



May 22, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE

The NMA office will be closed Monday for the Memorial Day holiday and will reopen Tuesday morning. Enjoy your holiday!

HCV PROGRAM NEWS

PIH Posts New Chapters to Updated HCV Guidebook Webpage

HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing ([PIH](#)) has posted the new [Utility Allowances](#) and [Special Housing Types](#) chapters to its [webpage](#) dedicated to an updated version of the Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook.

As you recall, the new version of the book is being released chapter-by-chapter as "living documents," and HUD intends to amend individual chapters as policies are refined. The webpage states that the guidebook consolidates the most up-to-date requirements outlined in regulatory requirements, PIH notices, *Federal Register* notices, and other HUD guidance.

The content of the new guidebook is organized differently than the most current [complete version](#) of the book. So far, various, unnumbered chapters of the new version have been made available, while other chapter titles are listed on the page marked as "coming soon."

RAD PROGRAM NEWS

HUD Updates RAD COVID-19 FAQs and Requests Comments on RAD Forms

Yesterday via RADBlast!, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced that it has posted an [updated FAQs](#) document for stakeholders related to managing RAD conversions during the current COVID-19 pandemic. According to the email, the most recent update includes further guidance on completing environmental reports when professionals may not be able to access the interior or exterior of the site. The guidance provides an option that would give PHAs more time to execute new Section 8 leases at the point of conversion.

The email also notes that on May 18, 2020, HUD published a *Federal Register* [60-day notice of information collection](#) seeking public comment on the use of [form documents](#). The forms, which can be used in RAD conversions, include new and revised documents, and forms for the conversion of Section 202 PRACs. Comments are due by **July 17, 2020**.

Click [here](#) to join the RADBlast! mailing list.

GENERAL NEWS

HUD Approves Disability Discrimination Agreement with PA Housing Providers

In a [press release](#) yesterday, HUD announced that it has approved a [conciliation agreement](#) among a local fair housing organization and two residents of an apartment complex in Pennsylvania, and the owners and managers of the complex to settle allegations of disability discrimination. Specifically, the complaints alleged that the housing providers refused to grant the residents' request for a reserved parking space or to allow them to move to a first-floor unit, and retaliated against them for making the requests.

The [Fair Housing Act](#) prohibits housing providers from denying housing to persons with disabilities or subjecting them to discriminatory terms or conditions, including denying reasonable accommodation requests that may be necessary to allow them the opportunity to use and enjoy their home.

The case came to HUD's attention when two residents of a complex apartment with mobility impairments filed complaints alleging that the owners and managers of the property refused their requests to be transferred to a ground floor unit and be assigned a reserved parking space. The residents further alleged that employees of the management company retaliated against them for making the reasonable accommodation requests by transferring them to a substandard unit and threatening them with eviction. In addition, fair housing tests conducted by the local fair housing organization indicated that the management company staff refused to allow testers posing as applicants with disabilities to have designated parking spaces. The housing providers denied the residents' claims of discrimination but agreed to settle their complaints.

Under the terms of the [conciliation agreement](#), the property owners and managers will pay the residents \$80,000, develop a nondiscrimination and reasonable accommodation policy, and have agents who have either direct leasing responsibilities at the property or authority to grant or deny reasonable accommodation requests attend fair housing training.



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