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HUD Starts The Rollback Of Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing?

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Today, HUD issued a notice extending until after October 31, 2020, the deadline for cities and other participating jurisdictions to submit assessments of fair housing (AFH), the new reporting and assessment tool required by HUD's 2015 affirmatively furthering fair housing (AFFH) rule. Some participating jurisdictions have already submitted AFHs, and the New York Times reports today that HUD says it will stop reviewing them. Per a prior notice from HUD, AFHs for public housing authorities, states and insular areas have not yet been due.

Today's notice reminds HUD recipients that they still must affirmatively further fair housing, but we cannot help but wonder if this is the Trump administration's attempt to start rolling back the AFFH rule, which has been the subject of a fair amount of controversy since its publication. The AFHs have also raised concerns for many, including PHAs concerned about the unfunded reporting burden and the potential for enforcement if goals outlined in the AFHs are not met.

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