

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

NATIVE HAWAIIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANTS

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

	ACTUAL 2002	ENACTED 2003	ESTIMATE 2004	INCREASE + DECREASE - 2004 vs 2003
	(Dollars in Thousands)			
<u>Appropriations: (Enacted or Proposed)</u>				
Enacted or Proposed .....	[\$9,600] a/	\$10,000	\$10,000	...
Technical Assistance .....	[...]	[400]	[400]	[...]
Subtotal .....	[9,600]	10,000	10,000	...
Budget Outlays .....	...	...	11,000	11,000

a/ Funded in Community Development Block Grants program.

SUMMARY OF BUDGET ESTIMATES

The Budget proposes an appropriation of \$10 million for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grants (NHHBG) program in fiscal year 2004. This program provides grants for housing and housing-related assistance to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. The request includes up to \$400,000 to support related training and technical assistance activities.

EXPLANATION OF INCREASES AND DECREASES

Congress provided \$9.6 million for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grants program as a set-aside under the Community Development Block Grants program in fiscal year 2002. The Department requested \$10 million as a separate account in fiscal year 2003 and is requesting \$10 million as a separate account in fiscal year 2004. Outlays reflect \$11 million increase because of expected increased utilization of program by fiscal year 2004.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND ACTIVITY

The Hawaiian Homelands Homeownership Act of 2000 (25 U.S.C. 4221 et seq.) was signed on December 27, 2000. Numerous studies have documented the housing needs of Native Hawaiians who are either eligible to reside on, or now live on, the Hawaiian Home Lands. Native Hawaiians experience the worst housing conditions in the State of Hawaii and constitute approximately 30 percent of its homeless population. The Department issued a 1995 report, which cited evidence that Native Hawaiians have the highest percentage of housing problems (49 percent) in the United States. Overcrowding in these households exceeds 36 percent, as compared to 3 percent of households throughout the nation. This housing block grant program provides an allocation of funds to assist and promote affordable housing activities to develop, maintain and operate affordable housing for eligible low-income Native Hawaiian families.

The NHHBG program provides annual grants to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for housing and housing-related assistance, pursuant to an annual housing plan, within the area in which DHHL is authorized to provide that assistance. DHHL uses performance measures and benchmarks that are consistent with the national goals of the program, but it can base these measures on the needs and priorities that it establishes in its 5- and 1-year housing plans.

The Department's Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) staff will monitor the DHHL to ensure compliance with the objectives of the housing plan. The NHHBG allows the DHHL to develop and support affordable rental and homeownership housing and provide housing services through the following eligible activities:

Development: Grant funds may be used to support acquisition, new construction, reconstruction or moderate or substantial rehabilitation of affordable housing which may include real property acquisition, site improvement, development of utilities and utility services, conversion, demolition, financing, administration and planning, and other housing related activities.

Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grants

Housing Services: Grant funds may be used to support housing-related services including housing counseling in connection with rental or homeownership assistance, the establishment of resident management corporations, energy auditing, activities related to the provisions of self-sufficiency and other services related to assisting owners, tenants, contractors and other entities participating or seeking to participate in other housing activities.

Housing Management Services: Grant funds may be used to support management services for affordable housing, including the preparation of work specifications, loan processing, inspections, tenant selection, management of tenant-based rental assistance, and management of affordable housing projects.

Crime Prevention and Safety Activities: Grant funds may be used to support safety, security and law enforcement measures, and activities appropriate to protecting residents of affordable housing from crime.

Model Activities: The Department may approve housing activities under model programs that are designed to develop and support affordable housing.

PROGRAM SET-ASIDE

Training and Technical Assistance. A set-aside of \$400,000 of the total NHHBG will support contract expertise and training and technical assistance to engage in the management and oversight of Native Hawaiian housing. These activities include, but are not limited to, training and technical assistance for Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and nonprofit organizations.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

FTE/OBJECT CLASS	ACTUAL 2002	ENACTED 2003	ESTIMATE 2004
FTE			
Headquarters	3	3	3
Field	...	...	...
Total FTE	3	3	3
S&E Cost (Dollars in Thousands)			
Personal Services	\$283	\$291	\$299
Travel	2	50	50
Supplies	1	1	1
Total S&E Cost	\$286	\$342	\$350