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Thesis Abstract

The Persistent Issue of Fraud in the Public Housing Sector across the United States

As the public housing system in the United States has continued to grow, so has the instances of fraud across the nation. This study focused on how widespread the instances of fraud in the public housing sector are and whether there are safeguards and regulations in place to prevent and deter instances of fraud. The study also focuses on researching if the instances of fraud have been increasing or decreasing in the last 10 years, if there are more cases of fraud in certain states across the nation than in other states, and shifting focus to what can be done to fix any instances of fraud in the public housing sector. The questions were studied through the use of databases, journal articles, and information obtained directly from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. It was discovered that the instances of fraud in the public housing sector were more widespread across the country than originally thought with cases ranging from Florida, to New York, to California, Nebraska and Maryland. There are safeguards and regulations in place, but the system could be revised. Evidence discovered made it apparent that fraud has been increasing in the last 10 years, with no certain indication of whether there are certain states with more fraud than others across the nation. Lastly, recommendations are made as to what can be done to fix the problem of fraud that the public housing system is having in the United States.

Key words/phrases: Public housing, fraud, auditing