



March 5, 2020

PH PROGRAM NEWS

PIH Updates User Guide to Assigning WASS Roles for the OpFund Web Portal

In an email Tuesday to the Financial Management Division (FMD) [mailing list](#), HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing ([PIH](#)) announced that it has posted an updated PHA user guide to assigning WASS roles for the operating fund (OpFund) web portal.

The [new guidance](#) impacts all PHA staff and the PHA's third party support authorized to access the OpFund portal. HUD encourages all users and WASS security coordinators to review the changes and update user role assignments. The updated user guide is available on the [OpFund web portal](#).

GENERAL NEWS

HUD Approves Sexual Harassment Agreement with California Housing Providers

In a [press release](#) yesterday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced that it has approved a [conciliation agreement](#) with California property owners and manager to settle allegations of sexual harassment against several female residents. The [Fair Housing Act](#) makes it unlawful for housing providers to sexually harass tenants. This includes creating a severe or pervasive hostile housing environment, or conditioning housing or housing-related services on the tenant's acquiescence to sexual demands.

The case came to HUD's attention when several female residents filed a complaint alleging that the owners and manager violated the Fair Housing Act by subjecting them to differential treatment based on sex and subjecting them to unwelcome sexual comments and advances. The housing providers deny that they discriminated against the women but agreed to settle the complaint.

Under the terms of the agreement, the owners will pay the women who filed the complaint \$10,000 and attend mandatory fair housing training. The owners will also pay \$4,500 to two other aggrieved female residents. In addition, the manager will be permanently prohibited from directly or indirectly engaging in or conducting any property management responsibilities.

In April 2018, HUD and the Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)) launched a joint nationwide initiative to combat sexual harassment in housing improving public education about the issue and encouraging those faced with sexual harassment to report their cases.

DOJ Settles Disability Discrimination Suit against Puerto Rico Housing Providers

In a [press release](#) last week, the Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)) announced that it has reached a settlement with the owners and developers of apartment complexes in Puerto Rico. Two separate consent orders resolve allegations that they violated the [Fair Housing Act](#) and the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) by building apartment complexes that were inaccessible to persons with disabilities.

The Fair Housing Act and Americans with Disabilities Act prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability. The Fair Housing Act requires housing built after March 1991 to contain accessible features for persons with disabilities. Failure to meet these standards it is considered unlawful discrimination.

Under the terms of the agreements, the owners and developers will pay \$325,000 to establish two funds to compensate individuals with disabilities who have been impacted by the accessibility violations and a \$10,000 civil penalty to the United States. As part of the settlement, the companies also agreed to make substantial corrective actions to remove accessibility barriers at the complexes. The consent orders also require the housing providers to receive Fair Housing Act and Americans with Disabilities Act training.

You can access documents related to this case at the bottom of the press release.



For help with your PIH Alert subscription, email [Laurie Durrett](#). For questions and comments on content, email [Olga Vélez](#). To view or post job announcements at our website, click [here](#). To view our seminar calendar, click [here](#). To read the NMA blog, click [here](#).



Nan McKay & Associates 1810 Gillespie Way Suite 202 El Cajon CA 92020 United States

You received this email because you are subscribed to PIH Alerts from Nan McKay & Associates .

Update your [email preferences](#) to choose the types of emails you receive.

[Unsubscribe from all future emails](#)