



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2013 PROGRAM AND BUDGET INITIATIVES
COMBATING DISCRIMINATION AND AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHERING FAIR HOUSING

In Fiscal Year 2013, HUD is requesting \$68 million to ensure inclusivity in housing.

An inclusive community is one in which all people—regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, disability, or familial status—have equal access to housing and economic opportunities. Throughout its portfolio of programs, HUD is committed to maintaining that inclusivity and providing accountability in housing and lending practices nationwide. Through inclusive development, education, enforcement of fair housing laws, expanded training and language assistance, HUD will affirmatively further fair housing and the ideals of an open society.

FAIR HOUSING INITIATIVES PROGRAM

The Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) is critical to building and sustaining inclusive communities. FHIP is the only grant program within the federal government whose primary purpose support private efforts to educate the public about fair housing rights and conduct private enforcement of the Fair Housing Act. Enforcement work and testing by FHIP organizations significantly strengthen complaints filed with the Department and Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) agencies. FHIP grantees provide valuable assistance screening out cases that would otherwise be received by HUD and FHAP agencies but do not necessarily fall within our jurisdiction or have merit; without their assistance the number of cases filed with HUD would double. FHIP agencies also improve the quality of cases filed with HUD and FHAP agencies so much that cases referred or filed by a FHIP agency are twice as likely to result in a settlement or charge as all other cases. FHIP agencies also conduct education and outreach activities that help inform people of their rights under the Fair Housing Act, as well as educate housing industry staff about the kinds of actions that violate the Fair Housing Act.

In Fiscal Year 2013, HUD is requesting \$41.1 million in FHIP funds, representing the Department's commitment to fair housing, including \$27.9 million to support the efforts of private fair housing organizations that conduct private enforcement of the Fair Housing Act. The Private Enforcement Initiative

(PEI) grantees investigate and test housing providers alleged to have engaged in discrimination. The requested amount will continue funding to support fair housing enforcement by all statutorily eligible private fair housing organizations. In addition it will fund fair housing education at the local, regional and national levels.

Language Access in HUD

HUD's Limited English Proficiency Initiative (LEPI) is vital to ensuring that individuals who are not proficient in English are aware of their rights, able to understand the terms of leases and other housing-related documents, and able to receive important announcements that affect the health or safety of their households.

Since Congress initiated the LEPI program in Fiscal Year 2008, the Department has used this funding to translate vital HUD documents in up to 19 languages. While these funds have made it possible for HUD to better reach new populations, until now the appropriations have permitted document translation only. This request will fund not only translation of HUD documents, but also oral interpretation services at HUD events; oral interpretation for LEP persons seeking to access HUD services by telephone; acquisition of technology that conducts simultaneous oral translation; marketing of HUD's language access services to the populations that need them; and public education on the availability of and the right to obtain information regarding HUD-funded services in multiple languages.

In Fiscal Year 2013, the Department requests \$500,000 to support LEPI.



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FAIR HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) is a critical component of HUD's effort to ensure the public's right to housing free from discrimination. FHAP provides funding for 98 government agencies, including 37 states, 60 localities, and the District of Columbia, to enforce laws that prohibit housing discrimination that have been reviewed and deemed substantially equivalent to Federal law. **In Fiscal Year 2013, HUD is requesting \$24.6 million in FHAP funds.**

FHAP multiplies HUD's enforcement capabilities, allowing the Department to protect fair housing rights in an efficient and effective manner. In fact, FHAP agencies investigate the majority of housing discrimination complaints filed in the United States. In Fiscal Year 2011, this amounted to 7,800 investigations of housing and lending discrimination. As a result of these investigations, FHAP agencies secured approximately \$6.5 million for people affected by housing discrimination in addition to other forms of relief, including the provision of housing, the discontinuance of eviction proceedings, the reduction of mortgage interest rates, the retrofit of inaccessible housing, the provision of reasonable accommodations, and the allowance of reasonable modifications. In addition to obtaining direct relief for the victims of housing discrimination, the presence of FHAP enforcement activities significantly deter housing providers and lenders from engaging in discriminatory practices.



NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING TRAINING ACADEMY

The National Fair Housing Training Academy further enhances fair housing work in the country. Through its one-of-a-kind fair housing courses tailored to fair housing investigators, administrators, and testers, the Academy provides advanced courses as well as a 5-week certification program for fair housing investigators. **In Fiscal Year 2013, HUD is requesting \$1.8 million for the National Fair Housing Training Academy, within the FHAP account.**

This is the first year the Department has requested funding for the Academy, independent of the FHAP budget. Since the Academy was established in 2004, it has been funded through the FHAP and has enhanced the skills of investigators in more than 100 state and local enforcement agencies. Establishing the Academy as a separate institution will allow the Department to add additional courses to a broader housing audience, offer courses in a wider range of locations, support cross-training, and develop an effective national training strategy that ensures that those who work in fair housing nationally have access to a consistent, reliable training resource.

Finally, HUD also works to ensure that entities that receive federal funds take proactive steps to reduce barriers to housing based on race, color, national origin, gender, religion, disability, and familial status. The Fair Housing Act requires that HUD ensures that taxpayer money does not perpetuate residential housing segregation and, instead, works to prevent and undo the effects of past discrimination. In this respect, HUD's fair housing mission is embraced by every office of the Department, and furthered through program budgets beyond the budget specifically allocated for fair housing activities. All of HUD is committed to promoting diverse, inclusive and sustainable communities that welcome all-comers and strengthen America's position in a global society.