



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHA Newsletter: April 2023

News from HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing sent to PHA Executive Directors

FY24 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

President Biden announced his FY24 Budget on March 9, 2023, and HUD [released](#) details about its budget on March 13. The President's Budget provides \$32.7B for the Housing Choice Voucher Program, an increase of \$2.4B over the 2023 enacted level, and \$8.9B for the Public Housing Fund, which is \$379M more than FY23.

A key priority is making sure PHAs have the resources to operate their programs. To that end, there is 100% proration for the Voucher program, including 100% proration for Administrative Fees; and 100% proration for the Public Housing Operating Fund.

The Biden-Harris Administration believes that our nearly one million units of public housing are an essential portion of our country's housing supply that needs to be maintained and preserved.

Public Housing highlights of the Budget include:

- The Public Housing Fund (\$8.9B): The request will provide \$5.1B for Operating Fund formula grants, which is a \$24M increase compared to 2023, and \$3.2M for Capital Fund formula grants. In addition, the President's Budget proposes \$50M for Operating Fund shortfall prevention – which doubles the 2023 appropriation.
 - Mandatory Proposal on Public Housing Preservation (\$7.5B): This one-time investment would address the capital needs for distressed public housing. A portion of these funds would be available to help smaller PHAs complete activities required to put together a successful development proposal.
 - Site-based Public Housing Enhancement, Resilience, and Efficiency (SPHERE) Grants (\$300M): The purpose of this initiative would meet the capital needs of public housing projects that cannot be addressed through formula funding. We expect this program will help modernize around 3,000 public housing units.
 - A Comprehensive Physical Needs Assessment (\$15M): This funding would allow HUD to assess the capital need of the public housing inventory.
 - Tenant Protection Vouchers (\$385M): HUD continues to request higher amounts of funding for TPVs to support public housing repositioning. The FY24 request is \$48M higher than the FY23 appropriation.
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- Resident Health Equity Innovation Program (no cost): Under this proposal, PHAs would volunteer to use Operating Funds to focus on resident health needs and build local partnerships with health entities to improve outcomes for public housing residents.

We want to hear from you about what is needed to preserve public housing for the future. Over the next several months, HUD officials will engage a wide range of stakeholders about the challenges we need to address collectively – and how these investments in the President's Budget can lay the groundwork for additional action.

SYSTEM INNOVATION

In 2023, we are launching major systems to improve our technology infrastructure. These modernized systems will improve the user experience, payment accuracy, cybersecurity, and increase efficiency. We want to ensure PHAs understand these changes and can transition from existing systems.

Housing Information Portal

The new Housing Information Portal (HIP) will replace and enhance the functionality currently performed by IMS/PIC, reducing the administrative burden on PHAs for providing information to HUD through a new form/data submission mechanism utilizing the PHA's own software interface.

For small PHAs currently using the HUD Family Reporting Software (FRS), HUD is working on a FRS replacement that will be a fillable form as part of HIP. This will eliminate the need for PHAs to install the software on their computer.

HUD continues to work with software vendors to finalize the technical specifications needed to connect to HIP. The software vendors will nominate PHAs as early adopters, with priority to MTW Expansion PHAs who rely on the HUD-50058 MTW Expansion functionality in HIP. The software vendors will let HUD know when they are ready to interface with HIP and roll out their software to their clients.

Learn more about HIP on the [Housing Information Portal page](#). Please note that the link to this page recently changed. PHAs can email questions to PIH_HIP@hud.gov.

Operating Fund Web Portal

In February 2023, HUD deployed a web-based version of the Operating Fund (OpFund) to calculate over \$5B in Operating Fund eligibility and finally retired the 20-year-old Excel based tools that were used to calculate funding eligibility.

PHAs submitted more than 6,600 Operating Fund submissions in the OpFund Web Portal with **98% of PHA submissions ahead of the deadline!** In addition to reducing the time to complete submissions, the HUD-52723/52722 online submission module provides the status of

submissions in real time and provides users with historical and current data so they can easily identify anomalies. For questions about OpFund Web Portal, please contact opfundwebportal@hud.gov.

Enterprise Voucher Management System

The Enterprise Voucher Management System (eVMS) will improve monthly program performance records and payment accuracy. Users will also have daily access to funding statements and balances. We have successfully completed the pilot program, and pilot PHAs are receiving monthly disbursements. Additional PHAs will be brought on in phases.

A technical issue is being addressed prior to the first phase. An updated timeline and next steps will be provided soon. In the meantime, PHAs can continue to prepare for eVMS by submitting timely PIC (50058) submissions, including resolving outstanding errors identified in HUD's [PIC Error Dashboard](#). If you have any questions, please contact askevms@hud.gov.

SPECIAL POLICY UPDATES

Proposed NSPIRE Scoring Notice

On March 28, 2023, the proposed NSPIRE Scoring Notice was [published in the Federal Register](#) and is now **available for comment through April 27, 2023**. The Scoring Notice outlines the scoring methodology, expected sampling strategy, and justification for scoring decisions. PHAs are encouraged to comment on the notice. Questions on the proposed notice can be sent to NSPIRERegulations@hud.gov. For more information, visit the [NSPIRE Resources page](#) and view YouTube recordings of the NSPIRE Get Ready sessions in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#).

Build America, Buy America Update

On March 15, 2023, HUD published a [Public Interest Phased Implementation Waiver](#) that established HUD's schedule for applying Build America/Buy America (BABA) Act to its programs. On March 29, PHA Executive Directors received an [email that provided important updates related to PIH's implementation of BABA](#). The schedule gradually phases in the application of BABA over time, starting with the application of BABA to purchases of iron and steel products. HUD will offer further guidance in the coming weeks. Visit HUD's [BABA website](#) for more information.

AFFH Comment Period Extended

HUD has extended the comment period for the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) [proposed rule](#) to **April 24, 2023**. Under the proposed rule, PHAs and other

organizations receiving HUD funds are asked to take meaningful action to overcome patterns of segregation, promote fair housing, eliminate disparities in housing, and foster inclusive communities. PHAs are strongly encouraged to review the [proposed rule](#), HUD's [AFFH resources](#), the [Assessment of Fair Housing Tool for PHAS](#), and to submit comments on the proposed rule.

PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAM

Public Housing Occupancy: Agency Priority Goal

One of HUD's priorities is to maximize the reach of HUD's rental assistance programs by increasing the occupancy of public housing units. The current national occupancy rate is 94.7%. Our goal is to increase occupancy to 95.5% by September 30, 2023. Please take advantage of occupancy resources for PHAs, such as the [PHA Occupancy Webinar Series](#).

HOTMA Training Series

[Register here!](#)

The HOTMA Income and Assets training series will cover changes to income reviews and asset limits (Sections 102 and 104), which go into effect on January 1, 2024.

- Implementation of Section 102 & 104 – Part 1 | May 9, 2023 | 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET
 - Implementation of Section 102 & 104 – Part 2 | May 16, 2023 | 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET
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Supplemental Guidance for HOTMA Section 103 Implementation

[PIH Notice 2023-03](#) was issued March 13, 2023. This notice provides guidance about public housing tenancy limits for over-income families. All over-income requirements were effective on **March 16, 2023**, and will be fully implemented by **June 14, 2023**. A [webinar recording](#) on this topic is now available.

Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants NOFO

On April 4, 2023, HUD published the [FY 2023 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (NOFO) for two-year Planning Grants to help communities with severely distressed public housing develop an inclusive neighborhood transformation plan. **Applications are due on June 6, 2023**. For more information, please visit the [Choice Neighborhoods website](#) or send questions to ChoiceNeighborhoods@hud.gov.

Rate Reduction Incentive

The Rate Reduction Incentive (RRI) allows PHAs to retain 50% to 100% of the savings from significant actions to reduce the utility rate. See [PIH Notice-2022-34](#) for more information on required submissions, savings calculations, definitions, and guidance on contracts. **The deadline for RRI requests is August 30. PHAs must submit RRI savings calculations and supporting documentation to PIHEnergyBranch@hud.gov and your [HUD Field Office](#) by September 30.**

Designating Units After Incidents and Disasters

If your buildings experience a detrimental event that causes property damage and/or resident displacement, please contact your local HUD Field Office to ensure you've correctly categorized the affected units in IMS/PIC. Full Operating Fund eligibility is provided not only for occupied units but also for units with HUD-approved vacancies. Refer to [Notice PIH 2021-35](#) and Section 4.3 of the [PHA Disaster Readiness, Response, and Recovery Guidebook](#) for more information.

Tornado Preparedness

Approximately 1,200 tornadoes impact the U.S. annually. Make sure you are prepared, especially if your communities are in areas prone to tornadic activity. Find disaster preparedness resources, including a webinar about tornadoes, on the [PHA Disaster Preparedness website](#).

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM

HCV Utilization: Agency Priority Goal

HUD has an Agency Priority Goal of spending 100% of the 2023 HCV funding by September 30, 2023 to house as many families as possible. While we ended 2022 at 100.02%, the national utilization rate is now approximately 92.6% due to the historic increase in funding for vouchers in 2023. Please take advantage of [HCV Utilization Tools](#), including the Two-Year Projection Tool which has been updated with final inflation factors.

2023 HCV Implementation Notice

On April 4, 2023, HUD published the [2023 HCV Implementation Notice](#), and PHAs have begun receiving their funding letters. PHAs will receive HAP funding at a 100% proration and

Administrative Fee funding at a 92% proration. Stay tuned for a webinar on this notice, highlighting any changes for 2023.

HCV Utilization Webinar Series

[Register here!](#)

The HCV Utilization Webinar Series shares the latest HCV resources, program guidance, policy changes, and best practices in HCV administration. Each month we will focus on a different topic of importance to the HCV program.

- Addressing Homelessness Through HCV | April 20, 2023 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET
 - PBV Program Updates | May 18, 2023 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET
 - Best Practices in HUD-VASH | June 15, 2023 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET
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Housing Mobility Toolkit and Webinar

April 26, 2023 | 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

[Register here!](#)

Are you interested in launching a housing mobility program? Join this webinar to learn about the resources available in the [Housing Mobility Toolkit](#). Using materials adapted from the [Community Choice Demonstration](#), the Toolkit includes:

- A Program Set-Up Guide to serve as a starting point for PHAs interested in developing a housing mobility program;
 - A housing mobility program Services Implementation Guide;
 - A sample Client Binder with materials for housing mobility program participants; and
 - A sample set of workshops and guides.
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SLR Administrative Guidelines

HUD recently updated the [Subsidy Layering Reviews Administrative Guidelines for Project-Based Voucher](#) assistance in the Federal Register. PIH is in the process of updating [PIH Notice 2013-11](#), which will provide additional guidance to PHAs on the changes in the updated Federal Register notice.

Subsidy Layering Reviews (SLRs) ensure the assistance provided by HUD isn't more than necessary when considering other combined (or layered) federal, state, or local government subsidies. While PHAs can still request that HUD perform the SLR, this notice provides administrative relief by broadening the pool of eligible reviewers and shortening the PBV SLR timeframe.

EHV Success Rates

A new page has been added to the [Emergency Housing Voucher \(EHV\) dashboard](#) highlighting EHV Success Rates. PHAs now have a convenient place to find data related to their success rate and compare these metrics against national trends.

COMMUNITY & SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Expiration of COVID-19 Emergency and Impact on HUD-Assisted Residents

Wednesday, April 19 | 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

[Register here!](#)

With the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency set to expire on May 11, 2023, important changes are underway. Effective April 1, 2023, states have restarted yearly Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility reviews, and the Emergency Allotments for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) ended in March 2023.

Join HUD, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Center for Health in Public Housing (NCHPH) on this webinar to learn more.

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Outreach and Enrollment

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently announced more than \$73M for four grant programs to help with outreach and enrollment in the [Affordable Connectivity Program](#) (ACP), a broadband subsidy program that HUD-assisted residents are automatically eligible. We encourage you to reach out to grantees in your area to see if there are opportunities to partner.

To find a list of grantees, [see the announcements](#) for the National Competitive Outreach Grants; Tribal Competitive Outreach Grants; Your Home, Your Internet, and Digital Navigator Grants (scroll to the Key Milestones section of the webpage).

We also encourage you to explore the [ACP self-paced training tool](#) developed by HUD's nonprofit partner, EducationSuperHighway. To help residents understand what documentation is necessary to enroll in the program, please use the [ACP Pre-Enrollment Wizard tool](#).

High-Speed Internet Guide Highlights Funding to Support Underserved Communities

The Department of Commerce oversees the \$42B Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program and the \$2.8B Digital Equity Act programs. Together, these programs connect underserved communities and provide devices, digital skills training, and other activities to help

underserved communities fully participate in the digital world. HUD recently published a [Guide to New Broadband Funding for HUD-Assisted Communities](#) to help PHAs and other stakeholders better understand these programs.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[Housing-Related Hazards & Lead-based Paint Capital Fund Program](#) – **Applications are due on April 13, 2023.** The purpose of program is to evaluate and reduce residential health hazards in public housing, including lead-based paint, carbon monoxide, mold, radon, fire safety, and asbestos. Interested applicants can [view a recorded NOFO webinar](#), download the [NOFO FAQs](#), or direct questions to the Office of Capital Improvements at PIHOI@hud.gov.

[Foster Youth to Independence Non-Competitive Funding](#) – Through notice [PIH 2023-04](#), HUD has made \$30M available to PHAs on a non-competitive basis through the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative. HUD invites PHAs to apply for these funds so they can provide housing assistance to young adults who are transitioning out of or have already left foster care.

[Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants NOFO](#) – **Applications are due on June 6, 2023.** HUD is accepting applications for two-year Planning Grants to help communities with severely distressed public housing develop an inclusive neighborhood transformation plan. For more information, visit the [Choice Neighborhoods webpage](#). Potential applicants may submit questions to ChoiceNeighborhoods@hud.gov.

[Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program](#) – **Applications are due May 30, 2023.** The Joint Office of Energy and Transportation is accepting applications for a new \$2.5B program to fund electric vehicle charging and alternative-fueling infrastructure. This is a key step towards the President's goals of building a national network of 500,000 public electric vehicle charging stations and reducing national greenhouse gas emissions.

[Buildings Upgrade \(Buildings UP\)](#) – **Applications are due July 18, 2023.** The Department of Energy is funding an [American-Made Challenge](#) to build capacity and accelerate equitable and efficient electrification upgrades across the country. Buildings UP provides more than \$22M in cash awards and technical assistance to support the transformation of existing buildings into more energy-efficient and clean energy-ready homes, commercial spaces, and communities. Buildings UP is open to teams of organizations that may include PHAs, municipalities, states, counties, Tribal governments, regional planning organizations, and community-based organizations.

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

[HUD Awards \\$6M to PHAs for Radon Testing and Mitigation](#)

NOTICES

Below is a list of recent PIH notices, which provide guidance, extensions, instructions, clarifications, announcements, and other policy information.

[View PIH Notices](#)

- [PIH 2023-08](#) **Process and Requirements for Agency Regionalization under the Moving to Work Demonstration Program**
 - [PIH 2023-07](#) **Implementation of 2023 Funding Provisions for the HCV Program**
 - [PIH 2023-06](#) **Remedies PHAs have for Poor Performing Owners in the HCV and PBV Programs**
 - [PIH 2023-05](#) **Guidance on Reporting PHA Executive Compensation Information**
 - [PIH 2023-04](#) **Foster Youth to Independence Initiative Funding and Application**
 - [PIH 2023-03](#) **Supplemental Guidance for Implementation of Section 103 of HOTMA**
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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Building Community with Art in Sacramento, California

Visitors to the River District community in Sacramento are now welcomed by artwork throughout the neighborhood as part of the city's metamorphosis-themed public art project. The Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) wanted public art to be a component of its Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant for the River District. Seven murals now line one of the main streets in the community and two 40-foot sculptures frame the neighborhood's entrance.



Sculptures, titled "Uplift", welcome people to the River District. Photo courtesy of Vicki Scuri.

The project is part of the city's "Creative Edge" plan to bring art and culture to Sacramento neighborhoods and communities. SHRA collaborated with River District residents in the selection of the imagery, and what emerged was art that shows a once distressed community in a different light.



One of the community murals, titled "Sacramento Chrysalis". Photo courtesy of Trust Your Struggle, an artist collective in Sacramento.

In the heart of the River District is the Twin Rivers public housing community, which is undergoing a transformation. Through its Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant, SHRA is in the process of redeveloping Twin Rivers into Mirasol Village, a 487-unit mixed-income community, which includes a tot lot, community garden, and a fruit tree orchard.



Mirasol Village. Photo courtesy of SHRA

“We’re excited that the beautiful murals are prominently displayed in this area for everyone to enjoy, especially as we finalize construction of the Mirasol Village affordable housing,” said La Shelle Dozier, Executive Director of SHRA. “The public art complements SHRA’s efforts to connect this historically isolated area to new transit, employment centers, services, retail and cultural amenities, creating a vibrant gateway to downtown Sacramento.”

We hope you enjoy receiving these messages from HUD’s Office of Public and Indian Housing.

Public Housing Agency contact information is retrieved from HUD’s Public Housing Information Center (PIC).

If your agency’s contact information is out of date, please update PIC with the correct contact information.

We update our email lists from PIC twice a month, so you should see your change reflected after two weeks.

Thank you for furthering HUD’s mission in the communities you serve.