

STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA Takes Further Action to Advance Renters' Rights

Actions Advance Commitments Made in President Biden's Blueprint for a Renters Bill of Rights

WASHINGTON, May 13, 2024 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Under Secretary Dr. Basil Gooden today announced that the Department is taking further action to ensure tenants of USDA-financed rental properties benefit from fair housing practices.

As part of a final rule, the Department is requiring landlords of USDA-financed rental properties to issue a 30-day written notice to tenants if they are facing a lease termination or eviction.

The notice must include instructions on how tenants can resolve lease violations and avoid eviction. It must also include information on USDA resources that can help tenants stay in their homes.

Today's announcement [furthers actions USDA made in July 2023](#), advising landlords to inform people applying for and living in USDA-financed rental properties of their legal rights and protections. For more information, see the [Federal Register](#).

In addition to the final rule, two resources are also being announced in support of the [Blueprint for a Renters Bill of Rights](#):

1. The [Tenant Grievance Procedures - Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) is a resource for tenants and property owners. This resource helps to ensure renters and rental applicants know their existing rights and protections under the grievance process. The document provides tenants an overview of the grievance process.
2. The [Tenant Rights and Responsibilities Brochure](#) covers tenant responsibilities to the property, fellow tenants, the owner, and property management. It includes a list of useful online resources. It highlights tenants' rights related to:
 - Property maintenance.
 - Written and timely notices.
 - Tenant leases.
 - Income recertifications.
 - Violence Against Women Act protections.
 - Nondiscriminatory treatment.
 - The right to file a grievance or complaint.

USDA is requesting that owners of Rural Development Multifamily Housing property owners attach a copy of the [Tenant Grievance Procedures - FAQ](#) as an addendum to their posted

grievance process in all common areas visible to residents and visitors.

The [Tenant Rights and Responsibilities Brochure](#) must be placed in common areas visible to residents and visitors at Multifamily Housing properties.

Both documents are to be provided at the time of application, lease signing, or move-in.

These are part of a series of actions by USDA fulfill and advance commitments made in President Biden's [Blueprint for a Renters Bill of Rights](#). USDA is committed to advancing the Biden-Harris Administration's priorities to protect and educate renters and strengthen tenant protections across rural America.

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