



**FRAUD ALERT!
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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HANO Alerts Public of Section 8 Waiting List Scammers

New Orleans, LA (August 10, 2015) –The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently alerted Public Housing Authorities of Section 8 scammers attempting to deceive individuals seeking housing assistance. False websites have been created that appear as registration sites for Section 8 waiting list lotteries. Scammers are encouraging applicants to pay a fee and/or provide personal information to register for a fictitious Section 8 list. Other sites have advertised the use of wire transfer payments to secure the first month's rent at properties hosting Section 8 vouchered units. While the properties may exist, the advertisements are false.

The Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) is advising all potential Section 8 applicants of these bogus sites, and is alerting the public that a fee is **NOT** charged as a part of the application process for housing assistance. Housing Choice/Section 8 vouchers are **ONLY** issued through government Public Housing Agencies and funded by HUD. Applicants are also advised not to release any personal information to such sites as this may expose them to identity theft.

Potential applicants must contact a Public Housing Agency serving their parish or county for information on how to apply for housing assistance. The Housing Authority of New Orleans Section 8 waiting list is currently closed.

For more information, or to view a list of tips to avoid a Section 8 lottery scam, visit <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/section-8-scammers-cheat-people-seeking-housing>.

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