

Final Rule on “Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs – Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity” Published

March 6, 2012

HUD’s final rule, [“Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs – Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity,”](#) is effective immediately (March 5, 2012). It applies to all McKinney-Vento-funded housing programs, as well as to other housing assisted or insured by HUD. The rule creates a new regulatory provision that generally prohibits considering a person’s marital status, sexual orientation, or gender identity (a person’s internal sense of being male or female) in making homeless housing assistance available. As the nation’s housing agency, HUD’s goal is to ensure that our programs are carried out free from discrimination and are models for equal housing opportunity. Now lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people are guaranteed equal access to our housing and shelters.

Additional guidance will be made available on the [HUD Homelessness Resource Exchange](#) to guide providers in addressing questions about the rule. HUD is finalizing a webinar on the rule that will be available for the public to view on YouTube later this week.

You may also want to see [FHEO’s website](#) for the public for a link to the rule, information on the rule, examples of violations, and where to turn for more information. A link to a webinar related to this topic will be posted there later this week. Finally, FHEO set up an email address for LGBT fair housing questions, LGBTfairhousing@hud.gov . If you have additional questions regarding the rule, please contact your local CPD representative or submit a question to the [HUD HRE Virtual Help Desk.](#)