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GENERAL NEWS

HUD Awards \$1.5 Million to Support Covid-19 Related Fair Housing Activities

In a [press release](#) issued late yesterday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced that it is awarding \$1.5 million in Partnership and Special Enforcement Effort funds to HUD Fair Housing Assistance Program ([FHAP](#)) agencies to support COVID-19 education activities. The funds are being provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ([CARES](#)) of 2020, which President Trump signed into law to provide federal agencies with the necessary resources to combat COVID-19. Click [here](#) to read the notice.

Partnership funds allow FHAP agencies to utilize the services of individuals and/or public, private, for-profit, or not-for-profit organizations that have expertise in enforcing federal, state, and local fair housing laws. Similarly, Special Enforcement Effort funds enhance the fair housing enforcement activities of FHAP agencies.

As the notice states, conforming to the terms of the CARES Act, activities conducted using funds provided under this notice must "address fair housing issues relating to coronavirus." Some examples of activities eligible for funding include:

- Partnering with grassroots, faith-based, or other community-based organizations to conduct COVID-19 related education and outreach to people of different backgrounds.
- Procurement and/or development of up-to-date or advanced technology to do COVID-19 related education and outreach using online platforms, social media, etc.
- Contracting with qualified organizations to conduct fair housing testing in appropriate cases.
- Hiring temporary staff specifically to address any increase in fair housing complaints.
- Hiring temporary staff to address a general backlog of fair housing complaints due to the interruption of normal work processes caused by COVID-19.
- Establishment of hotlines or websites for fair housing issues.

According to the press release, HUD will issue detailed instructions to agencies regarding the availability of funds and process for application.



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