

## HUD REPORT FINDS PEOPLE LIVING WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES FACE SIGNIFICANT RENTAL HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

September 5, 2017 WASHINGTON – Persons living with mental illness, intellectual or other developmental disabilities continue to face significant housing discrimination in the rental housing market, according to a new pilot study released today by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The pilot study revealed that individuals with mental disabilities seeking rental housing were:

- Less likely to receive a response to their inquiry in e-mail testing
- Less likely to be told an advertised unit was available in in-person testing
- Less likely to be invited to contact the housing provider in e-mail testing
- Less likely to be invited to inspect the available unit in telephone testing
- More likely to be encouraged to look at a different unit than the one advertised in telephone testing, a potential indicator of steering people with mental illness and intellectual or developmental disabilities toward specific buildings or areas within rental complexes; and
- Treated adversely at disparate rates depending on disability type, with higher rates of adverse treatment found for individuals with mental illness than for those with intellectual or developmental disabilities.
- **A significant percentage of people with mental disability seeking reasonable accommodation were given a negative response to their request.** (a reasonable accommodation is a request to for an exception to a rule, policy, practice or procedure of a housing provider; example, Rule: no requests for payment reminder will be accepted, the reasonable accommodation is to waive that rule.)

When requests were made by phone, response rates differed by type of disability, revealing that a higher percentage of housing providers were willing to provide accommodations to people with intellectual or developmental disabilities (63.8 percent) than to people with mental illness (55.2 percent).

The main pilot study and four supplemental papers can be found at <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/publications/MentalDisabilities-FinalPaper.html>\*

\*This Fact sheet developed with materials from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development revision date 9/5/2017