



How Tenants Can Participate in Federal Rulemaking



This flyer describes how Public Housing or Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) tenants can participate in the process that creates the regulations that govern U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) housing and other federal programs.

Q What are regulations?

Congress passes laws. Then agencies like HUD may implement those laws by creating regulations. HUD's regulations are rules that tell public housing agencies (PHAs) how to operate federal housing programs.



Q How are regulations made?

HUD creates regulations through a rulemaking process.



Q How do regulations affect me?

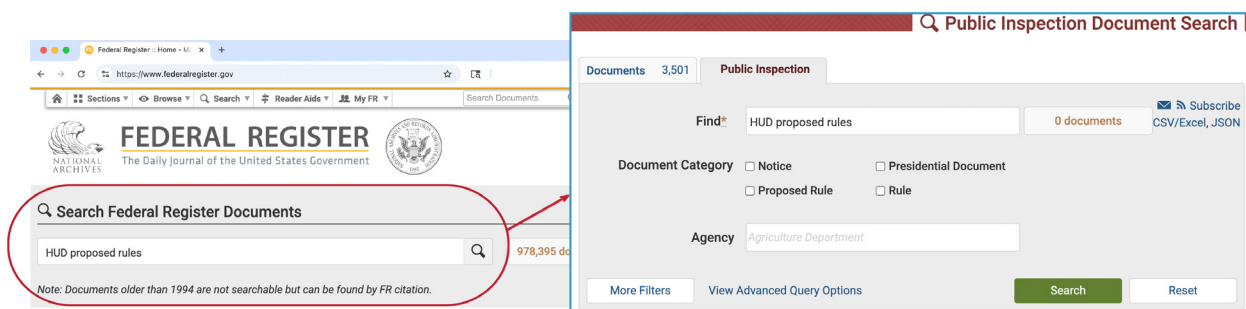
Programs like Public Housing and HCV are federal housing programs that are managed by PHAs on a state or local level. PHAs may adopt their own policies for these programs based on the needs of their communities, but the policy must still follow HUD's regulations. PHAs' policies can impact who is eligible for housing assistance or how your income is counted to decide how much rent you pay, for example.

Q How can I participate in the rulemaking process?



When HUD intends to update its regulations, HUD must publish a "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" or proposed rule in the *Federal Register*. The *Federal Register* informs citizens of their rights and obligations and provides access to a wide range of federal benefits and opportunities for funding. The *Federal Register* is available to everyone online at www.federalregister.gov.

You can search the *Federal Register* for "HUD proposed rules," and then click the "Public Inspection" button to find current rules. You can send your comments on proposed rules. HUD must review all comments and respond.





HUD must (with few exceptions) give the public at least 30 days to comment.

The notice of the proposed rule usually includes information about any public hearings. You can speak at a public hearing or just attend to learn more about the proposed rule. If no hearing is scheduled, anyone can request a public hearing. The notice will include information on how to request a public hearing.



You can also submit comments on a proposed rule. If the period for commenting is open, you may click a button marked “Submit a Comment” at the top of the proposed rule in the *Federal Register* to type your comment directly or upload a document with your comment. You can also submit comments via postal mail at this address:



**Regulations Division, Office of General Counsel
Department of Housing and Urban Development**
451 7th Street SW, Room 10276
Washington, DC 20410-0500



Comments can be sent individually or together with a group. Groups could include resident, community or advocacy groups. To keep current on changes to housing programs, you can also visit the [Council of Large Public Housing Authorities](#) or the [National Low Income Housing Coalition](#).

Q What are other ways I can impact the rulemaking process?

Individuals or groups can also ask to meet with officials developing the proposed rule. You can also contact your members of Congress. Don't be intimidated by the idea of contacting your members of Congress – they are there to serve you! You can contact your members of Congress by emailing, calling, attending a scheduled meeting, or by sending a letter.



To find your Representative, go to this website: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>. For information on how to contact your Senators, go to this website: <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>.



For more tenant resources, visit Tenant Empowerment on the HUD Exchange at <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/public-housing/tenant-empowerment>.



Contact your local PHA at <https://www.hud.gov/contactus/public-housing-contacts> for more information.

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