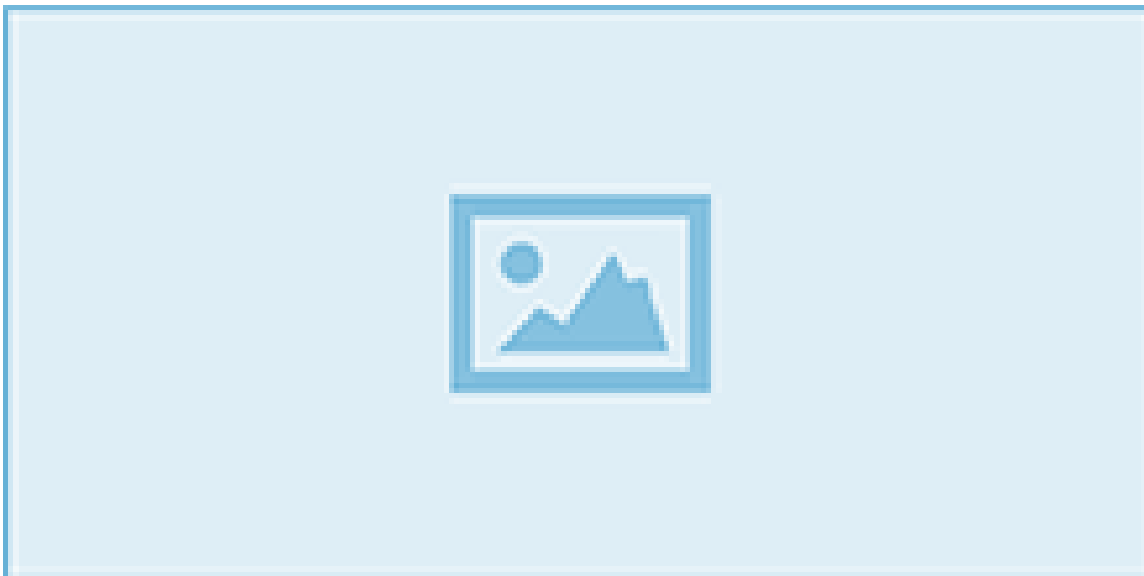


Important Information on "Opening Doors," a HUD supported Federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness.



HUD is an active participant in [Opening Doors](#), the Federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness, developed in 2010 and amended in 2015. The Plan provides a framework for Federal agencies along with state and local partners to work together to meet specific goals to end homelessness. The Southwest Regional HUD office has an internal goal of having 2% of new tenant certifications for assisted housing report experiencing homelessness prior to move-in for fiscal year 2016.

In July 2013, HUD issued Notice H 2013-21 "[Implementation and approval of owner-adopted admissions preferences for individuals or families experiencing homelessness](#)." We have now created a step-by-step toolkit to facilitate community involvement and successful implementation of the homeless preference. To accompany the tool kit, a HUD Exchange web page is in production and a webinar will soon be available for viewing and use. The web page will provide a variety of resources related to creating a preference and working to end homelessness.

Please view the toolkit at [Opening Doors Through Multifamily Housing: Toolkit for Implementing a Homeless Preference](#). This toolkit draws on the experiences of 10 communities that HUD funded to pilot its 2012 initiative called Dedicating Opportunities to End Homelessness (DOEH) - part of HUD's Opening Doors initiative. Opening Doors relies upon building and maintaining a community-wide effort to appropriately address and end homelessness. Owners and their management companies will work with local partners to both implement their property's homeless preference and contribute towards ending homelessness in their communities.

The toolkit provides detailed discussion and direction through the following parts of an effective process:

- Creating a multifamily planning and implementation team
- Examining and understanding the community needs and available multifamily housing resources
- Identifying and engaging service providers
- Engaging multifamily property owners
- Formalizing agreements between service Providers and owners
- Supporting owners' implementation of the homeless preference
- Refining the process

We appreciate your assistance in helping the Department achieve this goal. In the coming months the Southwest Region will host a conference call for the owners and property management agents in our jurisdiction to provide further information and answer questions.

If your property has already adopted and implemented a homeless preference, please send the property name and iREMS ID to Tamara Torres, the 2016 Southwest Region Coordinator for Opening Doors at 817-978-5881 or Tamara.N.Torres@hud.gov. For questions about adopting a homeless preference or the Tool Kit please contact your assigned Account Executive.

Southwest Housing Compliance Corporation, 1124 South IH 35, Austin, TX 78704

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