thursday, May 30th

Time: 11:00am-1:00pm EST

Location: Online – link will be provided upon registration

Audience: Landlords and Developers across Mississippi

Registration Link: [Register Here!](#)

Roundtable with HUD on June 5th – Owings Mills, Maryland

Join HUD and the Maryland Multi-Housing Association for this in-person event to promote the Housing Choice Voucher program. We will discuss how to increase successful voucher utilization and explore opportunities for program improvement. You will also learn about resources for landlords and property managers, and roundtable discussion to provide feedback about impediments to participating in the HCV Program.

Event: Roundtable with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Host: Maryland Multi-Housing Association, HUD

Date: June 5th, 10:00am-12:00pm EST

Location: HYBRID MMHA OFFICE - 11155 Dolfield Blvd. Suite 200 Owings Mills, MD 21117

Register to Attend: [Registration Link](#)

***Note:** Interested in hosting similar events in your community?
Please email HCVLandlordSupport@hud.gov.

HCV UTILIZATION TOOL UPDATES



HCV Program
Utilization
Tools

The HCV program requires program administrators to make regular adjustments to reflect funding levels and local market conditions. HUD provides resources on the [HCV Utilization Tools site](#) to help PHAs forecast the impact of different program adjustments and voucher issuance decisions.

Here are recent HCV Utilization Tool updates:

2024 Funding Details Now Available. The Two-Year Tool (TYT) has been updated with the latest 2024 funding details. This includes the final 2023 reconciled reserves, 2024 funding eligibility, a 99.5 percent funding proration for all PHAs, and funding offsets as applicable. We urge all PHAs to utilize the TYT to make program decisions for 2024—maximizing funding utilization while avoiding funding shortfalls. If you need a hand, please contact your local field office or email HCVUtilization@hud.gov.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

[Using HCV Admin Fees for Lease-up Expenses?](#) [PD&R wants to Hear from You!](#)

HUD's Office of Policy Development & Research (PD&R) wants to learn how PHAs have been using HCV administrative fees to assist families with eligible lease-up expenses, such as security deposits, owner incentive payments, utility deposits/arrears, and application and holding fees.

If your PHA uses or has used HCV administrative fees for tenant leasing expenses, please email Admin_Fee_Project@hud.gov, and let us know!

[A Longitudinal Study of a Housing Choice Voucher Program](#)

Tacoma Community College and the Tacoma Housing Authority explored housing insecurity and homelessness among American community college students and whether it played a role in reducing college success and undermining health and well-being. In 2014, with funding through HUD's Moving-To-Work program, they launched the College Housing Assistance Program (CHAP) which offered housing choice

vouchers to local community college students experiencing, or at serious risk of experiencing, homelessness. The study sampled 422 individuals. Among the students admitted to CHAP, findings indicated better academic outcomes, increased participation in the labor force, and increased food security.

[Read the Full Report](#)

[Please send us your feedback.](#)

As we strive to improve our customer service to HCV program administrators, assisted households and other stakeholders, we need your feedback. Do you have a suggestion for a webinar or newsletter topic? Is there something we could do to improve the clarity of HCV utilization tools, resources, or other communications?

Please email your feedback to HCVUtilization@hud.gov.

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