



## ALABAMA FIELD OFFICE NEWSLETTER

Region IV

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#AMERICANRESCUEPLAN

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### ***Message from the Field Office Director***

In this Spring edition of the newsletter, I would like to take the time to discuss fair housing since April is Fair Housing Month. Fair Housing Month celebrates the passage of the Fair Housing Act in April 1968, a national law that prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing. The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), familial status, and disability. Our Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) division continues to work hard against housing discrimination.

This year's Fair Housing Month theme, **Fair Housing: More Than Just Words**, reflects the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to advancing equity in housing and the importance of increasing public awareness of everyone's right to fair housing. Please, if you believe your rights may have been violated, we encourage you to [file a complaint with FHEO](#). FHEO will investigate the complaint.

Housing discrimination is unfair and illegal.

Sincerely,

*Kenneth Free*

Alabama Field Office Director

## **HUD Grant Will Address Environmental and Safety Hazards in Low-Income Black Belt Homes**

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) Bureau of Environmental Services, Indoor Air Quality and Lead Branch, and the University of Alabama were recently awarded a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Healthy Homes Production Grant to remove environmental and safety hazards from some of Alabama's vulnerable and underserved communities. The University of Alabama SafeState Program and the Alabama Life Research Institute will help manage the \$2 million grant award and remediation activities.

Alabama joins 29 states as a grant recipient in the share of \$104.7 million in Healthy Homes Production Grant Program funds awarded by HUD.

The Healthy Homes and Healthy Communities in the Black Belt Region of Alabama program will target approximately 150 low-income homes in counties that make up a portion of the Black Belt region of the state. During the 42-month grant period, the program will identify and provide solutions for environmental hazards like indoor air quality, mold and moisture, pests, carbon monoxide, lead-based paint, asbestos and radon, as well as general safety hazards like indoor and outdoor structural issues.

[Read more](#)

# Region IV's Affordable Rental Housing and Homeownership Conference

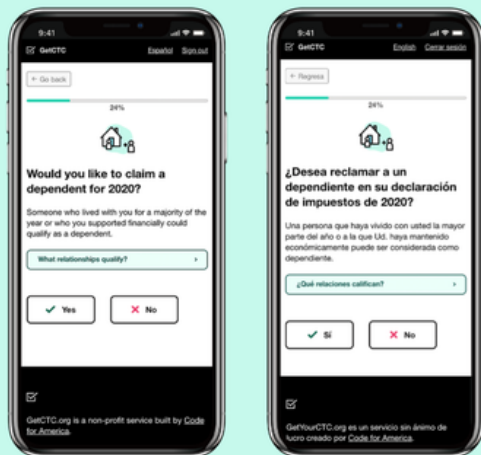


We invite you to join the Alabama HUD Field Office for Region IV's Virtual Affordable Rental Housing and Homeownership Conference on March 15, 2022, from 9-11 AM CST/10-12 PM EST. Our office is proud to have been a partner in the planning for this event. Marshall E. Crawford, Jr., President and CEO for The Housing Fund, Inc. is one of the speakers.

This Conference is for Everyone. Conference information will serve all who

work in the housing industry (Lenders, Landlords, Multifamily Housing Properties, Community Development Organizations, Public Housing Authorities, Continuums of Care, Housing Counseling Agencies, Foundations and others). Also, this conference offers valuable information to State and local governments who fund housing developments.

This Conference is a Microsoft Teams Live event (The Teams link will be issued to those who register). Register [here](#).



## Child Tax Credit

Putting cash in your family's pocket every month for the things you need, even if you make little or no money.

The American Rescue Plan, signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021, increased the Child Tax Credit (CTC). You can now receive up to \$3,600 per child under six and \$3,000 per child aged 6-17.

If you already received monthly CTC payments in 2021, you need to file a tax return in 2022 to receive the rest of the payment. If you didn't receive payments last year, you can receive the full credit when you file in 2022.

Visit [www.childtaxcredit.gov](http://www.childtaxcredit.gov)

## More FREE COVID-19 At-Home Tests are Now Available from USPS!



The tests are completely FREE. Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order two sets of four free at-home, rapid COVID-19 tests.

If families in your community have already ordered their first set, they can order a second today at <http://COVIDtests.gov>.

The tests available for order:

- Are rapid antigen at-home tests, not PCR
- Can be taken anywhere (no drop-off required)
- Provide results within 30 minutes or less
- Work regardless of any COVID-19 symptoms

# Senior Bowl and Mobile Housing Authority Team Up

The Reese's Senior Bowl and the Mobile Housing Authority (MHA) have teamed up to provide public housing youth the opportunity to participate on an NFL FLAG team. For six weeks boys and girls ages 6-12 will stay physically active by playing flag football while learning the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship.

Powered by USA Football, NFL FLAG is also part of NFL PLAY 60, the league's youth health and fitness campaign. The program promotes physical fitness by getting kids active for 60 minutes a day. FOR MORE INFO: Visit [www.nfl.com/play60](http://www.nfl.com/play60)

"The Senior Bowl is excited to be working with the Mobile Housing Authority to provide kids in our community growing up in public housing an opportunity to compete and learn life lessons through the sport of football. This partnership furthers our mission of connecting with all parts of Mobile," said Jim Nagy, Reese's Senior Bowl Executive Director. "The Mobile Housing Authority is thrilled about its partnership with the Senior Bowl. As a member of the Mobile Arts & Sports Association, the Senior Bowl's parent organization, it is especially gratifying to help the Senior Bowl broaden its community connections," Michael E. Pierce, Mobile Housing Authority Chief Executive Officer. [Read more](#)

## Become an IRS Partner

Make a difference in your community by partnering with IRS and thousands of nationwide organizations to meet individual taxpayers' needs for tax education and assistance. In these tough economic times, tax benefits can offer stronger financial stability for people and the communities in which they live. [More information here.](#)



## Grant Opportunities

**Grant Name:** Radon Testing and Mitigation Demonstration for Public Housing

**Description:** The purpose of this NOFO is to provide funds to public housing agencies (PHAs) to conduct testing and as-needed mitigation of radon in the units that they manage and to support the development of a plan for future testing and mitigation. The work supported through this NOFO will also provide HUD with important information on method and costs for radon testing and mitigation in public housing.

**Deadline:** Mar 28, 2022 The application deadline is 11:59:59 PM Eastern Standard time

[Apply](#)

### In the News

- [Programs Offer Help for the Homeless](#) - Alabama News Network
- [HUD Awards Over \\$2.4 Million to Fight Housing Discrimination Related to the Pandemic](#)

### Contact Us



Please call us at **205-731-2617**, or email us at [AL\\_Webmanager@hud.gov](mailto:AL_Webmanager@hud.gov)

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