

# Hosting a Commenting Party: Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

HUD must respond to each comment received, so we hope to generate as many unique comments from individuals and organizations as possible, slowing down the implementation of the rule and giving us more time for the litigation and legislative strategies. Hosting a commenting party can help engage your network and allow folks with limited access to the Internet an opportunity to share their opposition.

## TIPS FOR COMMENTING

- Make sure people know they should personalize their comment by adding at least one full paragraph of their own words for it to be counted.
- When commenting, highlight the connection you or your organization has to the issue and how the proposed rule could impact your community (or conversely, how actually implementing the 2015 AFFH rule could benefit your community).
- Advocates should utilize comment templates for additional talking points to help make their comments unique:
  - [General comment template for individuals and organizations](#)
  - [Comment Template for Legal Aid Advocates](#)
  - [Comment Template for Disability Advocates](#)
  - [Comment Template for Advocates Serving Survivors of Gender-Based Violence](#)

## LOGISTICAL TIPS FOR PLANNING A COMMENT PARTY

- Choose a block of time when people in your network and community are likely to be available to submit comments from home or from a specified, physical location. Comments may be submitted directly to HUD through the [Fight for Housing Justice](#) website by phone or laptop.
- If you're hosting an in-person commenting party, identify a location to host it at (i.e. your office, a community center, a bar or café, etc.).
- Make sure people have the resources they need to participate (i.e. links to the talking points, fact sheets, commenting template, and commenting portal).

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- Having stations where participants can submit comments, receive refreshments, and take pictures can make the event more interactive!

## GETTING THE WORD OUT

- Set up and share a tool such as a Facebook event, Eventbrite, or Google Form to track registrants and interest. Include an explanation of the proposed rule, links to the resources and commenting portal, or if doing an in-person day, provide the location and time of the event.
- Publicize the event through emails and social media. Encourage other organizations to also publicize the event through their channels.
- On the day of the event, send reminders through social media and email.
- In order to track activity on social media, encourage use of #KeepHousingFair and #FightForHousingJustice in all communications.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [About HUD's Proposed Rule](#)
- [Fact Sheets, Talking Points, and Summaries](#)
- [Commenting Templates](#)
- [Commenting Portal](#)
- [Social media toolkit](#)
- Take pictures and post them on social media using #KeepHousingFair and #FightForHousingJustice.
- [See if your members of Congress](#) have publicly opposed the proposed AFFH rule. If you do not see your member, contact them and urge them to voice their opposition to this proposal.



National Low Income Housing Coalition | [www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org) | National Housing Law Project | [www.nhlp.org](http://www.nhlp.org)

**#FIGHTFORHOUSINGJUSTICE**

**#KEEPHOUSINGFAIR**