

Standing Together Against Harmful Federal Policies that Will Impact Public Housing

HUD and the Trump Administration are targeting longstanding public housing policies that will impact all residents in federal public housing.



We need to stand together as a public housing community and as neighbors to oppose these new proposals. Note that these changes have not been made yet. But if enacted, these harmful policies will:

Force thousands of immigrant families and their children out of public housing.

- For decades, mixed status families have been able to live in HUD housing as long as one family member is a U.S. citizen or has eligible immigration status. These families receive partial housing assistance that covers eligible family members only. These families pay a higher amount in rent, which helps pay for housing for all public housing tenants.
- HUD wants to kick out or separate these “mixed status” families, even though they include U.S. citizens and family members with eligible immigration status. This could impact 70,000 people across the country and possibly 50,000 children.
- This would cost over \$500 million in the first year and then up to \$370 million each year after that. According to HUD, to make up for these costs, housing authorities will need to spend less on repairs and maintenance of public housing units. As a result, existing public housing tenants may experience worsening conditions, and desperately needed apartments may stay vacant.

Require housing authorities to verify the citizenship of every single federal public housing tenant, regardless of age.

- This will create massive red tape and again divert federal funding away from other badly needed areas like maintenance.
- Cost housing authorities more than \$18 million a year on staff time to verify information.
- Cost existing tenants between \$9 - \$46.5 million a year to obtain documents needed for verification. *If existing tenants don't provide verification they may face eviction.*
- Cost new tenant applicants \$3.5 million - \$17.8 million to obtain verification.

Establish two-year “term limits” and 40-hours per week “work requirements” for tenants currently living in public housing, HUD subsidized multifamily, & housing choice vouchers.

From **ProPublica**:

“The first rule would not mandate work requirements and time limits; instead, it permits local housing authorities and landlords to implement them. Hobbs originally wanted the rule to require those policies, but career staffers at HUD persuaded him to make them voluntary, according to a HUD official familiar with the matter. The rule would allow local housing authorities and private landlords to impose work requirements and time limits in four major federal housing programs: public housing, Housing Choice Vouchers, Project-Based Vouchers and Project-Based Rental Assistance (the latter three are part of what is commonly called Section 8). Residents, including both parents in two-parent households, could be required to work up to 40 hours a week. The time limits could be as short as two years, after which residents would lose assistance.”

“The time limits would apply to any family in which the household heads are not elderly or disabled, with few exceptions. Similarly, the work requirements would apply to residents ages 18 to 61 who are not disabled, pregnant, primary caretakers of young children, college students or in other exempted categories. Housing providers may allow them to perform job training or community service instead of traditional work. Housing providers implementing work requirements would have to offer support services to residents, but what those services are would be up to the providers. HUD expects 750 public housing authorities and 3,500 landlords to implement work requirements or term limits in response to the new rule. Such provisions will likely be adopted first in more conservative parts of the country, Fischer said.”

For the full article go to:

www.propublica.org/article/trump-housing-reforms-aid-hud-immigration-homelessness

Take Action

Our voices matter. You might think that these policies could never happen, but they will unless we stand together to oppose them. Get ready and stand by. Mass Union will be distributing fact sheets and sample letters that can help you express your concerns about these rule changes to HUD when the time comes. HUD is legally required to consider your comments and must provide a reasoned justification before it can implement the rule over your objections.