



April 20, 2020

HCV PROGRAM NEWS

HUD Publishes First Chapter of HCV Landlord Strategies Guidebook

Last Friday on the [HCV Landlord Resources](#) webpage, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) posted the first chapter of its HCV Landlord Strategies Guidebook. The chapter, titled "[Education and Outreach](#)", focuses on education and outreach strategies that PHAs can implement to recruit new Housing Choice Voucher ([HCV](#)) landlords and retain current ones. Strategies addressed in the chapter include:

- New landlord orientation
- Landlord outreach events
- Expanding your network
- Tenant education
- Information sharing
- Landlord focused customer service
- Technology
- Partnerships

As we reported last week, HUD will be hosting a webinar focused on this first chapter on April 22, 2020, from 1:00–2:30 p.m. Eastern Time. The "Education and Outreach Strategies for Landlord Participation" webinar will also feature PHAs who are currently implementing variations of these strategies in their communities. Click [here](#) for more information. To register, click [here](#).

According to the webpage, the other chapters of the HCV Landlord Strategies Guidebook will be released as they become available.

GENERAL NEWS

HUD Updates COVID-19 FAQs for Section 3 Covered Recipients

HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity ([FHEO](#)) has updated the Frequently Asked Questions ([FAQs](#)) about COVID-19 for [Section 3](#) covered recipients. Specifically, questions three and four were modified to make the reporting deadline extension clearer to agencies. The revised document includes 13 questions on how COVID-19 affects Section 3 compliance.

The FAQs cover the following topics, among others:

- What to do if Section 3 conflicts with state or local government emergency orders
- Whether any compliance, SPEARS reporting, or other requirements are waived
- Whether any safe harbor requirements are reduced during the virus restrictions period
- Providing notice of section 3 opportunities to Section 3 residents and businesses
- Virtual meetings
- Whether any PHA, state, county, and/or city partially funded projects involving tax credits are exempt from Section 3 requirements at this time
- Where to direct Section 3-related questions or issues during the pandemic

Further details and additional information regarding specific topics are addressed in the [FAQs](#).

HUD Expedites CoC Program COVID-19 Grant Agreement Amendments

Last Friday on [HUD Exchange](#), HUD announced that in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS) has determined that it is necessary to expedite the process for amending Continuum of Care (CoC) program recipient grant agreements.

As stated in the announcement, recipients who need grant agreement amendments to provide housing, services, or other necessities to support eligible clients can submit an amendment request to HUD. Recipients must remember to maintain documentation in their project files indicating the need for the requested change.

To facilitate this process, HUD has created a [guidance page](#) on the HUD Exchange explaining:

- What can be amended
- Information about change and funding requests
- How to request an expedited grant agreement amendment



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