

Protect Equal Housing



What is the Equal Access Rule and Why is it Important?

The Equal Access Rule (EAR) is a series of regulations that ensure U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded services are not denied based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. The rule was originally issued to ensure family members, such as fathers, teenage boys, and grandparents could access the same shelter as their family. It was updated to address barriers faced by transgender and gender nonconforming persons when accessing single-sex facilities. The EAR protects universal access to HUD resources, whether it's keeping a family at a shelter united with their teenage son or protecting access to life-saving resources for a transgender person.

What is President Trump Trying to Do and How Can We Fight Back?

On February 5, the Administration announced it would stop enforcing key provisions of the EAR. Soon after, it began the process to officially weaken and repeal the rule. Before the President changes federal regulations, the federal rulemaking process requires a public comment period. This means the Administration must allow for individuals and organizations to make their case for or against the EAR. When this public comment period opens, we need to flood the Administration with pro-EAR comments so we can prove there is strong support for the rule, the transgender and non-binary community, and the broader LGBTQ+ community.



How Can You Join the Effort to Protect the Equal Access Rule?

We need you to submit a comment in support of the Equal Access Rule and the right of the LGBTQ+ community to safe housing. You can do so online or by sending your comments through the mail to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Specific links and addresses will be available once the Administration officially opens the public comment period. You can stay informed by joining the nationwide coalition of advocates.

Please contact Josh Dubensky at jdubensky@sageusa.org if you are interested in receiving updates on the Equal Access Rule.