



PIH

OFFICE OF PUBLIC & INDIAN HOUSING

PHA NEWSLETTER



December 2023 | [PHA Newsletters Archive](#)

PDAS Monocchio on the Road

Earlier this month, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (PDAS) Rich Monocchio visited Los Angeles to engage with PHAs and other key stakeholders serving homeless individuals and families. PDAS Monocchio convened a roundtable with PHAs in Los Angeles County to discuss coordination of efforts to house the homeless. He also toured permanent supportive housing properties at the West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs Medical Center supported by project-based vouchers from the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) and Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA). He also toured HACLA's Jordan Downs redevelopment and LACDA's award-winning Nueva Maravilla housing development.

Public housing agencies across the country are stepping up to eradicate homelessness in their communities. PIH is working with PHAs to support this work by providing new resources, reducing barriers, and being responsive to their evolving needs. HUD encourages you to work with your local partners and us to address the needs of your community and ensure that your programs meet the urgency of homelessness. See PDAS Monocchio's recent message on [HUD Resources and Streamlining Actions to Help PHAs Address Homelessness](#).



PDAS Monocchio speaks at a press conference, hosted by Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, on the city's efforts to address homelessness

PDAS Monocchio Joins the HUD-VASH Boot Camp in Los Angeles

On December, 5, 2023, PDAS Monocchio provided opening remarks at the HUD-VASH Boot Camp in Los Angeles hosted by HUD and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). HUD and the VA convened these two-day, in-person “boot camps” in ten cities, engaging more than a thousand participants throughout the country. The boot camps are designed to improve collaboration among local partners, streamline systems and processes, and increase referrals and utilization for HUD-VASH vouchers. Each event included a community panel featuring PHA and VA partners who offered practical advice and showcased innovative collaborations. Local partners also spent the afternoons action planning and problem solving together. The local teams will be submitting their action plans to HUD and the VA, so that the federal partners can support their efforts. HUD and VA will publish additional guidance based on questions that arose during the boot camps.

GDAS Blom Visits Puerto Rico to Celebrate the Grand Opening of Housing Developments

GDAS Dominique Blom celebrated the grand opening of Puerto Rico's Verde Real public housing development and the Senior Residences at Emerald Vistas (*pictured right*). After the devastation of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, Puerto Rico has been responding to the urgent need for high-quality and resilient affordable housing.



Verde Real's 43 brand new units provide permanent housing for residents displaced by Hurricane Maria. Emerald Vistas is a 438 mixed-income development and the first affordable rental housing development in Puerto Rico to use HUD CDBG-Disaster Recovery funding. It consists of a 200-unit senior building, 238 family units, and amenities for residents of all ages. It is built to withstand Category 5 hurricanes, and its sustainable design achieved a Silver level of the National Green Building Standard (NGBS).

During her visit, GDAS Blom visited the Head Start and medical program for newborns and infants at the Manuel A. Pérez Public Housing Development, a HOPE VI redevelopment completed in 2017, and toured its vocational and technical education center. PIH looks forward to continued collaboration with Puerto Rico Public Housing Administration, Puerto Rico Department of Housing, and other local and federal agencies to support investment in vibrant, resilient communities in the Caribbean.



GDAS Blom with residents from Manuel A. Pérez public housing development touring the Vocational and Technical Education Center developed with HOPE VI funding

Special Topics

New HOTMA Resources Available

New HOTMA Resources for PHAs and residents are now available on HUD Exchange. Resources include sample HOTMA policy documents for PHAs and pre-recorded trainings, as well as factsheets and worksheets for residents that explain the upcoming rule changes. Email Public Housing and HCV questions on HOTMA sections 102, 103, and 104 to HOTMAquestions@hud.gov.

[Visit New HOTMA Resources](#)

Notice of Proposed Rule Making: 30-Day Notification Requirement Prior to Termination of Lease for Nonpayment of Rent – Submit Comments by January 30, 2024

HUD is inviting PHAs to publicly comment on a new proposed rule. The rule concerns eviction prevention measures for tenants residing in public housing or in properties receiving project-based rental assistance (PBRA) and would require PHAs and owners to provide tenants with a written notification at least 30 days prior to the commencement of the eviction process.

View the [proposed rule](#) and [HUD's report on the potential costs and benefits](#) of the rule.

Section 3 Technical Assistance

Are you looking for help with your Section 3 requirements? HUD offers Section 3 On-Call Technical Assistance to PHAs. To submit a request for On-Call Technical Assistance, PHAs may [Request Program Assistance](#) on HUD Exchange or reach out to your [Section 3 regional contact](#) for help submitting the request. Please copy your local PIH Field Office contact.

In addition to On-Call Technical Assistance, HUD is actively seeking needs for larger-scale Section 3 technical assistance opportunities that will reach several grantees at a time. Please contact your [Section 3 regional contact](#) with your suggestions.

System Innovation

Housing Information Portal (HIP)

We continue to make progress on the development of the Housing Information Portal (HIP). Multiple releases are scheduled to take place in 2024. Additionally, user acceptance testing will begin for both HUD users and software vendors in early 2024. Also coming, HUD will publish a HIP implementation notice that will provide details for PHAs and their software vendors to make the transition from IMS/PIC and to HIP.

Enterprise Voucher Management System (eVMS)

eVMS has successfully on-boarded 91 PHAs. Starting in January 2024, these PHAs will receive monthly HAP disbursements that take into consideration the amount calculated by eVMS. The eVMS team is excited to share plans for the Wave 2 cohort of PHAs soon.

The [eVMS website](#) has been updated to include the Wave 1 On-Boarding webinar that provides an overview of eVMS and the on-board process.

Public Housing Portal (Formerly Operating Fund Web Portal)

HUD's deployment of three key modules in the Public Housing Portal in previous months facilitated expedited completion of required annual submissions by PHAs through the Portal. Meeting timely submission requirements of these three modules allows for prompt CY 2024 Operating Fund eligibility review by Field Offices for the duration of the funding year.

- **PHA Board Resolution Module**

HUD successfully started receiving 2024 funding year submissions through the PHA Board Resolution Module (HUD-52574) from PHAs nationwide. The HUD-52574 is a required annual submission for PHAs to confirm Board of Commissioners' approval of the operating budget. The 2024 funding year submissions are showing quicker increased progress than previous years' submissions. HUD attributes this increase in productivity to extending access for PHA Board Chairs to Create, Electronically Sign, and Submit the HUD-52574 through a new OPL role. The new role has allowed PHA Board Chairs to participate in the Portal standardization and processes since deployment two months ago.

- **SF-424 Module**

HUD successfully received **99.3%** of 2024 funding year submissions through the SF-424 module from PHAs nationwide. The funding year submissions have shown quicker increasing progress year after year, since being made available on the Portal. HUD attributes this increase in productivity to allowing PHA executive directors to provide optional electronic signatures. This allows for submissions to take place with a reduction in the PHAs burden, supporting the HUD goal of exceptional customer service.

- **HUD-52723/52722 Module**

With the HUD-52723/52722 module in production, **96%** of all PHAs have submitted their submissions for HUD staff review. The module supports more accurate eligibility calculations of over \$5 billion in annual appropriations. The submissions are currently under review by the Field Offices to determine final eligibility of over 12,000 PHA submissions nationwide.

Public Housing Program

Public Housing Occupancy: Agency Priority Goal

One of HUD's top priorities is to maximize the reach of HUD's rental assistance programs by increasing the number of public housing units that are occupied. Our current national occupancy rate is 94.65%. We look forward to continuing to work with you to serve more families and reach our national occupancy goal of 96% this fiscal year. For the latest guidance and tools to improve public housing occupancy, please continue to reach out to your field office for support and view the [Public Housing Occupancy Webinar Series](#) on HUD Exchange.

Extension of NSPIRE Deadlines for Technical Review Requests

HUD is granting an automatic extension of the deadlines for NSPIRE technical review requests by 15 days upon PHAs' request. PHAs may now submit a request for a technical review, or appeal, of the inspection findings, within 60 calendar days following the day HUD provides the inspection report to the PHA. This extension will remain in place for the first year of NSPIRE implementation, or until October 1, 2024.

If you are having difficulty accessing the NSPIRE system, contact the REAC Technical Assistance Center (TAC) at (888) 245-4860 or reactac@hud.gov. If a system disruption interferes with a deadline for response, PHAs may submit information to their assigned field office representative with a courtesy copy to NSPIRERegulations@hud.gov. Once the PHA user has gained access to the system, you should complete the required uploads to the NSPIRE system.

Public Housing Waiting List Data Collection Tool Webinar January 16, 2024 | 10:30 – 11:30 AM ET or January 17, 2024 | 1:30 – 2:30 PM ET

The new Public Housing Waiting List Data Collection Tool is scheduled to be rolled out in the Public Housing Portal on January 2, 2024. Please join one of these webinars to learn about the tool. The content for both days will be the same, so you can choose which one to attend. The sessions will not be recorded. For questions

about accessing or using the Public Housing Portal, contact REAC-TAC at 1-888-245-4860 Option #4 or REAC_TAC@hud.gov.

Add 1/16 Webinar to Calendar

Add 1/17 Webinar to Calendar

Housing Choice Voucher Program

HCV Utilization: Agency Priority Goal

The 2023 fiscal year end data is in! Thanks to the tremendous efforts of PHAs across the country, we reached a national Housing Choice Voucher budget utilization rate of 101.98%, surpassing our goal of 100%. Once we receive our FY 2024 appropriations, we will establish our FY 2024 baseline and share progress against this year's goal of 100%. Please continue to reach out to your field office for support and take advantage of the [HCV Utilization Tools](#) available to you, including this one-pager on [PHA Resources to Improve Utilization](#).

Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV): Check Your EHV Status Before Issuing New Vouchers

As of early December, there are less than 1,000 Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) available for issuance. **Most PHAs have hit their EHV cap and may not issue new EHV to applicants.** To help PHAs track remaining EHV issuance authority, HUD recently updated the [EHV Data Dashboard](#) and created [a new exception report](#) dashboard. For more information on the prohibition on issuing EHV, please review [PIH Notice 2023-14](#) or email ehv@hud.gov.

New FAQs for Stability Vouchers

HUD has published new Stability Voucher FAQs on the [Stability Vouchers webpage](#). The FAQs address program issues related to eligibility, portability, financial reporting, partnership requirements, HMIS reporting, and required approvals for MTW agencies. Additional questions about Stability Vouchers can be sent to StabilityVouchers@hud.gov.

HCV Utilization Webinar: End of Year Reconciliation and Special Purpose Vouchers
January 18, 2024 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

[Register Here](#)

Community and Supportive Services

FY 2023 Jobs Plus Program NOFO Re-Opened – Applications due by March 12, 2024

HUD has re-opened the FY 2023 Jobs Plus Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to add FY 2024 appropriations to this competition. The [re-opened FY 2023 Jobs Plus NOFO](#) is available on grants.gov. The due date for new applications in response to the re-opened NOFO is **March 12, 2024**.

HUD's decision to combine the available \$22 million in FY 2023 funding and the pending FY 2024 appropriations will allow the Department to award additional Jobs Plus grants this fiscal year. HUD anticipates awarding the FY 2023/2024 Jobs Plus grants in the summer of 2024. HUD will not issue another Jobs Plus program NOFO for the FY 2024 funding.

ConnectHomeUSA Expansion – Applications due February 15, 2024

HUD is accepting applications for the ConnectHomeUSA Expansion from December 19, 2023, until February 15, 2024. Communities interested in applying should send a Letter of Intent that responds to the requirements outlined in the [Federal Register Notice](#) to CHUSA_applications@hud.gov.

ConnectHomeUSA is HUD's signature digital inclusion program that assists PHAs, Tribes, and Multifamily housing providers in building programs that help residents connect to affordable internet service and computer devices and build digital skills.

The program has been restructured to include three tiers of participation:

- Tier 1: New participants, including communities that are somewhat familiar with the concepts of digital equity or digital inclusion but may be unsure how to bridge the digital divide in their own communities. *HUD is looking to accept 50-100 new Tier 1 communities.*
- Tier 2: All current or former CHUSA sites are encouraged to rejoin as Tier 2 communities.

- Tier 3: Tier 3 will be reserved for communities that achieve key benchmarks along their CHUSA journey; Tier 3 applications are not being accepted at this time.

To learn more about the application process for the ConnectHomeUSA Expansion, please register for this webinar:

Steps for Applying to Join the ConnectHomeUSA Expansion Webinar

January 11, 2024 | 1:00 - 2:00 PM ET

[Register Here](#)

Updated FAQs for Resident Opportunity and Self Sufficiency (ROSS) Program

Updated [ROSS FAQs](#) are available. The FAQs contain detailed information for applicants and grantees regarding renewals, reporting, match commitments, onboarding and support, eligible participants, use of funds, direct services, and administrative questions.

Notices

PIH recently issued the following notices. For all notices, visit [PIH Notices](#).

- [PIH 2032-34](#) Transition and Implementation of the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016 (HOTMA)
- [PIH 2032-33](#) Implementation of Small Rural Assessments of Public Housing (24 CFR 902 Subpart H) and Publication of Initial List of Small Rural PHAs

Climate Resiliency and Energy Efficiency

Building PHA Capacity: Where to Begin?

Are you looking to build your agency's knowledge of energy efficiency and climate resiliency? HUD has added new resources to the [Build for the Future](#) website to help you understand the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Bipartisan Infrastructure

Law (BIL) funding opportunities, including [new fact sheets](#) on investing in sustainable solutions. Another great place to start is the Department of Energy Better Buildings Solution Center, which has a variety of recorded [webinars](#) on these topical areas.

2024 Urban Heat Island Mapping Campaign: Application Opens this Month

The 2024 [Urban Heat Island Mapping Campaign](#) Application opens this month and closes in mid-January. Start [building your team](#) now in preparation for the application opening. This grant, typically between \$15,000 and \$30,000, offers a broad coalition of partners the opportunity to gather data on heat distribution in their city through a single-day heat mapping project. The goal of this data collection is to provide local leaders with the necessary information to plan for and address extreme heat and its health impacts through community-wide efforts. Check the [website](#) for more information.

EPA Community Change Grants Program: Rolling Applications Through November 1, 2024

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently published the [Community Change Grants Program](#) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), making \$2 billion available for disadvantaged communities, with awards ranging from \$10-20 million. The program will fund community-based grants for projects that reduce pollution and carbon emissions, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to respond to environmental and climate justice challenges, such as extreme heat and flooding. Resilience improvements to housing infrastructure are eligible.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis through November 1, 2024, with the opportunity to resubmit your application if it is not initially accepted. Entities eligible to apply are: 1) a partnership between two community-based non-profit organizations (CBOs) or 2) a partnership between a CBO and a Federally-Recognized Tribe, a local government, or an institution of higher education. Other organizations and entities may be able to be involved in the Community Change Grants projects as collaborating subrecipients and/or procurement contractors selected in compliance with competition requirements. Technical assistance is available for the application and can be accessed by [filling out a request form](#) or calling (800) 540-8123.

Important Deadlines

[Comments for 30-Day Notification Requirement Prior to Termination of](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Public Housing Waiting List Data Collection Tool Webinars

Lease for Nonpayment of Rent

January 30, 2024

ConnectHomeUSA Expansion

February 15, 2024

Jobs Plus Program NOFO

March 12, 2024

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