



DID YOU KNOW...

March 16, 2023

Did you know, the [Freedom of Information Act](#), also known as FOIA, is a law that gives any person the right to request Federal agency records. The FOIA also requires Federal agencies to make certain types of information available to the public without the need to submit a request, such as frequently requested records.

Who Can Submit a FOIA Request to HUD OIG:

- Anyone can submit a FOIA request, regardless of citizenship, including individuals, partnerships, corporations, and organizations.

Fees and Fee Waivers:

There is no initial [fee](#) to make a FOIA request, and in many cases, no fees are charged. However, agencies are authorized by law to recover the direct costs of providing information to a FOIA requester.

HUD OIG Records That Can Be Requested:

- Paper documents, emails, audio and video recordings, and other electronic records.

FOIA Reading Room:

- Documents frequently requested under FOIA, three or more times are published in the HUD OIG [FOIA Reading Room](#).

HUD OIG Response Time:

- Within 20 working days, except in cases of unusual circumstances.

HUD OIG FOIA Process:

- **Step 1:** Submit requests to HUD OIG (foiarequests@hudoig.gov) explaining specific records that are being requested.
- **Step 2:** HUD OIG will search for the requested records.



- **Step 3:** HUD OIG will review responsive records before disclosure. Information can be withheld if it meets one of nine FOIA exemptions and HUD OIG can reasonably determine that disclosure would cause harm, or disclosure is prohibited by law.
- **Step 4:** HUD OIG releases the records to the requester.

Sensitive Investigative Information:

The FOIA authorizes the withholding of records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes that could reveal techniques or procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions or that could reasonably be expected to interfere with proceedings— this includes current HUD OIG and joint law enforcement investigations. FOIA requestors should be aware of this [exemption](#) and other exemptions from disclosure under the law.

For questions about FOIA at HUD OIG, visit [HUD OIG's Freedom Of Information Act \(FOIA\)](#) or contact the FOIA team at foiarequests@hudoig.gov.

Report suspected fraud to the HUD Office of Inspector General Hotline at 1-800-347-3735 or visit our website at, <https://www.hudoig.gov/hotline>.

