

NAHMA HUD Update: VAWA Self-Petitioner Procedures and AFFH Revised Assessment Tools

Dear NAHMA members,

Ahead of today's Presidential inauguration and the switch in administrations, HUD issued two more notices regarding VAWA and Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing:

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA): Self-Petitioner Verification Procedures

On 1/19/17, HUD issued a VAWA [notice](#) relating to non-citizen self-petitioner procedures under VAWA. The notice, which applies to public housing, HCV assistance, and Section 8 Mod Rehab, explains procedures PHAs must follow when an applicant or resident requests admission or continued residency as a result of being a VAWA self-petitioner (someone who claims to be a victim of "battery or extreme cruelty," including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking).

Although ineligible non-citizens cannot receive financial assistance from HUD, assistance must not be denied while verifying immigration status. HUD has determined that self-petitioners can indicate that they are in "satisfactory immigration status" – an immigration status that does not make them ineligible for financial assistance – which is to be verified in DHS's immigration verification system.

Only non-citizen victims who have been subjected to battery or extreme cruelty by a spouse or parent who is a U.S. citizen or Legal Permanent Resident qualify under these procedures.

To view the most recent VAWA implementation regulations issued by HUD, please click [here](#).

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing: Revised Assessment Tools for Local Governments and PHAs

On 1/13/17, HUD published revised assessment tools for [local governments](#) and for [PHAs](#) relating to Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH). The revised tools are for use by PHAs or by program participants receiving CDBG, HOME, ESG, or HOPWA formula funding for Assessments of Fair Housing (AFH). The separate tools are to be used either between local governments or between one or more local government and a PHA.

The most significant difference between the 2016 and 2015 Assessment Tools is that in the 2016 version, HUD has included two inserts designed to facilitate collaboration between different types of program participants that choose to conduct a joint or regional AFH with a local government as the lead entity, and to reduce burden for smaller program participants choosing to enter into joint or regional collaborations.

On 1/19/17, HUD also published Interim Guidance for Program Participants on the Status of Assessment Tools and Submission Options. The guidance will be updated based on the availability of Assessment Tools for States and Insular Areas and PHAs, or January 1st, 2019 – whichever is earlier.

To view HUD's comparison of the 2016 and 2015 Assessments Tools, please click [here](#).

Thanks,

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NAHMA is the leading voice for affordable housing management, advocating on behalf of multifamily property managers and owners whose mission is to provide quality affordable housing.