



# CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS IN FEDERALLY ASSISTED HOUSING APPLICATIONS: 2025 REPORT



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SUBMITTED TO THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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## INTRODUCTION

The Housing Authorities Act (310 ILCS 10/8.10a) requires all Illinois public housing authorities (PHAs) to annually collect and report the following data to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA):

1. The number of applications submitted for admission to federally assisted housing.
2. The number of applications submitted for admission to federally assisted housing of individuals with a criminal history record, if the authority is conducting criminal history records checks of applicants or other household members.
3. The number of applications for admission to federally assisted housing that were denied on the basis of a criminal history record, if the authority is conducting criminal history records checks of applicants or other household members.
4. The number of criminal records assessment hearings requested by applicants for housing who were denied federally assisted housing on the basis of a criminal history records check.
5. The number of denials for federally assisted housing that were overturned after a criminal records assessment hearing.
6. The number of vacant rental units within each housing project operated by the authority.
7. Information on whether each waiting list maintained by the authority is open or closed.

In addition, the above information (data elements 1-5) must be disaggregated by the race, ethnicity, and sex of housing applicants (310 ILCS 10/8.10a) (Appendix A).

In fulfillment of this Act, ICJIA produces annual reports available on its website. This report covers the Calendar Year 2025 and provides information shared with ICJIA by Illinois PHAs. This report presents descriptive statistics based on self-reported data from PHAs and does not assess causality or evaluate the impact of criminal history screening practices.

## DATA COLLECTION

### Administration of the Data Collection Tool

#### *Outreach and Data Collection*

ICJIA utilized multiple methods to contact PHAs throughout Illinois and obtain data required under the Act. Primarily, we relied on an online directory from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD; n.d.) for Illinois, which provided contact information, including email addresses. Using this directory, ICJIA staff sent an email to the listed email address for all 107 Illinois PHAs in that directory. In addition, a representative from the Illinois Association of Housing Authorities (IAHA) forwarded our email request to members representing 98 of those 107 Illinois PHAs.

During the data collection period (February 2, 2026, to March 13, 2026), ICJIA staff sent a total of six emails to each of the 107 Illinois PHAs that included one initial invitation, four follow-up emails, and one final reminder. Each of these emails provided recipients access to a data collection tool, contact information for ICJIA staff, and instructions. In addition, IAHA sent a total of six emails to each of its members. Each of these emails also included an initial notice, four reminders, and a final notice on behalf of ICJIA that gave recipients access to the data collection tool, contact information for ICJIA staff, and instructions. In addition, ICJIA staff conducted additional outreach via email and phone to PHAs who had not submitted data after several weeks following the initial notification. We also either spoke directly to or left voicemail messages with PHA staff to encourage participation in data collection until the data submission closing date on March 13, 2026.

### ***Data Collection and Analysis***

The data collection tool was developed using Qualtrics software and was made available through a secure URL link (Appendix B). It was accessible from February 2, 2026, through March 13, 2026. Throughout this period, ICJIA staff provided ongoing support to PHAs via email and phone to answer questions, clarify reporting requirements, and assist with other submission issues.

Eighty-two PHAs responded, and survey responses were exported from Qualtrics into Microsoft Excel for analysis. Descriptive statistics were calculated based on reported values. No statistical testing was conducted. ICJIA staff reviewed the data to identify inconsistencies, duplicate entries, and unclear responses. When necessary, staff followed up with PHAs to clarify responses (e.g., discrepancies in waitlist status, relatively high reported number of vacant units).

### ***Notes on Data Quality***

These data are not suitable for comparisons across PHAs or for drawing conclusions about differences between demographic groups due to variations in reporting practices, missing data, and differences in how criminal history checks are conducted. The data available in this report have several limitations. A major limitation is that many Illinois PHAs did not report any values for one or more data elements required under the Act. Of the 107 Illinois PHAs contacted under the Act, only 54% to 71% of the Illinois PHAs reported values for subsections 1-5 of the Act, and fewer reported data by gender, race, and ethnicity. In addition, PHAs may have interpreted some questions differently and based their responses on these differing interpretations. For instance, some reported the number of applicants, while others reported the number of applications.

### ***Unstandardized Screening Process***

Another limitation is that PHAs have discretion about their admissions, and there is no standardized process for considering criminal history records in federally assisted housing (FAH). However, federal law prohibits admission to FAH for certain individuals, including those who are on the lifetime sex offender registry or who have been convicted of manufacturing methamphetamine in FAH (HUD, 2022). In addition, Illinois law limits consideration of certain older convictions (more than 180 days before the application for FAH) and prohibits rental housing discrimination based on some criminal history.

A final limitation is that PHAs differ in how and when they conduct criminal history checks and in what they consider to be a criminal history record. Therefore, the data in this report reflect what PHAs reported to ICJIA, and we cannot ensure consistency across PHAs. In addition, missing data were not systematically addressed, and percentages reported in this document are based only on available responses.

## RESULTS

The results presented below are based on self-reported data from public housing authorities and reflect only those authorities that submitted data for 2025. Reporting completeness varied across data elements and demographic categories. As a result, counts and percentages are based on available data and may not be directly comparable across PHAs or demographic groups.

### Respondents

Of the 107 Illinois PHAs contacted, 82 PHAs responded and reported 2025 data, resulting in a participation rate of 77%. Table 1 provides details on the PHAs that provided data to ICJIA for 2025.

**Table 1**

Public Housing Authorities Reporting Data by Community Characteristics and Population, 2025

Housing authority	Municipality type	Geographic region	Community type	Population
Adams County <sup>a</sup>	County	Central	Urban	64,109
Alton	City	South	Urban	24,967
Aurora	City	North	Urban	180,710
Bloomington	City	Central	Urban	79,232
Bond County	County	South	Urban	16,576
Brown County	County	Central	Rural	6,307
Bureau County	County	Central	Urban	32,486
Carroll County	County	North	Rural	15,444
Cass County	County	Central	Urban	12,713
Chicago	City	North	Urban	2,721,308
Cicero	Town	North	Urban	82,090
Clark County	County	South	Rural	15,076
Clay County	County	South	Urban	12,821

Housing authority	Municipality type	Geographic region	Community type	Population
Coles County	County	Central	Urban	46,423
Cumberland County	County	South	Rural	10,305
Danville	City	Central	Urban	28,981
DeKalb County	County	North	Urban	101,335
DeWitt County	County	Central	Urban	15,319
DuPage County	County	North	Urban	937,142
East Peoria	City	Central	Urban	22,024
East St. Louis	City	South	Urban	17,808
Edgar County	County	Central	Urban	16,398
Edwards County	County	South	Rural	5,984
Effingham County	County	South	Urban	34,602
Elgin	City	North	Urban	114,701
Ford County	County	Central	Urban	13,451
Fulton County	County	Central	Urban	32,510
Gallatin County	County	South	Rural	4,690
Granite City	City	South	Urban	26,854
Greater Metro Area of Rock Island County	County	Central	Urban	142,731
Greene County	County	Central	Rural	11,417
Grundy County	County	North	Urban	53,835
Hamilton County	County	South	Rural	7,818
Hardin County	County	South	Rural	3,550
Hancock County	County	Central	Urban	17,008
Henry County	County	Central	Urban	48,177
Jackson County	County	South	Urban	53,199
Jefferson County <sup>a</sup>	County	South	Urban	36,107
Jersey County	County	South	Urban	21,150
Jo Daviess County	County	North	Urban	21,528
Johnson County	County	South	Rural	13,320
Kankakee County	County	Central	Urban	106,410
Kendall County	County	North	Urban	143,171
Knox County	County	Central	Urban	48,716
Lake County <sup>a</sup>	County	North	Urban	708,604

Housing authority	Municipality type	Geographic region	Community type	Population
LaSalle County	County	North	Urban	108,390
Lawrence County	County	South	Urban	14,801
Lee County	County	North	Urban	33,544
Livingston County	County	Central	Urban	35,375
Logan County	County	Central	Urban	27,518
Macoupin County	County	Central	Urban	43,895
Marion County	County	South	Urban	36,437
Marion	City	South	Urban	17,021
McDonough County	County	Central	Urban	26,662
McHenry County	County	North	Urban	315,959
Mercer County	County	Central	Rural	15,292
Moline	City	Central	Urban	42,442
Morgan County	County	Central	Urban	32,618
Mt. Vernon	City	South	Urban	14,162
Ogle County	County	North	Urban	51,345
Park Forest	Village	North	Urban	21,016
Pekin	City	Central	Urban	31,266
Perry County	County	South	Urban	20,272
Piatt County	County	Central	Urban	16,628
Pike County	County	Central	Rural	14,258
Pope County	County	South	Rural	3,703
Quincy	City	Central	Urban	38,786
Randolph County	County	South	Urban	29,813
Richland County	County	South	Urban	15,362
Rockford	City	North	Urban	147,486
Rock Island	City	Central	Urban	36,434
Scott County	County	Central	Rural	4,880
Shelby County	County	Central	Urban	20,542
Springfield	City	Central	Urban	112,949
St. Clair County <sup>a</sup>	County	South	Urban	251,149
Union County	County	South	Urban	16,886
Warren County	County	Central	Urban	16,217
Wayne County	County	South	Urban	15,928

Housing authority	Municipality type	Geographic region	Community type	Population
Whiteside County	County	North	Urban	54,657
Williamson County <sup>a</sup>	County	South	Urban	67,064
Winnebago County <sup>a</sup>	County	North	Urban	283,790
Woodford County	County	Central	Urban	38,290

Note. Population data are from the U.S. Census Bureau’s July 1, 2024, estimates. Community type is based on the county location, using 2020 decennial census data. Counties were classified as rural if no residents lived in urban areas.

<sup>a</sup> Indicates county-level housing authorities with city-level housing authorities within their jurisdiction; these county housing authorities include the populations of those cities.

Twenty-five PHAs, or 23% of the 107 Illinois PHAs contacted under the Act, did not provide any 2025 data to ICJIA. Table 2 provides details on the housing authorities that did not provide data. The 25 PHAs that did not report data are predominantly county-level, located in the central region of Illinois, and urban rather than rural. They are also primarily in cities or counties with populations of less than 20,000. Because not all PHAs submitted data, and nonresponding authorities differ in size and geographic location, these results may not represent all housing authorities in Illinois.

**Table 2**

Public Housing Authorities That Did Not Submit Data, 2025

Housing authority	Municipality type	Geographic region	Community type	Population
Alexander County	County	South	Urban	4,594
Boone County	County	North	Urban	53,313
Calhoun County	County	South	Rural	4,224
Champaign County	County	Central	Urban	212,374
Christian County	County	Central	Urban	33,247
Cook County <sup>a</sup>	County	North	Urban	5,182,617
Decatur	City	Central	Urban	68,763
Franklin County	County	South	Urban	37,033
Freeport	City	North	Urban	23,140
Henderson County	County	Central	Urban	6,048
Joliet	City	North	Urban	151,837

Housing authority	Municipality type	Geographic region	Community type	Population
Madison County <sup>a</sup>	County	South	Urban	263,017
Mason County	County	Central	Rural	12,543
Massac County	County	South	Urban	13,627
McLean County <sup>a</sup>	County	Central	Urban	172,069
Menard County	County	Central	Rural	11,963
Montgomery County	County	Central	Urban	27,615
North Chicago	City	North	Urban	30,639
Peoria	City	Central	Urban	111,696
Pulaski County	County	South	Rural	4,879
Saline County	County	South	Urban	22,826
Village of Oak Park	Village	North	Urban	52,947
Wabash County	County	South	Urban	10,979
Waukegan	City	North	Urban	88,570
White County	County	South	Urban	13,395

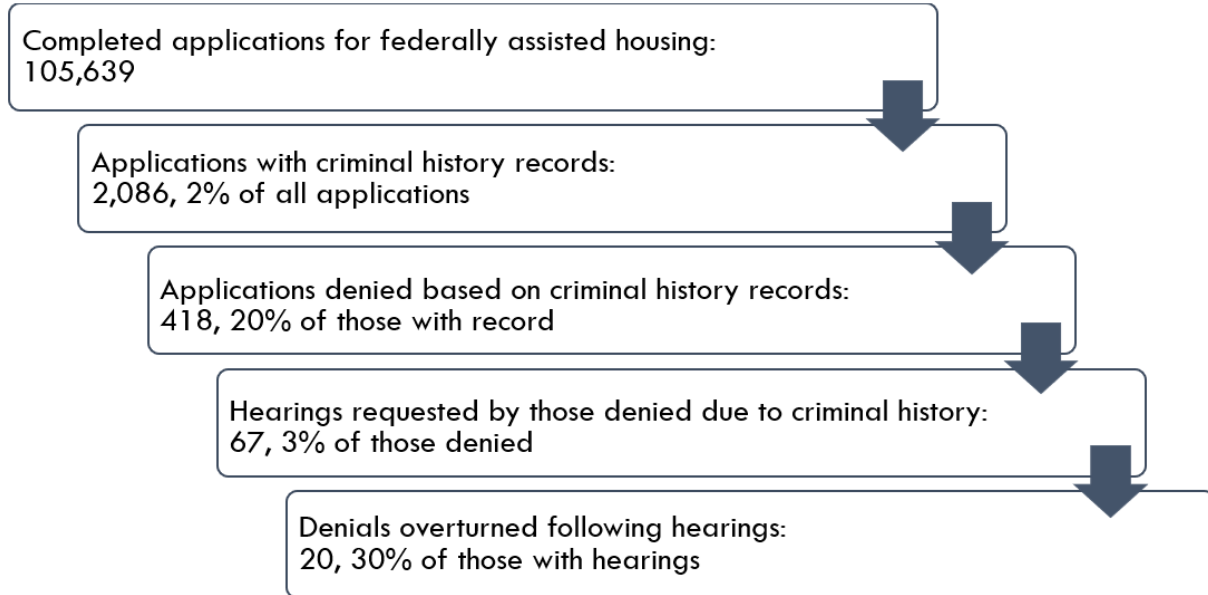
Note. Population data are from the U.S. Census Bureau’s July 1, 2024, estimates. Community type for city housing authorities is based on the county in which the city is located, using 2020 decennial census data. Counties were designated as rural if the Census Bureau did not classify any of their residents as living in urban areas.

<sup>a</sup> Indicates county-level housing authorities with city-level housing authorities within their jurisdiction; these county housing authorities include the populations of those cities.

## Responses

**Figure 1**

*Breakdown of Data Reported for 2025 Per the Act*



As shown in Figure 1, Illinois PHAs reported a total of 105,639 completed applications submitted for FAH in 2025. Of those reported completed applications, 2,086, or 2% of all applications reported, were noted by PHAs as having a criminal history record. Illinois PHAs reported that 418, or 20% of those applications noted by PHAs as having a criminal history record, were denied on the basis of a criminal history record. Illinois PHAs reported that 67 applicants, or 3% of those denied, requested criminal record assessment hearings following a denial on the basis of a criminal history record. Illinois PHAs reported that 20 denials for FAH were overturned following a criminal record assessment hearing, which was around 30% of those who requested a hearing.

### **Public Housing Authority Applications by Gender**

The following tables present reported counts and percentages by gender. These tables are based only on PHAs that provided gender data and reflect reported values rather than standardized or validated measures.

Among PHAs that reported gender data, a larger number of applications (i.e., primary/lead applicant or head of household) were submitted by those identified as females than by other genders (Table 3). Female applicants also accounted for a larger share of applications reported to involve criminal history records and of applications denied based on criminal history. Male applicants accounted for a larger share of requests for criminal record assessment hearings and a slightly larger share of denials overturned following hearings. These patterns reflect reported data and may be influenced by differences in reporting practices and missing data.

**Table 3**

Public Housing Authority Applications by Gender, 2025

Application category	Male	Female	Other	No response	Total
Total applications	32,951 (31%)	69,356 (66%)	73 (0.1%)	3,259 (3%)	105,639
Applications with criminal history records (2% of all applications)	746 (36%)	1,044 (50%)	0 (0%)	296 (14%)	2,086
Applications denied based on criminal history record (20% of those with a record)	190 (46%)	212 (51%)	0 (0%)	16 (4%)	418
Hearings requested by those denied due to a criminal history (3% of those denied)	36 (54%)	30 (45%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	67
Denials overturned following hearings (30% of those with hearings)	9 (45%)	7 (35%)	0 (0%)	4 (20%)	20

Note. ICJIA obtained 2025 data from 82 housing authorities. Percentages are of the row's total based on reported data and may not be comparable across PHAs due to missing data.

In 2025, applications from males and females had nearly equal proportions of criminal histories (approximately 2% each). Applications from males accounted for only a slightly higher proportion (6% more) of applications denied in those records. Applications from males were also requested criminal assessment hearings proportionally more often than females and were found to have a slightly higher proportion (2%) of denials overturned following those hearings (Table 4).

Table 4 presents proportions across application stages by gender. These percentages are conditional on reported data and should not be interpreted as directly comparable rates across groups due to variation in reporting practices and missing data.

**Table 4**

Public Housing Authority Applications by Gender, 2025

Gender	Applications submitted for admission to housing	Applications with criminal history records	Applications denied based on criminal history records	Hearings requested by those denied due to a criminal history	Denials overturned following hearings
Male	32,951	746 (2%)	190 (26%)	36 (19%)	9 (25%)
Female	69,356	1,044 (2%)	212 (20%)	30 (14%)	7 (23%)
Other	73	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Note. ICJIA obtained 2025 data from 82 housing authorities. Percentages in each column are the proportions of the total presented in the previous column.

## Public Housing Authority Applications by Race

Among PHAs that reported race data, applications from individuals identified as Black or African American accounted for the largest number of reported applications (Table 5). Applicants identified as White accounted for a larger share of applications reported to involve criminal history records and of applications denied based on criminal history. Applicants identified as Black or African American accounted for the largest share of hearings requested following a denial, while applicants identified as White accounted for the largest share of denials overturned following hearings. These patterns reflect reported data and may be influenced by missing data and differences in reporting practices.

**Table 5**  
Public Housing Authority Applications by Race, 2025

Application category	White	Black or African American	Asian	Other or mixed-race	No response	Total
Total applications	24,689 (23%)	65,908 (62%)	1,609 (2%)	3,553 (3%)	9,880 (9%)	105,639
Applications with criminal history records	1,002 (48%)	705 (34%)	3 (0.1%)	28 (1.3%)	348 (17%)	2,086
Applications denied based on criminal history record	259 (62%)	132 (32%)	0 (0%)	4 (1%)	23 (6%)	418
Hearings requested by those denied due to a criminal history	23 (34%)	31 (46%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	12 (18%)	67
Denials overturned following hearings	11 (55%)	6 (30%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (15%)	20

Note. ICJIA obtained 2025 data from 82 housing authorities. Percentages are of the row's total based on reported data and may not be comparable across PHAs due to missing data.

Applications from individuals who were other or mixed-race, and those who were White, had higher proportions of recorded criminal histories and denials based on criminal history records within their groups than did applications from other racial groups (Table 6). Applications from those who were other or mixed race, Black or African American, and White involved requests for hearings following a denial due to a criminal history record in a similar proportion. Applicants who were White had a higher proportion of overturned denials following their hearings than applicants from other racial groups. Table 6 presents proportions across application stages by race. These percentages are based on reported data and are not directly comparable across groups due to variations in reporting and missing data.

**Table 6**  
Public Housing Authority Applications by Race, 2025

Racial category	Applications submitted for admission to housing	Applications with criminal history records	Applications denied based on criminal history records	Hearings requested by those denied due to a criminal history	Denials overturned following hearings
White	24,689	1,002 (4%)	259 (26%)	23 (9%)	11 (48%)
Black or African American	65,908	705 (1%)	132 (19%)	31 (24%)	6 (19%)
Asian	1,609	3 (0.2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Other or Mixed Race	3,553	28 (8%)	4 (50%)	1 (25%)	0 (0%)

Note. ICJIA obtained 2025 data from 82 housing authorities. Percentages in each column are the proportions of the total presented in the previous column.

## Public Housing Authority Applications by Ethnicity

Applications from individuals identified as Hispanic/Latinx represented a small proportion of reported applications and of each application category (Table 7), although ethnicity data were incomplete across PHAs. These counts and percentages are based only on those PHAs that reported ethnicity data. Ethnicity data were reported by a subset of PHAs. Table 8 presents another view of applications by ethnicity. The tables below reflect only those PHAs that provided ethnicity data and are influenced by missing data and variation in reporting practices.

**Table 7**

Public Housing Authority Applications by Ethnicity, 2025

Application category	Hispanic/Latinx	Not Hispanic/Latinx/Unknown	Total
Total applications	11,765 (11%)	93,874 (89%)	105,639
Applications with criminal history records	42 (2%)	2,044 (98%)	2086
Applications denied based on criminal history record	13 (3%)	405 (97%)	418
Hearings requested by those denied due to a criminal history	2 (3%)	64 (96%)	67
Denials overturned following hearings	2 (10%)	18 (90%)	20

Note. ICJIA obtained 2025 data from 82 housing authorities. Percentages are of the row's total based on reported data and may not be comparable across PHAs due to missing data.

**Table 8**

Public Housing Authority Applications by Ethnicity, 2025

Ethnic category	Applications submitted for admission to housing	Applications with criminal history records	Applications denied based on criminal history records	Hearings requested by those denied due to criminal history	Denials overturned following hearings
Hispanic/Latinx	11,765	42 (0.4%)	13 (31%)	2 (15%)	2 (100%)
Not Hispanic/Latinx/Unknown	93,874	2,044 (2%)	405 (20%)	64 (16%)	18 (28%)

Note. ICJIA obtained 2025 data from 82 housing authorities. Percentages in each column are the proportions of the total presented in the previous column.

### ***Public Housing Authority Waitlist Status***

Table 9 details the waitlist status as reported by the 82 PHAs. In 2025, eight Illinois PHAs were counted as having a mixed waitlist status with both open and closed waitlists. They reported that some housing sections (e.g., Housing Choice Voucher, Section 8) may have an open waitlist, while others are closed. Waitlist status reflects self-reported information and may vary based on PHA programming type and reporting practices.

**Table 9**

Public Housing Authority Waitlist Status, 2025

Waitlist status	Total
Open	60
Closed	13
Mixed	8
Unable to report	1

Note. ICJIA obtained 2025 data from 82 housing authorities.

Finally, the Act required PHAs to report the total number of vacant units within their authorities as of the end of 2025. Seventy-six PHAs reported a total of 3,159 vacant units. Three PHAs stated they could not report the total number of vacant units, and three PHAs said their answer was not applicable because they provide housing assistance only through the Housing Choice Voucher program and do not operate units directly.

## FEEDBACK FROM HOUSING AUTHORITIES

The data collection tool requested feedback from housing authorities on their experiences with data reporting and data availability during data collection. We asked for input following every element (1-5) of the Act. Below, we provide verbatim feedback shared by the PHAs and organize it into different themes. We removed duplicative responses and some that lacked context to be included in a theme or decipher meaning. We also removed the name of a PHA if it was included in a written comment.

### Data Availability or Data Validity

Housing authorities that responded detailed the following caveats about their data:

- [Our housing authority] does not retain criminal records for applicants. It is impossible to report an accurate number without this data.
- We do not track criminal records other than denials.
- Multi-member households that fall under different categories.
- There are some applications [that] do not mark race clearly or [their race] is one that is not an option.
- Our preapplication process does not have accurate information.
- [Our housing authority] follows HUD standards for gender data, so only male and female are options, or applicants can choose not to specify. For 2025, 1,050 did not specify a gender, so they are not included in the reported data (total is 39,694 applications). Similarly, for race, applicants can choose not to specify. 4,736 didn't specify race, so they are not reflected in our responses.
- Applicants can choose not to disclose gender, so those are not reflected in the fields provided in the survey.
- [Our housing authority] has site-based waiting lists, so numbers reported are duplicative across waiting lists.
- Manual entry of applications.
- Applicants choose not to answer certain questions.
- We only track applications that are denied for criminal backgrounds.

- We can't keep background checks in waiting list files. Per policy, only track how many were removed/denied.
- There are a lot of people that don't list race.
- With not keeping background in removed file, we cannot keep case of reason for denial.
- Sometimes staff forget to capture the information by asking the applicants to answer all questions on the application.
- Demographics questions are optional and not mandatory for applicants and they don't always answer.
- Many applicants state their ethnicity on the application; however, when we gather their documents, we see interracial backgrounds.

## **System and Software Challenges**

Housing authorities that responded detailed the following caveats about their data system and software:

- On June 2025 [our housing authority] moved to a new software and is still working to ensure everything is in compliance. In May-June there was a dark period where we were not allowed to submit.
- Application Software does not include criminal history in database.
- System conversion/blackout period.
- Software limitations.
- Our software breaks down the demographics. We have to manually collect the other data.
- We only have non-declared gender in our software. No way to report non-binary or 3rd gender.
- Our software does not provide a report for all that your survey asks, so we have to manually track, which takes more staff time.

## Differences in Conducting Eligibility Checks

Housing authorities that responded detailed the following caveats about their eligibility checks:

- We don't run background checks until the person is being made eligible to be housed.
- I run every record based on social security numbers; I never look at race or gender.
- The applicants sent for criminal history review may not be from the same pool of submitted applications for the year. The waiting lists are often times years long.
- Communicating informal reviews.
- Our pre-application does not ask these questions. Only our full applications.

## CONCLUSION

This report summarizes data submitted by Illinois public housing authorities on criminal history record checks in federally assisted housing applications for calendar year 2025, as required by statute. Across responding PHAs, a relatively small proportion of applications were reported to involve a criminal history record, and a subset of those applications resulted in denials, hearings, and overturned decisions.

However, the findings are limited by substantial variation in reporting practices, incomplete data across several required elements, and differences in how and when PHAs conduct criminal history checks. As a result, the data presented in this report are not suitable for comparisons across PHAs or for drawing conclusions about differences between demographic groups.

Feedback from PHAs indicates that data collection is constrained by system limitations, inconsistent recordkeeping practices, and the absence of standardized definitions and reporting processes. These challenges affect both the completeness and comparability of the data.

Improving data standardization, strengthening reporting consistency, and providing technical assistance to PHAs could enhance the quality of future data collection and better support oversight and policymaking.

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## APPENDIX A: 310 ILCS 10/8.10(A)

(a) Every Authority organized under the provisions of this Act shall collect the following criminal history record data:

- (1) The number of applications submitted for admission to federally assisted housing;
- (2) The number of applications submitted for admission to federally assisted housing by individuals with a criminal history record, if the Authority is conducting criminal history records checks of applicants or other household members;
- (3) The number of applications for admission to federally assisted housing that were denied on the basis of a criminal history record, if the Authority is conducting criminal history records checks of applicants or other household members;
- (4) The number of criminal records assessment hearings requested by applicants for housing who were denied federally assisted housing on the basis of a criminal history records check; and
- (5) The number of denials for federally assisted housing that were overturned after a criminal records assessment hearing.

The information required in this Section shall be disaggregated by the race, ethnicity, and sex of applicants for housing.

(b) Every Authority organized under the provisions of this Act shall collect the following data:

- (1) The number of vacant rental units within each housing project operated by the Authority; and
- (2) Information on whether each waiting list maintained by the Authority is open or closed.

(c) The information collected under subsections (a) and (b) shall be reported to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority and shall be compiled and reported to the General Assembly annually by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority shall also make this report publicly available, including on its website, without fee.

Source: P.A. 103-215, eff. 4-30-24.

## APPENDIX B: DATA COLLECTION TOOL

### Illinois Federally Assisted Housing Criminal Records Check Calendar Year 2025

#### Data Collection

The Illinois Housing Authorities Act (730 ILCS 10/8.10a) requires all housing voucher programs and public housing programs in Illinois to collect the requested information included in this survey. This includes both applications for publicly operated housing as well as privatized housing from vouchers. Per statute requirements, this information shall be reported to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. Per the Act, the following information must be reported: (1) The number of applications submitted for admission to federally assisted housing. (2) The number of applications submitted for admission to federally assisted housing of individuals with a criminal history record, if the Authority is conducting criminal history records checks of applicants or other household members. (3) The number of applications for admission to federally assisted housing that were denied on the basis of a criminal history record, if the Authority is conducting criminal history records checks of applicants or other household members. (4) The number of criminal records assessment hearings requested by applicants for housing who were denied federally assisted housing on the basis of a criminal history records check. (5) The number of denials for federally assisted housing that were overturned after a criminal records assessment hearing. Also, the above information (elements 1-5) is required to be disaggregated by the race, ethnicity, and sex of applicants for housing. (6) The number of vacant rental units within each housing project operated by the Authority. (7) Information on whether each waiting list maintained by the Authority is open or closed. You can pause and resume this survey. If you have any questions, please contact our Data Analytics team at [cja.dataanalytics \(at\) illinois.gov](mailto:cja.dataanalytics@illinois.gov) or you may also contact our Research Director, Timothy Lavery, at [timothy.lavery \(at\) illinois.gov](mailto:timothy.lavery@illinois.gov)

Person completing this form:

Please provide your email:

What is the name of your Housing Authority?

Please provide your title or position within the Housing Authority

In calendar year 2025, what was the total number of complete applications submitted to your Housing Authority for admission to federally assisted housing? Definitional Note: For this question, “application” refers to one complete application submitted by a primary applicant for federally assisted housing. Each application should be counted once per household, regardless of the number of household members included. Example: If John Doe submitted one complete application for his household of three people, count this as one (1) application.

Check here if unable to report total number of complete applications submitted:

In the table below, report the total number of complete applications submitted to your Housing Authority for admission to federally assisted housing by applicant gender. Please select one gender category per application. To the extent possible, please attempt to make the total across gender categories match the total number of complete applications previously reported.

Definitional Note: For this question, please report the gender of the primary applicant (Head of Household) associated with each complete application submitted for federally assisted housing. Each application should be counted once per household, based on the gender of the person listed as the primary applicant, not other household members. Example: If Jane Smith submitted one complete application for her household of four, count this application under “Female.”

Of those who submitted complete applications in calendar year 2025, what were their race(s)? Please select one category per application. To the extent possible, please attempt to make the total across race categories match the total number of complete applications previously reported.

Definitional Note: For this question, please report the race of the primary applicant (Head of Household) associated with each complete application submitted for federally assisted housing. Each application should be counted once per household, based on the race of the person listed as the primary applicant, not other household members. Example: If Jane Smith is Asian, and submitted one complete application for her household of four, count this application under “Asian”

Of those who submitted complete applications in calendar year 2025, how many were Hispanic/Latinx?

Check here if unable to report total Hispanic/Latinx applicants:

We are interested in understanding reporting challenges. Please describe any limitations, concerns, or gaps related to reporting the total number of applications submitted for federally assisted housing.

Did your Authority conduct criminal records checks on federally assisted housing applicants, or other household members, during calendar year 2025?

For the purpose of our data collection, a criminal history record is information reported by Illinois criminal justice agencies summarizing a subject's contacts with the criminal justice system. Criminal history records may include arrests, detentions, indictments, or other formal criminal charges, as well as any disposition, sentencing, correctional supervision, and release.\* In calendar year 2025 at your Housing Authority, what were the total number of applications submitted for admission to federally assisted housing with a criminal history record?

Check here if unable to report total no. of applications submitted for admission to federally assisted housing with a criminal history record.

Of those with a criminal history record, what were their gender(s)? Please select one category per application. To the extent possible, please attempt to make the total across gender categories match the total number of previously reported applications submitted for admission to federally assisted housing with a criminal history record.

Of those with a criminal history record, what were their race(s)? Please select one category per application. Please select one category per application. To the extent possible, please attempt to make the total across race categories match the total number of previously reported applications submitted for admission to federally assisted housing with a criminal history record.

Of those with a criminal history record, how many were Hispanic/Latinx?

Check here if unable to report total Hispanic/Latinx applicants with criminal history record:

We are interested in understanding reporting challenges. Please describe any limitations, concerns, or gaps related to reporting the total number of applications with a criminal history record.

In calendar year 2025 at your Housing Authority, how many applications for admission to federally assisted housing were denied on the basis of a criminal history record?

Check here if unable to report total applicants denied on the basis of a criminal history record.

Of those who submitted applications and were denied on the basis of criminal history records, what were their gender(s)? Please select one category per denied application. To the extent possible, please try to ensure that the totals across gender categories match the previously reported total number of applicants denied based on a criminal history record.

Of those who submitted applications and were denied on the basis of criminal history records, what were their race(s)? Please select one category per denied application. To the extent possible, please try to ensure that the totals across race categories match the previously reported total number of applicants denied based on a criminal history record.

Of those who submitted applications and were denied on the basis of criminal history records, how many were Hispanic/Latinx?

Check here if unable to report total Hispanic/Latinx applicants denied on the basis of a criminal history record.

We are interested in understanding reporting challenges. Please describe any limitations, concerns, or gaps related to reporting the number of applications denied on the basis of a criminal history records check.

In calendar year 2025 at your Housing Authority, how many criminal records assessment hearings were requested by applicants who were denied federally assisted housing on the basis of a criminal history records check?

Check here if unable to report total criminal records assessment hearings requested by applicants who were denied federally assisted housing on the basis of a criminal history records check.

Of those who submitted applications, were denied housing, and requested an assessment hearing, what were their gender(s)? Please select one category per denied application which requested an assessment hearing. To the extent possible, please ensure that the totals across gender categories

align with the previously reported number of submitted applications that were denied housing and requested an assessment hearing.

Of those who submitted applications, were denied housing, and requested an assessment hearing, what were their race(s)? Please select one category per denied application which requested an assessment hearing. To the extent possible, please ensure that the totals across race categories align with the previously reported number of submitted applications that were denied housing and requested an assessment hearing.

Of those who submitted applications, were denied housing, and requested an assessment hearing, how many were Hispanic/Latinx?

Check here if you are unable to report the total number of Hispanic/Latinx applicants who were denied housing and subsequently requested an assessment hearing.

We are interested in understanding reporting challenges. Please describe any limitations, concerns, or gaps related to reporting the number of criminal records assessment hearings requested by denied applicants.

In calendar year 2025 at your Housing Authority, how many denials for federally assisted housing were overturned after a criminal records assessment hearing?

Check here if you are unable to report the total number of denials for federally assisted housing that were overturned after a criminal records assessment hearing.

Of those applications whose denials for housing were overturned following an assessment hearing, what were their gender(s)? Please select one category per application overturned. To the extent possible, please ensure that the totals across gender categories align with the previously reported number of submitted applications whose housing denials were overturned following an assessment hearing.

Of those applications whose denials for housing were overturned following an assessment hearing, what were their race(s)? Please select one category per application overturned. To the extent possible, please ensure that the totals across race categories align with the previously reported number of submitted applications whose housing denials were overturned following an assessment hearing.

Of those applications whose denials for housing were overturned following an assessment hearing, how many were Hispanic/Latinx?

Check here if you are unable to report the total number of denials for federally assisted housing that were overturned after a criminal records assessment hearing.

We are interested in understanding reporting challenges. Please describe any limitations, concerns, or gaps related to reporting the number of overturned denials following a hearing.

On December 31, 2025, what was the total number of vacant rental units across all housing projects operated by your Authority?

Check here if you are unable to report the total number of vacant rental units within each housing project operated by your Authority on December 31, 2025.

We are interested in understanding reporting challenges. Please describe any limitations, concerns, or gaps related to reporting the number of vacant rental units within housing operated by your Authority.

On December 31, 2025, was your waiting list open or closed?

Check here if you are unable to report whether your waiting list was open or closed on December 31, 2025.

We are interested in understanding reporting challenges. Please describe any limitations, concerns, or gaps related to reporting the status of your Authority's waitlist.

Finally, ICJIA would like feedback on your experience with the Federally Assisted Housing Records Check data collection process, regarding data reporting and data availability. If you have no feedback to share, please move to the next section.

You have reached the end of the Survey on Illinois' Federally Assisted Housing Applications. The information reported will be used to create a final report available May 2026.

Also, if you have any questions or further comment, please contact our Data Analytics team at [cja.dataanalytics \(at\) illinois.gov](mailto:cja.dataanalytics@illinois.gov) or you may also contact our Research Director, Timothy Lavery, at [timothy.lavery \(at\) illinois.gov](mailto:timothy.lavery@illinois.gov). Thank you for your participation.



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