



# ALABAMA FIELD OFFICE NEWSLETTER

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## *Message from the Alabama Field Office Director*

Summer is quickly coming to an end and fall is approaching. We have seen an increase of COVID cases in Alabama during these hot months. I would like to thank our community partners and stakeholders for their COVID efforts. Our focus this summer has been supporting COVID priority communities and their vaccination efforts as well supporting the Emergency Housing Voucher efforts. We continue to strive to make a difference in the community. Stay safe!

Sincerely,  
*Kenneth Free*  
AL Field Office Director

## HUD Secretary Fudge Touts Infrastructure Plan

HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge toured a new public housing development in Birmingham on Wednesday morning and touted President Joe Biden's roughly \$1 trillion infrastructure plan that passed in the U.S. Senate on Tuesday as a major boon to the city.

"Birmingham is going to receive millions and millions of dollars from this package," Fudge said.

"Thank you," Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin chimed in.

"The state of Alabama will benefit as well,"

said U.S. Rep. Terri Sewell, Alabama's lone Democrat in Congress. "This infrastructure package has over \$500 million for Alabama's highways, \$225 million for its failing bridges and over \$100 million for broadband. So, I'm excited that we were able to get some special items in the package for Alabama."

The infrastructure package must still be passed by the U.S. House of Representatives.

"I know it is going to pass," Fudge said.

"And I fully support it," Sewell said.

Read the rest of the article by Greg Garrison at [AL.com](https://www.al.com)



*HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge touts infrastructure plan in a visit to the Villas at Titusville*

# As COVID Cases Increase in the State, HABD is Seeking to Make a Difference

As COVID-19 cases climb again in Alabama, the Housing Authority of Birmingham District (HABD) (serving the largest metro area in the state) is seeking to make a difference by encouraging their residents to get vaccinated. HABD partnered with Alabama Regional Medical Services, University of Alabama Birmingham, Mills Pharmacy, Aletheia House and Cahaba Medical Care to administer vaccines to residents.

Alabama has the lowest vaccine rate in the country and HABD is working hard to do their part. They've worked with Aletheia House and have held mobile clinics for residents the past four weeks and around 30 to 40 residents have received a vaccine at each one. "We are doing all we can as an organization to help us get up from the bottom," Armond Matthews, Interim VP of Community Engagement at HABD said. Mr. Matthews stressed the importance of getting vaccinated to "get back to normal."



Photo of HABD mobile clinic held on July 8th

HABD's first focused their efforts in making the vaccine available to the senior citizen residents and saw success. Ninety percent of the senior citizen facility, Freedom Manor, has been vaccinated.

"I am really encouraged by the HABD's efforts. They're making a difference," said Kenneth Free, HUD Alabama Field Office Director.

Although there have been some successes, vaccine hesitancy is a real impediment to getting shots in arms in the state.

"You can't make anyone take the vaccine. There are so many rumors out there, our job is to make sure our clients know what the scientific truth when it comes to the vaccine. It is safe." Mr. Matthews said. HABD has made it is easy for clients. If vaccines are not available at their site, HABD will provide transportation. Residents can call (205) 521-6613 to set up a ride.

HABD provides housing opportunities and assistance for up to 23,000 people through their combined programs administered throughout Jefferson County and has 4,022 traditional public housing units within 13 total communities.

## Did You Know?



The state of Alabama has 146 Public Housing Authorities and they serve 62,326 tenants and 68,758 children. Anyone in need of affordable housing opportunities can visit our HUD Resource Locator at <https://resources.hud.gov> and search for local housing services by entering their location.

# COVID Rent Relief

If you're a renter having trouble paying your rent, utilities, or other housing costs – or if you're a landlord trying to stay afloat with tenants in this situation – help may be available. State and local programs are distributing billions of dollars in rental assistance to help renters stay housed during the pandemic.

Visit the [CFPB's Rental Assistance Finder](#) to find out what this means for you and what you can do. The CFPB's site also includes resources to help renters and landlords understand other resources to help navigate various financial hardships related to the pandemic.



## Grant Opportunities

**Grant Name:** Eviction Protection Grant Program

**Description:** The overall purpose of the Eviction Protection Grant Program is to support experienced legal service providers, not limited to legal service corporations, in providing legal assistance at no cost to low-income tenants at risk of or subject to eviction. HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research is making available grant funds to non-profit or governmental entities to provide services in areas with high rates of evictions or prospective evictions, including rural areas. This grant program plays an integral role in helping individuals and families, including people of color who are disproportionately represented among those evicted, people with limited English proficiency and people with disabilities, avoid eviction or minimize the disruption and damage caused by the eviction process.

**Deadline:** Sep 08, 2021 The application deadline is 11:59:59 PM Eastern Standard time

[Apply](#)

## COVID-19 Education Toolkit for PHAs and Choice Neighborhoods Grantees

As the coming school year approaches, [Supporting Our Kids' Education: Tools to Strengthen Resident Families & Students](#). During COVID-19 & Beyond offers PHAs and their partners tools to address learning loss and empower families to support their children's education in the aftermath of COVID-19. The toolkit, developed by the Choice Neighborhoods office in partnership with Choice Neighborhoods grantees and expert consultants, provides case studies, [ready-to-use family flyers](#), and a wealth of evidence-based resource links.

### *In the News*

- New facility will help homeless, people in need - [Gadsden Times](#)
- COVID-19 relief funds awarded to Dale, Henry, 2 other - [WTVY](#)

### *Contact Us*



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