HUD Slashes More Red Tape to Lower Costs, Improve Affordability

New Federal Housing Administration Single Family policy changes remove barriers and expand homeownership opportunities.

WASHINGTON – HUD is announcing fourteen policy changes to its Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Single Family mortgage insurance program that lower costs, reduce regulatory burdens, and improve affordability for Americans seeking FHA-insured mortgages. The changes eliminate outdated requirements, reduce administrative burdens, and make FHA financing more efficient for homebuyers and lenders. Since the start of the Trump Administration, FHA has taken more than 150 actions to streamline its Single Family program.

"Every unnecessary regulation comes with a cost, and too often homebuyers pay the price," said Secretary Turner. "If a policy does not protect taxpayers, improve affordability, or expand opportunity for Americans, we should rethink it. As we recognize National Homeownership Month, these FHA actions reflect that commitment by eliminating barriers to expand homeownership opportunities."

The updates announced today span FHA policies from mortgage origination through servicing and quality control, including:

●Streamlining Appraisal Field Review Requirements, reducing costly QC requirements that average $425 per field review. This change is expected to save industry partners approximately $3.3 million annually while improving alignment with other programs.

●Expanding Flexibility under the Limited 203(k) Rehabilitation Mortgage Insurance Program, by increasing the number of contractor draw requests, making it easier to complete home rehabilitation projects.

●Modernizing FHA Mortgagee Approval and Quality Control, including permanently exempting early payment defaults resulting from natural disasters from the required quality control review sample. This will reduce mortgage costs, increase access for borrowers, and help smaller lenders participate in the FHA program.

●Eliminating the Duplicative Requirement for Lenders to Use the Important Notice to Homebuyers Form 92900-B, simplifying the closing process.

●Clarifying Loss Mitigation Requirements Governing Trial Payment Plans, to protect the FHA Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund, establishing safeguards to prevent abuse, and ensure that proactive borrowers are not penalized.

Today's policy updates deliver on HUD's goals of reducing costs of homeownership for American families by tackling the cost structure of FHA lending.

MDOT encourages railroad crossing safety

JACKSON, MISS. – In 2025, there were 31 crashes at public railroad crossings in Mississippi, which led to five fatalities and 17 injuries. Now, only six months into 2026, there have already been seven deaths and twelve injuries. Designated by the International Union of Railways, June 5 is International Level Crossing Awareness Day, and the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) wants to highlight the importance of safety at railroad crossings to prevent crashes and fatalities.

MDOT's rails engineer inspects crossings each year to determine the need for lights and gates. Using federal funding and guidelines, design and construction at crossings occur based on metrics such as available sight distance, incident history, the number of vehicles traversing the crossing and the number and speed of the trains on the rail line.

MDOT works with municipalities and counties to offer guidance on other warning devices to increase safety at railroad crossings. MDOT also works to separate state-maintained highways from railroads when possible. And with the return of the Mardi Gras Service operated by Amtrak on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, drivers should pay even greater attention at crossings that are now more active.

Safety is always MDOT's number one priority, and here are some tips for motorists and pedestrians to keep in mind on International Level Crossing Awareness Day and every day:

●See tracks? Think train! Always expect a train, especially because freight trains do not follow a set schedule.

●You cannot outrun a train. The approaching train is closer and faster than you may think. Always wait for it to pass before proceeding across the tracks.

●Trains cannot stop quickly. Even if the locomotive engineer sees you, a freight train moving at 55 miles per hour may take the length of 18 football fields to stop.

●NEVER drive around lowered gates. It's illegal and deadly.

●Do not stop on the tracks. Proceed through a highway-rail grade crossing only if you are sure you can completely clear the crossing without stopping.

●If your vehicle stalls on the track, get out immediately and move away quickly. When a train hits your car, you could be injured by flying debris. Call local law enforcement for assistance.

●At a multi-track crossing, keep your eyes open for a second train on the other tracks.

●When you need to cross train tracks, go to a designated crossing, look both ways and cross the tracks quickly without stopping.

●Look for the blue sign and call for help! Each railroad crossing has an Emergency Notification Systems (ENS) sign with a phone number to call the rail line's dispatcher and state the nature of the emergency.

For more information about rail safety, visit GoMDOT.com/portal/Operation_Lifesaver and follow @MississippiDOT on Facebook, Instagram and X.

FISH HEADS By Timothy E. Parker

1 S	2 H	3 U	4 T	■	5 R	6 O	7 B	8 E	9 S	■	10 V	11 A	12 S	13 E
14 T	O	R	Y	■	15 A	R	E	N	A	■	16 I	C	O	N
17 R	O	C	K	18 A	N	D	R	O	L	19 L	S	O	N	G
20 E	P	H	E	S	I	A	N	S	■	21 I	O	U	■	■
22 E	L	I	■	23 P	S	I	■	■	24 P	E	R	S	25 O	26 N
27 T	A	N	28 G	■	■	■	29 N	30 A	31 I	A	D	■	32 T	A	T
■	■	■	33 I	34 S	35 M	■	36 M	O	N	O	L	37 I	T	H
■	38 J	39 E	L	L	Y	40 S	A	N	D	W	I	C	H	■
41 M	A	R	T	I	N	E	Z	■	42 A	N	N	■	■	■
43 A	V	E	■	44 T	A	X	E	45 R	■	■	46 E	47 R	48 A	49 S
50 Y	A	C	51 H	T	S	■	■	52 U	53 S	54 E	■	55 E	V	A
■	■	56 T	O	E	■	57 A	58 B	N	E	G	59 A	T	E	S
60 S	61 W	O	R	D	62 S	W	A	L	L	O	W	E	R	S
63 E	A	R	S	■	64 E	A	S	E	L	■	65 E	L	S	E
66 E	R	S	E	■	67 C	Y	S	T	S	■	68 S	L	E	D

Don't be in the dark!
Keep up with the latest news with a subscription to the

Holmes County
HERALD

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Inside Holmes County $40.00
In Mississippi $45.00
Outside Mississippi $55.00

Senior Citizens (60 or older)
Take $1.00 of f the above rates.

To Subscribe, mail with your check to:
Holmes County Herald
P.O. Box 60
Lexington, MS 39095

Please enter a subscription to the Holmes County Herald to the following:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State & Zip _____

Phone number & email __ _____

*MSMS

(Continued from page 1.)

Our faculty has frequently ranked among the Top 10 Best Public High School Teachers in the Nation and was ranked #1 in the Nation for three consecutive years. Founded in 1987, on the campus of the Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, Mississippi, the mission of MSMS is "to enhance the future of Mississippi in the global society by meeting the individual needs of gifted and talented students through providing innovative learning experiences and leadership development in a residential environment." Additionally, MSMS is a member of the National Consortium for Secondary STEM schools (NCSSS) and was the fourth such school to exist in the nation. For more information, please visit www.themsms.org.