



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Office of Refugee Resettlement | 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201
www.acf.hhs.gov/orr

Enhanced ORR-HUD Collaboration on Affordable Housing Access

Dear Colleague Letter 23-32

August 9, 2023

Dear Colleagues:

The purpose of this Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) is to announce that ORR has signed a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#) with the Office of Field Policy and Management (FPM) of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), formally affirming commitment to interagency multi- and bi-lateral collaboration at the headquarters and regional levels. The implementation of this MOU will facilitate equitable access to HUD-assisted resources through enhanced outreach efforts, education, and technical assistance. This is just one example of ORR's enhanced and continued interagency coordination efforts in support of refugees since the onset of Operation Allies Welcome (OAW), now Operation Enduring Welcome (OEW).

Both ORR and HUD share the common goal of equitable access to affordable, safe, and adequate housing for refugees and other populations served by ORR. ORR recognizes that over the past several years, access to decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing, including units that can accommodate large families, has emerged as one of the most critical resettlement challenges across the nation. HUD has [many resources available](#) to assist families' access to both short-term and permanent housing solutions, and in most communities, HUD funds or administers affordable housing resources, ranging from subsidized housing to first-time home ownership assistance. ORR is pleased to strengthen its relationship with HUD so that these resources are more easily available for the populations ORR serves.

ORR currently has several interagency touchpoints with HUD, including the Interagency Resettlement Branch (IRB) and the Public/Private Housing Working Group. Now through this MOU, ORR and HUD formally affirm our joint commitment to interagency collaboration. Further, ORR anticipates that this MOU will foster relationships between ORR partners and HUD colleagues at local, state, and federal levels, providing a mutually beneficial opportunity to share information and expertise. The partnership will increase ORR's and its partners' awareness of and access to HUD funding opportunities, programming, and affordable housing best practices; it will also increase HUD colleagues' knowledge of populations eligible for ORR refugee resettlement

program services and their unique challenges and needs in securing long-term, affordable housing.

If you have questions about the information contained in this DCL, please contact your ORR Regional Team within the Division of Refugee Assistance (DRA) at DRAPrograms@acf.hhs.gov or the Interagency Outreach and Response (IOR) National Strategic Outreach (NSO) Team at IORRefugeeProgram@acf.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Robin Dunn Marcos
Director
Office of Refugee Resettlement