

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Emergency Rental Assistance Program Revised FAQs

Last week, Treasury [published](#) revised FAQs for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), which was established in 2021 to assist renter households most vulnerable to the economic impacts of COVID-19. Among other items, the FAQs clarify when HUD-assisted households, including public housing households, can receive assistance to pay the tenant portion of rent. Questions regarding ERAP can be sent to Treasury: emergencyrentalassistance@treasury.gov.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

USDA Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI)

[Grants](#) to provide financial and technical assistance to develop recipients' capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development. The recipients will, in turn, provide programs that will support their communities (beneficiaries). The Recipient and Beneficiary, but not the Intermediary, must be in a city or town that has a population of 50,000 or fewer. Local governments, PHAs, and nonprofits are eligible for the grant. Application deadline: March 22, 2021. Expected number of awards: 30. Total program funding: \$6 million. Award ceiling: \$250,000. Award floor: \$50,000.

EVENTS AND TOOLS

Lessons from Affordable Housing 100 Percent Overlay in Cambridge: March 11, 4:30pm EST

The Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University is sponsoring a [webinar](#) about a tool used by the city of Cambridge, MA to encourage the production of [permanently-affordable housing](#) via density bonuses and a streamlined review process.

Section 3 Virtual Listening Sessions: March 16 & 18, 1:00pm EST

The Office of Public and Indian Housing will be holding virtual listening sessions for small and medium/large PHAs for feedback and ideas on the Section 3 transition. Please note the Section 3 new rules do **not** apply to previously awarded Choice Neighborhoods grants. The session for [small PHAs](#) will be held Tuesday, March 16 at 1:00 pm EST and the [session for medium/large PHAs](#) will be held Thursday, March 18 at 1:00 pm EST.

Mayoral Roundtable: Building A Smart City for Everyone, March 18, 2:00pm CST

A [conversation](#) with the mayors of Columbia, SC, Austin, TX and Houston, TX that will cover the use of technology to promote equity, the impact of COVID on the digital divide, and best practices by cities to address the digital divide.

Communities of CHOICE Vaccination Townhall, March 30, 2:00pm CST

A panel discussion that will cover issues related to the COVID-19 vaccination to help communities to make informed decisions. To RSVP visit www.communitiesofchoice.com and scroll to the bottom of the home page to complete the registration form.

Free CLPHA Housing Summit, May 4-6

The Council of Large Public Housing Authorities is hosting their [annual summit virtually](#) this year. They will focus on the intersection of housing and education, health, racial equity, and COVID-19. The summit is free, but registration is required.

New Practitioner Resource: Bridging the Digital Divide

Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future (SAHF) shares a [resource](#) that provides an overview of current challenges, case studies, and practical considerations.

Supporting Children's Well-being During the Pandemic

[Guidance, recommendations, and resources](#) provided by child trauma experts about how to care for the emotional health of children during the pandemic.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Reducing Crime through Reducing Vacancy

An [article](#) from ShelterForce discusses approaches to reducing crime by reducing vacant properties.

Suggestions for Improving Engagement in Youth Programs

Child Trends presents a [summary](#) of the research on how to improve youth engagement and some practical, actionable strategies.

COVID-19 Risk Factors Among HUD-Assisted Renters

This [article](#) from HUD's "The Edge" discusses how at-risk populations are represented among tenants of HUD-assisted housing.

Multilingual Communication

This Non-Profit Quarterly article presents [strategies](#) for communicating with people who speak no or limited English.

GRANTEES IN THE NEWS

Camden Mural Represents Cramer Hill Neighborhood

In the Camden Choice Neighborhood of Cramer Hill, a new mural will beautify the area and reflect community perspective and desires. This [local news article](#) describes how hometown artists are incorporating community feedback in the new mural's design.

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