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GENERAL NEWS

HUD Publishes Proposed AFFH Rule

Last Wednesday we reported that the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) released a [prepublication](#) copy of its proposed Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing ([AFFH](#)) rule, which offers clearer guidance to states and local governments to improve their affordable housing choices. Today HUD has officially published the [proposed rule](#) in the *Federal Register*.

HUD previously published its [final AFFH rule](#) on July 16, 2015, to provide program participants with a revised planning approach to help them meet their legal fair housing obligations. However, the Department now finds the rule to be “ineffective and highly prescriptive,” and that it “effectively discouraged the production of affordable housing.”

Comments on the proposed rule are due no later than **March 16, 2020**.

HUD Extends Public Comment Period on Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing

HUD also [announced today](#) in the *Federal Register* that it has extended the public comment period for its [request for information \(RFI\)](#) on regulatory barriers to affordable housing, previously published on November 22. The RFI is seeking input from the public to identify “federal, state, local, and tribal laws, regulations, land use requirements, and administrative practices that artificially raise the costs of affordable housing development and contribute to shortages in housing supply.” The notice also seeks data, other information, analyses, and recommendations on methods for reducing these regulatory barriers.

The due date for comments has been changed from January 21 to **January 31, 2020**.

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