

## Court bars HUD from reallocating county grants



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*The decision is a 'victory' for Westchester, says County Executive Rob Astorino*



(Photo: File photo)

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A court has blocked the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development from reallocating two years' worth of grants that were designated for Westchester County until the county's lawsuit against the federal agency is decided.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit granted an injunction Friday that, at least temporarily, bars HUD from reassigning roughly \$10 million worth of grants from 2013 and 2014 that were earmarked for Westchester.

The injunction is [pending an appeal from the county](#), which is disputing HUD's ability to withhold annual grants based on the department's stance that the county has not complied with the terms of a 2009 affordable housing settlement.

That settlement required Westchester to build 750 affordable housing units, as well as produce an analysis of local zoning codes to pinpoint exclusionary practices. HUD has rejected the county's analysis, though, and held back federal grants meant for projects in the county as result.

Wednesday's ruling follows [a February decision by the court](#) to allow Westchester to try to recover about \$750,000 remaining from grants that HUD denied the county in 2011.

"In February, the court said HUD was subject to the law just like everyone else," County Executive Rob Astorino said in a statement. "Today it's saying HUD has no right to give away the money at the heart of the court case. Both decisions are victories for Westchester and for the country against an aggressive and overreaching federal government."