



APRIL IS NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING MONTH. HUD issued a [press release](#) describing a new media campaign.

HOUSE AND SENATE APPROVE NONBINDING BUDGET RESOLUTIONS. The House passed [H.Con.Res.27](#) on March 25 and the Senate approved [S.Con.Res. 11](#) on March 27. Both houses would retain sequester spending caps for FY16 and make deeper cuts beginning in FY17. Differences between the two mean there may not be agreement on a joint resolution, which would not have the force of law but would guide development of appropriations bills for FY16.

NAHASDA REAUTHORIZATION PASSES HOUSE. The House passed [H.R. 360](#), the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Reauthorization Act, on March 23. The Senate [Indian Affairs Committee](#) held a hearing March 18 on its bill, [S. 710](#).

USDA OFFERS FARMWORKER HOUSING LOANS AND GRANTS. Pre-applications for construction or purchase and sub-stancial rehab of off-farm housing are due June 23. Rental Assistance and operating assistance are available. Projects serving high poverty census tracts will receive additional points. Contact an [RD state office](#) for an application package.

HOUSING COUNSELING GRANTS AVAILABLE. HUD-approved housing counseling agencies can [apply](#) by May 7. Contact [HUD staff](#).

HUD REQUESTS COMMENT ON VAWA RULE CHANGES. A [proposed rule](#) implementing the 2013 Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act would increase protections for survivors of domestic and dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault who live in rental housing assisted by HUD. [Comments](#) are due June 1. [HAC's website](#) provides a brief summary of the proposal. Separate contacts for HUD programs are listed in the proposed rule. HUD's proposal covers USDA-funded rental units that have HUD Section 8 assistance, but not other USDA rentals. USDA has implemented the 2013 VAWA through Administrative Notices [4747](#) (February 10, 2014) and [4778](#) (January 5, 2015).

BROADBAND DEMONSTRATION IN HUD HOUSING CONSIDERED. HUD requests [comments](#) by May 1 on a [proposed demonstration](#) aimed at narrowing the digital divide for students in HUD-assisted housing. It wants to partner with local governments, business, and nonprofits "to accelerate broadband adoption and use in HUD-assisted homes." HUD intends to conduct the initial demonstration in about 20 HUD-assisted communities across the country, both urban and rural, and hopes to expand it nationwide eventually. Contact Camille E. Acevedo, HUD, 202-402-5132.

USDA APPROVAL FOR RESTRUCTURING SENIOR LOANS EXPLAINED. An [Unnumbered Letter](#) dated February 27, 2015 is intended to clarify the process for obtaining official RD prior approval and permission to restructure a third-party loan to which a Section 515 loan is subordinate. Contact an [RD state office](#).

WAYS TO SPEED AGENCY PROCESSING OF SECTION 502 GUARANTEED LOANS SUGGESTED. An [Unnumbered Letter](#) dated March 13, 2015 lists "tips and best practices for increasing operational efficiencies and to eliminate unnecessary unproductive processes." Contact the Rural Housing Service's National Office, 202-720-1452.

HUD SETS REQUIREMENTS FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE TRANSFERS. A [notice](#) describes the conditions for HUD approval of requests to transfer project-based rental assistance, debt held or insured by HUD, and use restrictions from one or more multifamily housing project to another or others. Contact Nancie-Ann Bodell, HUD, 202-708-2495.

UPDATE FOR SECTION 3 REGULATIONS PROPOSED. HUD suggests strengthening its oversight of Section 3, which requires giving jobs and other economic opportunities generated by HUD assistance to low- and very low-income persons to the extent possible. Comments are due May 26. Contact Staci Gilliam, HUD, 202-402-3468.

RURAL HOUSING TENANT DATA FOR 2014 NOW AVAILABLE. USDA RD's annual issuance provides figures at the national and state levels for the agency's multifamily portfolio as a whole and separately for Section 515, Section 514/516, and Rental Assistance. There were 1,645 fewer units in 2014 than in 2013. The average income for Section 515 tenants is now \$12,022 and for Rental Assistance recipients \$10,258. Elderly and disabled households remain a majority in Section 515 units, at 61.65%, and the proportion of households with disabilities increased.

HOMELESSNESS HAS DECREASED, CHANGE VARIES WIDELY AMONG STATES, REPORT SAYS. *The State of Homelessness in America 2015*, by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, reports data for states and for subpopulations.

CFPB UPDATES HOMEBUYING TOOLKIT. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has revised its information booklet, "Your Home Loan Toolkit: A Step-by-Step Guide." Contact Julie Vore, CFPB, 202-435-7700.

HAC SETS ENERGY STAR WEBINAR FOR APRIL 8. Register online for HAC's upcoming webinar, "A Practitioner's Guide to Energy Star 3.0," to be held on April 8 at 2 pm Eastern time. Contact HAC staff, 404-892-4824.