



NEWS UPDATE – Part 2 – 08-20-2015

➔ Banning Homeless Sleeping Outside is Wrong – Department of Justice

[Department of Justice: Banning homeless sleeping outside is wrong on Page A10 of Friday, August 14, 2015 issue of The News Tribune](#)

➔ HUD MAKES \$39 MILLION AVAILABLE TO FIGHT HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

Six new grant categories to support variety of fair housing activities

Application deadline is August 26, 2015.

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced today that it is making \$39.2 million available to fight housing discrimination under HUD’s 2015 Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). This year’s funding notice also creates six new types of grants that support fair housing capacity building, education and outreach activities, and testing in rental and sales transactions.

Each year, HUD makes funding available to support organizations interested in the enforcement of fair housing laws and policies as well as educating the public, housing providers, and local governments about their rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act.

“The funding is part of the Department’s ongoing commitment to giving our fair housing partners the vital financial resources they need to create sustainable, inclusive communities of opportunity,” said HUD’s Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Gustavo Velasquez. “Organizations dedicated to this work are an essential component of our efforts to put an end to unlawful housing discrimination and these grants make their work possible.”

The categories of grants being made available today are:

- Private Enforcement Initiative grants (PEI) – \$29,275,000 available. HUD awards these to help local non-profit fair housing organizations carry out testing and enforcement activities to prevent or eliminate discriminatory housing practices.
- Education and Outreach Initiative grants (EOI) – \$3,500,000 available. HUD awards these to groups that educate the public and housing providers about their rights and responsibilities under federal law or state and local fair housing laws that are equivalent to the Fair Housing Act.
- Fair Housing Organizations Initiative (FHOI) – \$6,425,000 available. HUD awards these to help build the capacity and effectiveness of non-profit fair housing organizations, particularly organizations that focus on the rights and needs of underserved groups, such as rural and immigrant populations.

The new categories of grants being made available today include:

FHOI:

- Special Emphasis Component – Up to \$350,000 per grant – These grants will strengthen the enforcement activities and capacity building efforts of organizations and help them pursue cases that investigate systemic patterns of discrimination.
- National/Regional Testing Component – Up to \$500,000 per grant – These grants will enable organizations to develop and support a national/regional testing program to identify discrimination in rental and sales transactions.

EOI:

- National Programs Component – Sex Discrimination - \$500,000 per grant – Organizations will use this grant to conduct education and outreach projects that counter sex discrimination in housing, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, gender stereotyping or discrimination based on gender identity.
- National Programs Component – Sex/Familial Status Discrimination- \$500,000 per grant – This grant will enable organizations to conduct education and outreach projects that focus on one or more forms of sex or familial status discrimination.
- National Programs Component – National Origin Discrimination- \$500,000 per grant – Organizations will use this grant to address one or more forms of national origin discrimination in rental, sales, or lending.
- National Programs Component – Disability Discrimination- \$500,000 per grant – This grant will enable organizations, using the results of recent discrimination studies, to conduct education and outreach activities that address discrimination based on disability, particularly discrimination experienced by individuals with mobility impairments, hearing impairments, and cognitive or mental disabilities.

Read HUD’s 2015 funding notice here: <http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=278027> .

The application deadline is August 26, 2015.

Persons who believe they have been denied a reasonable accommodation request may file a complaint by contacting HUD’s Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at (800) 669-9777 (voice) or (800) 927-9275 (TTY). Housing discrimination complaints may also be filed by going to www.hud.gov/fairhousing or by downloading HUD’s free housing discrimination mobile application, which can be accessed through Apple devices, such as the iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



During the August recess when Members of Congress are working from their district offices, advocates are encouraged to take action to support the HOME program by:

- Calling your Representatives and Senators, urging them to restore funding for the HOME program.
- Inviting your Representatives and Senators to visit your organization, tour a HOME-funded development, or meet a family that has a safe, decent, and affordable home because of HOME.
- Calling your local government officials and telling them to contact your community’s Congressional delegation, urging them to make restoring the budget for HOME a top priority.

The final HOME Coalition letter is at <https://www.ncsha.org/resource/home-coalition-letter-congressionalleadership-proposed-fy-2016-cuts-home>

More about the HOME Coalition is at <https://www.ncsha.org/resource/home-coalition-advocacy-materials>

More about the HOME program is on page 5-11 of NLIHC’s 2015 Advocates’ Guide,

http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Sec5.04_HOME-Investment-Partnerships_2015.pdf

→ Funding Opportunities – Pierce County

For the first time, in 2015, a series of communications will precede the release of the Pierce County Homeless Housing Program (HHP) Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) where we will communicate changes in the delivery of homeless housing interventions and services. We are changing the way we communicate our policy priorities and expectations so you won't need to look for "clues" in the NOFA to know what we are trying to accomplish.

The Homeless Housing and Assistance Program NOFA is now posted on the Community Connections website at www.piercecountywa.org/ccNOFA.

Applications are due no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 11, 2015.

HHAP NOFA Pre Release #1: Systems Change Initiative

This message is the first in the series. The topics covered over the next few weeks are intended to help providers thoughtfully consider and prepare for the changes being addressed in the 2015 HHP NOFA. The following topics will be covered:

1. Systems Change Initiative –**Key Aspects of Change**
2. Major Features of the Homeless Crisis Response System (in this NOFA)
 - a. Temporary Housing (emergency shelter and transitional housing)
 - b. Permanent Housing (permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing)
3. Performance Based Contracting
4. Program Capacity

Homeless Housing Program NOFA Pre Release #2 - Key Components of the Homeless Response System

This message is the second in a series of four memos to the community designed to communicate changes in the delivery of homeless housing interventions and services that will be funded through the 2015 Pierce County Homeless Housing Program (HHP) funding opportunity. This second memo will provide a brief description of the housing intervention components of the homeless response system.

The first topic, Systems Change Initiative-Key Aspects of Change (HHP NOFA Pre Release #1 Key Aspects of Change) was made available the week of August 3. Topics covered through these communications over the next few weeks are intended to help applicants thoughtfully consider and prepare for the changes being addressed in the 2015 Pierce County HHP funding opportunity.

Ctrl + Click to follow link [Key Components of the Homeless Response System](http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/DocumentCenter/View/37815)
<http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/DocumentCenter/View/37815>

Performance-Based Contracting

Pierce County has been spearheading a system change initiative with the goal of transforming the collection of existing homeless projects and services into a system that quickly and effectively resolves the crisis of homelessness. Our approach in the County is consistent with the federal Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act that, among other things, requires communities to measure their performance as a coordinated system, in addition to analyzing performance by specific projects or housing interventions. The County has been encouraged by federal and local funders to regularly measure its progress in meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness in the community and to be able to report this progress.

In 2016, the County will be phasing in performance based contracting. All funded projects are expected to meet the performance targets detailed in the table below. County staff will assess each project's results on a monthly and quarterly basis using HMIS and other data, such as invoices. The County acknowledges that some of the targets may be a stretch, especially as we move to serving a higher need population, and will work with providers to help them be successful.

Link to HHP NOFA Pre Release #3 Performance Based Contracting
<http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/index.aspx?NID=3715&ART=8434&ADMIN=1>

If you have any questions please e-mail Rae Anne Giron at rgiron@co.pierce.wa.us

→ WA Housing Trust Fund Policy Advisory Team – recruiting members

The Department of Commerce is soliciting applications for membership on its Policy Advisory Team (PAT). The PAT is a technical advisory committee of the Affordable Housing Advisory Board (AHAB) that advises the AHAB and Department of Commerce on program policy related to the Housing Trust Fund. The PAT meets on a quarterly basis, with meetings typically held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Seattle area.

For information regarding PAT membership criteria and responsibilities, please review the attached PAT Membership Responsibilities. If you are interested in serving as a member of the PAT, please fill out the attached form and **return it**



PAT Membership
Responsibilities_June-



PAT Membership
Application Form.docx

to Janet Masella by COB Tuesday, August 25, 2015.

Up to six members will be selected at this time, but representatives are specifically being sought for the following stakeholder groups: Homeless Provider and Special Needs. Selections will be made by the current PAT Chair, Chris Pegg, in consultation with the HTF Managing Director and will be based on the criteria in the PAT Membership Responsibilities. Applicants will be notified by Thursday, September 3, if they have been selected to serve as a member. Members will serve a 3-year term, beginning in September 2015.

Please note that attendance at PAT meetings is open to anyone and all are encouraged to participate in PAT meeting discussions; however, voting is limited to members. Membership criteria are intended to ensure equitable representation of stakeholder groups and geographic areas. A list of PAT members and their contact information, as well as meeting agendas and summaries, will be posted on the Department of Commerce website. If you are unable to participate in meetings, you are encouraged to contact the appropriate PAT representative to bring forward program-related issues or to provide input to Commerce on your behalf. If you would like to be added to the PAT Interested Parties email distribution list, please contact [Alisha Reitan](#).

The next meeting of the PAT will be September 16, 9 am – 1 pm, at the WSHFC Training Room, in Seattle.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact [Janet Masella](#) or [Chris Pegg](#).

→ EVENTS

MDC Annual Breakfast

September 29 Hotel Murano Bicentennial Pavilion

Doors open 7 am

Program begins at 7:30 am

Tickets are free

Bellwether Housing: Closer to Home Breakfast

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Grand Lobby at Benaroya Hall – Seattle

7:30 - 8:00 a.m. networking & registration

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. program

The suggested donation amount is \$200.

RSVP: To participate as a Table Captain (table seats 10) or to register for the event, please contact events@bellwetherhousing.org or 206-957-2700

Impact of Racism on the Health and Well-Being of the Nation

The Health Department is registering for the webinars and scheduling them to be viewed on a large screen in our meeting rooms. You are most welcome to join our staff who will be viewing the webinars. We are located at 3629 So. D St. (corner of Pacific Avenue and So. 37th). There is a parking lot on the Pacific Avenue side that leads to our first floor and a parking lot on the D St. side (main entrance) that leads to our 2nd floor.

September 1, 2015, 11:00 PDT

Racism: The Silent Partner in High School Dropout and Health Disparities

Rainier Conference Room – 2nd floor

Project Homeless Connect

October 28, 2015, Tacoma Armory

715 S 11th St. Tacoma, WA 98405

If any agency would like to attend the event they can visit www.pchomelessconnect.com to reserve a spot.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Alanna Rodgers, Director of Community Relations, alanna@soundoutreach.org - 253.593.2111

➔ JOBS

LASA – Serving Greater Pierce County

Facilities Manager/Handyman



Job announcement
FACILITIES.docx

MDC – Making a Difference in Community

- [Management Aide - http://mdc-hope.org/how-to-engage/jobs#MA4](http://mdc-hope.org/how-to-engage/jobs#MA4)
- [Housing Aide - http://mdc-hope.org/how-to-engage/jobs#HA](http://mdc-hope.org/how-to-engage/jobs#HA)