



Special Attention of:

Office Directors of Public Housing;
Regional Directors; Public Housing
Agencies

Issued: December 6, 2021

Expires: Effective until amended,
superseded, or rescinded

Cross References: PIH 2021-14; PIH 2020-
33; PIH 2020-22; PIH 2020-20; PIH 2020-
13; PIH 2020-05

Notice: PIH 2021-33 (HA)

Subject: Submitting CARES Act Waiver Adoption Information to HUD by December 20, 2021

1. PURPOSE

This guidance provides directions to Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) on the required reporting in the CARES Act Waiver Reporting Tool (CAWRT), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) tool used to report COVID-19 waivers adopted as authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

2. BACKGROUND

On March 27, 2020, the President signed the CARES Act into law, authorizing over \$2 trillion in emergency assistance and health care response for individuals, families and businesses affected by the Coronavirus, or COVID-19, pandemic. The CARES Act further provided HUD with broad authority, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, to waive statutes and regulations (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment) for the public housing and Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) programs.

Through Notices [PIH 2020-05](#), [PIH 2020-13](#), [PIH 2020-33](#), and [PIH 2021-14](#), HUD exercised its authority to provide PHAs with flexibilities to adjust program practices where necessary to prioritize mission critical functions when normal operations were restricted or severely constrained, further prevent the spread of COVID-19, and mitigate the health risks posed by COVID-19 to PHA staff, families, landlords, and their communities. Additionally, through Notices [PIH 2020-20](#) and [PIH 2020-22](#), HUD provided optional flexibilities for the Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation (Mod Rehab) Program and Mainstream Program.

Throughout this notice and the CAWRT, when PIH 2021-14 is referenced, it includes PIH 2020-05 and all subsequent CARES Act Waiver notices.

HUD has provided updated guidance and planning considerations available to PHAs as they evaluate how to effectively and efficiently navigate the CARES Act Waivers expiration.

Navigating Waiver Expiration guidance can be found here:

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/covid_19_resources/navigating_waiver_expiration.

3. APPLICABILITY

All PHAs, including Moving to Work (MTW) PHAs, are required to enter information into the CAWRT, even those that did not adopt the discretionary COVID-19 waivers. HUD has provided PHAs that did not adopt discretionary waivers an expedited process for entering information in the tool.

PHAs were required to record which waivers the PHA applied to their programs(s) and the effective dates of each waiver. PHAs should also have made this information available to the public as described in PIH Notice 2021014 Section 5. To assist PHAs in fulfilling this requirement, HUD provided PHAs with a suggested format in [Attachment I of Notice PIH 2021-14](#). PHAs were not required to notify HUD or receive HUD approval to begin utilizing waivers and alternative requirements. However, HUD stated that PHAs may subsequently be required to provide information to HUD on the use of waivers and the date of application for any waivers adopted. This information must be provided to HUD via the CAWRT. If a PHA has only one PHA code, the PHA must submit only one response into the CAWRT. If a PHA has more than one PHA code, the PHA must submit a response for each code. None of the information collected in the CAWRT tool should contain Personal Identifiable Information (PII).

MTW agencies should only indicate adoption of a waiver if the waiver was adopted through the CARES Act authority. Waivers implemented through an approved Annual MTW Plan should not be included.

4. ACCESSING THE CAWRT

PHAs must complete the CAWRT no later than two weeks after publication of this notice, on December 20, 2021. The CAWRT may be accessed by clicking on the link provided here: <https://forms.office.com/g/gbwcSsbweT>.

Additionally, each PHA will receive an email from HUD, to whomever is listed in PIC as the Executive Director, containing information that directs the PHA to the CAWRT.

Detailed step-by-step instructions on how to complete the CAWRT can be found here: <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/CWRTInstructions.pdf>.

5. CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions regarding this Notice, please contact CaresActWaiverCollection@hud.gov or your assigned field office representative.

6. PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT

The information collections referenced in this Notice have been approved by OMB pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act under, OMB# 2577-0292.

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for Public and Indian Housing