



**Management Bulletin #487**

**DATE:** February 7, 2020  
**TO:** Owners/Agents of Properties with IHDA Funding  
**CC:** Asset Management Department Staff  
**FROM:** Asset Management Department, IHDA  
**RE:** New HUD Guidance on Assistance Animals

**SUMMARY:**

The HUD Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity has issued new guidance on [Assessing a Person's Request to Have an Animal as a Reasonable Accommodation Under the Fair Housing Act](#) (FHEO-2020-01).

**All properties with IHDA funding are required to provide reasonable accommodation of assistance animals under the Fair Housing Act.** Yet 6% of respondents to IHDA's recent Pet Policy Survey said they do not have policies in place to ensure compliance with assistance animal rules.

HUD's guidance addresses:

- best practices for assessing accommodation requests, and
- documentation individuals requesting accommodation may be required to provide.

HUD indicates the new guidance is intended to help housing providers distinguish between a person with a legitimate need for an assistance animal, and a person without a disability who simply wants to have a pet, without violating fair housing rules.

The new guidance replaces HUD's prior guidance, FHEO-2013-01.

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