

Public Comment Template

Federal agencies like HUD are legally required to solicit and consider public comments before finalizing rules. The proposed rule on verification of eligible status is not yet final, and your input can directly influence the outcome. In 2019, a similar proposal received over 30,000 public comments and was ultimately withdrawn.

Deadline: April 21, 2026

Submit Here: <https://www.regulations.gov/commenton/HUD-2026-0199-0001>

1. State Your Opposition

“I strongly oppose HUD’s proposed rule ‘Housing and Community Development Act of 1980: Verification of Eligible Status.’”

2. Example Comment Starters (copy or edit a comment from below or write your own)

General Public Example Comments (Clients, Community Members, Advocates)

- “Prorated assistance currently ensures families can stay together while subsidies are allocated only to eligible members. Eliminating it will increase family separation, impacting the health of tens of thousands of U.S. citizen children.”
- “Removing mixed-status families will not solve the underlying housing supply problem but will create more administrative burden and costs, vacant units, and exacerbate the housing crisis.”
- “This rule would adversely affect populations who are already quite vulnerable: those who are formerly unhoused, victims of domestic violence, the disabled, or the elderly. U.S. citizens in these circumstances often cannot provide all required documentation, so this rule could unfairly deny them assistance.”

Staff Member Example Comments

- "Many families with children served by Neighborhood House in early education Head Start programs cannot safely speak for themselves due to fear of immigration enforcement or family separation. Losing housing would force them to move frequently, interrupting early learning and creating stress that affects both physical and mental health. By commenting, we amplify their voices and advocate for the stability they cannot demand on their own."
- “At Neighborhood House, we help clients enroll in health insurance, access preventive care, and manage chronic conditions. When families lose stable housing, these connections are disrupted: appointments are missed, medications are interrupted, and preventable health issues escalate into emergencies.”
- “Neighborhood House provides employment and adult education services to help clients achieve economic stability. Housing instability makes it significantly harder for

individuals to maintain jobs, attend training programs, or pursue education opportunities.”

- "Some clients at my organization Neighborhood House have survived domestic violence or homelessness and are now trying to rebuild stable lives. They cannot risk sharing their experiences publicly. Losing housing would force them back into unsafe or temporary living situations, disrupting their children’s routines and creating stress that undermines recovery and stability."
- “At Neighborhood House, we see U.S. citizen families avoid applying for housing due to fear of deportation. This rule would intensify that chilling effect, further reducing access to federally assisted housing.”
- “This rule would turn housing authorities and by extension, my organization Neighborhood House, as a partner in housing stability efforts into de facto immigration status enforcers. That shifts our community relationships from trust to fear, decreases program participation, and disproportionately harms residents who already face steep systemic barriers to services.”

Leadership Example Comments

- “I am on the board of Neighborhood House, which serves over 13,000 community members annually including public housing residents who rely on stable housing to connect to early childhood education, employment services, health navigation, and aging support. This rule would jeopardize the housing stability that makes all these supportive services possible and increases demand for already strained homelessness services.”
- “I am on the board of Neighborhood House, which supports Head Start programs that partner with families to build school readiness and long-term success for children. Housing instability, especially eviction or forced relocation, has been shown to negatively impact children’s health and educational outcomes. HUD should not adopt a rule that undermines the stable foundation families need in order for these proven early childhood programs to work.”
- “As a leadership member of Neighborhood House, I see firsthand how the proposed rule would harm the very communities our organization has served for 120+ years, including low-income families (many with children), immigrants, formerly unhoused, survivors of domestic violence, people with disabilities, and seniors.”
- “Neighborhood House delivers integrated services across housing, education, health, and economic opportunity. Housing instability disrupts every one of these systems simultaneously, making it significantly harder for families to achieve long-term stability.”

3. If applicable, Elevate a Client’s Story (example below, please write your own)

- "Many families in our community are afraid to speak out because they fear repercussions. I want to elevate a story on their behalf: one mixed-status family I know relies on prorated housing to stay together. Without it, they would face eviction, overcrowding, and

instability. By submitting my comment, I am sharing experiences that otherwise might never reach HUD's attention."