



# OIG Fraud Bulletin

August 1, 2024

## Beware Of Fake Assisted-Housing Waitlists

HUD OIG is aware of schemes whereby fraudsters falsely announce on social media that waitlists for housing vouchers, including “Section 8” or other government-assisted housing are opening soon. This scheme targets would-be housing applicants, under the pretense of representing HUD or a local government housing agency, to falsely obtain sensitive personal information or payment to “apply” for assisted housing, or to be added to a housing voucher “waitlist.” Once the fraudster has the applicant’s personal information or payment, they disappear without helping the applicant obtain housing.

While local housing agencies will sometimes advertise on social media that they are accepting housing waitlist applications, great care should be taken to confirm the legitimacy of these advertisements.

### How To Protect Yourself

1. Never pay anyone money so you can be added to an assisted housing waitlist – **housing authorities and government agencies will never ask you to pay for admission to housing assistance programs or to join a waitlist.**
2. Don’t reply to social media advertisements offering placement on an assisted housing waitlist. Instead, contact your [local public housing authority](#) at the phone number listed on their official website to confirm whether a waitlist is open and how to add your name to it.
3. Don’t provide sensitive personal information (like your social security number or date of birth) in response to Facebook or other social media advertisements.

**Report fraud, corruption, or suspicious activity in HUD-funded government programs or benefits by contacting the HUD OIG Hotline at 1-800-347-3735 or <https://www.hudoig.gov/hotline>.** Complaints may be made anonymously.

