



Office of Public Housing

News-to-Use Letter

October 2006

Greetings from Ann Roman, OPH Director: We are one month into the new fiscal year and are operating under a continuing resolution. I anticipate we will be in this situation for some time. We have no news on 2007 budget prospects, but we will definitely keep you posted. We salute and give thanks to our veterans – here at HUD, at your housing authorities and among your residents. And we wish you a Happy Thanksgiving period.

Asset Management

HUD will be providing training on the new financial management and reporting requirements under the Operating Fund rule. This training will be based on the guidance provided to PHAs in PIH Notice 2006-33 (HA), Changes in Financial Management and Reporting Requirements for Public Housing Agencies Under the New Operating Fund Rule, issued September 6, 2006. The first round of training sessions will be held in 12 locations during November and December. Unfortunately, there is no Region 8 city that is included in this first round of 12 training sites. However, we understand that there will be a second round of sites for training to be provided in March and Denver should be one of the sites. In some ways it may be better for PHAs to wait for second round of training, as this will allow time for HUD's issuance and PHA utilization of an electronic training tool. This tool should be made available to PHAs in December. The training tool will consist of 8 interactive Microsoft PowerPoint slide presentations, each with voice accompaniment. At the end of each presentation or major concept of this training tool, users will be asked to answer questions to reinforce key information. Users will have the ability to navigate between slides allowing them to return to subject matters of particular interest.

Information on the training and the registration process can be obtained at:

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/am/fm.cfm>

We recommend you visit this site frequently to get current and updated information. We will keep you posted as to when the electronic training tool is made available.

PIC Update

Mandatory 95% PIC Reporting Rate: HUD conducted its 2006 assessment of PHA compliance with the 95% PIC reporting rate requirement. This assessment was based on PHA performance as of 9/30/06. (For 2007 this assessment will be based on PHA performance as of 6/30/07.) HUD sent notifications to those PHAs not having a 95% reporting rate and PHAs were provided the opportunity to "appeal" HUD's assessment. We have not received word yet on the outcome of this process. We understand that HUD will be implementing sanctions in December. Sanctions will continue for each month stating 9/30/06 that a PHA does not have a 95% PIC reporting rate for its Housing Choice Voucher or Low Rent Public Housing program. PHAs are encouraged to take aggressive action to achieve a 95% PIC reporting rate so that sanctions can be minimized.

MASS Certifications: Headquarters has notified us that PHAs may have difficulty submitting MASS certifications. This certification has to be submitted by the Executive Director, and not by other PHA staff. Due to a recent security enhancement with PIH-REAC secure systems all Executive Directors' must verify they have the proper secure systems "role code" in order to electronically submit the PHA's annual Management Assessment Certification. The proper secure systems role code for MASS is PHD. It can ONLY be assigned to the Executive Director (ED). The secure system administrator for each PHA should verify that the ED has this role code assigned to his/her secure connection ID number. If the ED doesn't have this role code, the secure systems administrator needs to assign this role code. Executive Directors that do not have this role code will not be able to successfully submit MASS. This could lead to potential late penalties up to and including late presumptive failure rating and a score of 0 for MASS certification. For technical assistance contact PIH-REAC Technical Assistance Center at 1-888-245-4860.

Demolition/Disposition

On 10/24/06 HUD published a Final Rule for the demolition or disposition of public housing projects. The rule is effective 11/24/06. Visit HUD's web page at http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/centers/sac/demo_dispo/index.cfm to find more information about demolition/disposition and the application process. In the Department's 2007 Annual Performance Plan there are some specific strategies and goals regarding disposition activities. One of HUD's 2007 goals is to receive 12 PHA proposals under the Section 32 program, which addresses the sale of public housing units. You can get more information about the Section 32 program at the following:

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/centers/sac/homeownership/>

2007 Operating Cost Adjustment Factors (OCAF)

The 2007 OCAFs were published in the Federal register on 10/2/06. These new OCAFs are effective starting 2/11/07. The OCAFs are used for calculating renewal rents for mod rehab and SRO projects. The factors for Region 8 states are: Colorado – 3.6; Montana – 4.0; North Dakota – 4.7; South Dakota – 4.9; Utah – 3.2; and Wyoming – 3.4.



Recent Issuances

Federal Register Issuances – Rules and Program Changes:

- 10/2/06: Notice of Certain Operating Cost Adjustment Factors for 2007: Effective date is 2/11/06.
- 10/5/06: Privacy Act of 1974; Notice of a Computer Matching Program between HUD and the Social Security Administration: Matching Tenant Data in Assisted Housing Programs: Comment due date is 11/6/06 and computer matching is expected to begin at this same time.
- 10/24/06: Demolition or Disposition of Public Housing Projects; Final Rule: Effective date is 11/24/06.
- 10/30/06: Extension of Period of Submission for Notices of Intent and Fungibility Plans in Accordance with HUD's Implementation Guidance for Section 901 of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations To Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006: Eligible PHAs must submit their Notices of Intent and Fungibility Plans no later than 11/21/06.

Federal Register Issuances – Funding Opportunities:

- 10/10/06: Announcement of Funding Awards – Fiscal Year 2003; Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency Programs
- 10/20/06: Announcement of Funding Awards for the Housing Choice Voucher Family Self Sufficiency Program for Fiscal Year 2003
- 10/24/06: Announcement of Funding Awards for the Housing Choice Voucher Family Self Sufficiency Program for Fiscal Year 2004
- 10/31/06: Notice of Opportunity To Register Early and Other Important Information for Electronic Application Submission via Grants.gov: Early registration begins 10/31/06 and ends when HUD publishes its SuperNOFA.

Federal Register Issuances – Information Collection:

- 10/3/06: Notice of Proposed Information Collection for Public Comment; Resident Opportunities and Supportive Services (ROSS) Program Forms for Applying for Funding: Comment due date is 12/4/06.
- 10/10/06: Notice of Proposed Information Collection for Public Comment; MTCS Family Reporting: Comment due date is 12/11/06.

- 10/12/06: Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Comment Request; Request Voucher for Grant Payment and Line of Credit Control System (LOCCS) Voice Response System Access Authorization: Comment due date is 12/11/06.
- 10/18/06: Notice of Submission of Proposed Information Collection to OMB; Public Housing Homeownership Program Family Application, Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements, Homeownership Program Application and Approval: Comment due date is 11/17/06.
- 10/20/06: Notice of Submission of Proposed Information Collection to OMB; Federally-Assisted Low-Income Housing Drug Elimination Grant Program: Comment due date is 11/20/06.
- 10/30/06: Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Comment Request; Rental Schedule – Low Rent Housing: Comment due date is 12/29/06.

Federal Register Issuances – Miscellaneous:

- 10/5/06: Revisions to the Public Access to HUD Records Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Regulations; Proposed Rule: Comment due date is 12/4/06.
- 10/18/06: Notice of Regulatory Waiver Requests Granted for the Second Quarter of Calendar Year 2006; Notice

Reminders

- 10/30 – 11/15/06: 9/30/06 PHAs certify RASS Follow-up Plan, as applicable
- 11/6/06 – 1/5/07: Resident survey period for 12/31/06 PHAs
- 11/15/06: deadline date for 9/30 PHAs for requesting extension for submission of yearend financial statements
- 11/29/06: SEMAP certifications due for all 9/30/06 PHAs
- 11/30/06: MASS certification submission due for 9/30 PHAs
- 11/30/06: Financial statements due for 9/30/06 PHAs
- 12/31/06: Audit reports due for 3/31/06 PHAs

OPH would like articles, comments, and/or questions from housing authorities in the Rocky Mountain Region. Please send these contributions to Ann Roman at Carol_A._Roman@hud.gov. Thanks!