



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

January 12, 2026

The Honorable Scott Turner
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Secretary Turner:

Thank you for your leadership in exposing potential fraud in federal housing programs under the Biden-Harris Administration. Taxpayers entrust government officials with the responsibility of administering programs efficiently and fulfilling clearly defined goals. As shown to Congress in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Agency Financial Report (AFR) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, upwards of \$5 billion in rental assistance payments nationwide were potentially made in error to rental programs, some with deceased individuals.¹

I write to respectfully volunteer the State of Texas, through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), to participate in the HUD pilot program mentioned in the AFR that seeks to eliminate fraud in affordable housing programs. We will gladly work with you to develop and implement fraud prevention measures that ensure federal taxpayer funds, like those in the rental assistance programs, are not taken advantage of by bad actors. TDHCA has robust policies to address waste, fraud, and abuse, including internal training for TDHCA staff on identifying potential cases of fraud and alerting fellow Texans to scams.² TDHCA leverages HUD's Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) System with additional information it collects such as obituaries, funeral notices, confirmation from landlords, and powers of attorney to ensure the program's enrollee rolls are current and updated. Through using this validation process, TDHCA has prevented any improper payments to deceased individuals for Housing Choice Voucher Section 8 Housing assistance. Furthermore, TDHCA is providing additional resources to combat fraud, waste, and abuse by creating a dedicated Chief of Fraud Prevention and Investigation position to review all programs within the department.

¹ Agency Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2025, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Affairs, <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CFO/documents/afr2025.pdf>.

² TDHCA warns public of false Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher claims, <https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/news/tdhca-warns-public-false-section-8-housing-choice-voucher-claims>.

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As you outline in HUD's AFR for FY 2025, the pilot program is aimed at improving the integrity of rental assistance programs that help provide affordable housing for hardworking Americans.³ About 150,000 Texas households use rental assistance with many of them participating in HUD's Moving to Work demonstration program, helping low-income individuals increase their earning potential and achieve self-sufficiency.⁴ Improper payments and fraud in these programs not only undermine confidence in government but also the goal of making housing more affordable. Every time a fraudulent or improper payment is made, Americans eligible for these programs miss out on assistance and the American Taxpayer is cheated. I believe TDHCA is well-positioned to work with HUD in identifying ways to better steward these programs.

I appreciate your efforts in rooting out fraud in our government. Ensuring hardworking taxpayer dollars are not misused is one of the foundational roles of good governance. I look forward to working with you and President Trump in combatting fraud, increasing the integrity of housing programs, and Making Housing Affordable Again.⁵

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to our continued work together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor

GA:pmm

cc: Bobby Wilkinson
 Executive Director
 Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
 P.O. Box 13941
 Austin, Texas 78711-3941

³ Ibid.

⁴ National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, Texas September 2025 Data, <https://www.nahro.org/>.

⁵ Making Housing Affordable Again, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Affairs, <https://www.hud.gov/>.