



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Suburban Housing Center Applauds HUD's New Fair Housing Rule

CHICAGO – An important new fair housing regulation issuance – aimed at promoting diverse, inclusive communities and overcoming the negative effects of segregation – was announced yesterday by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Secretary, Julian Castro, during a press conference held on the south side of Chicago. Castro said, “Unfortunately, too many Americans find their dreams limited by where they come from, and a ZIP code should never determine a child’s future. This important step will give local leaders the tools they need to provide all Americans with access to safe, affordable housing in communities that are rich with opportunity.” The regulation is designed to guide jurisdictions in complying with their existing obligations to “affirmatively further fair housing,” a key provision of the 1968 Fair Housing Act. It requires state and local governments and housing authorities to consider how to eliminate fair housing barriers for people of color, families with children and people with disabilities.

For the first time, HUD will provide substantial data on housing, demographics and other local conditions for state and local policymakers to assess in determining, among other things, the degree of segregation, concentrated poverty and barriers to equal housing opportunity in their communities.

“Although we have made some progress, our nation remains a highly segregated society,” said South Suburban Housing Center Director, John Petruszak. “Maps of major metropolitan areas illustrate how segregated our communities are. At the same time, where you live has a big impact on how your life unfolds. It determines the schools your children attend, the jobs you have access to, the quality of your surroundings, your access to transportation and grocery stores and other important community resources. In the south suburbs, too many children are growing up in communities lacking these resources. This not only limits their life prospects, but undermines our region’s prosperity.

“This new HUD rule will help all jurisdictions in the Chicago area be more deliberate and strategic about how they use their federal housing and community development resources to expand access to opportunity for all residents of our community,” added Petruszak. “We look forward to working with local mayors and policymakers, to ensure that all people – regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, family status or disability – can have the widest choice on where to live, and ensure all communities are good places to live.”

About South Suburban Housing Center:

SSHC is the regional fair housing and housing counseling agency serving the south Chicago metropolitan area for the last forty years. Its organizational mission mirrors the protections set forth in the Fair Housing Act by operating programs to enforce the fair housing laws and foster the existence of stable diverse communities.

For more information visit www.southsuburbanhousingcenter.org.

To learn more about the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Final Rule visit: www.hud.gov/AFFH.

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