

<b>Annual PHA Plan</b> <i>(Standard PHAs and Troubled PHAs)</i>	<b>U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development</b> <b>Office of Public and Indian Housing</b>	<b>OMB No. 2577-0226</b> <b>Expires: 03/31/2024</b>
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**DRAFT 1/30/25**

**Purpose.** The 5-Year and Annual PHA Plans provide a ready source for interested parties to locate basic PHA policies, rules, and requirements concerning the PHA's operations, programs, and services, including changes to these policies, and informs HUD, families served by the PHA, and members of the public of the PHA's mission, goals and objectives for serving the needs of low- income, very low- income, and extremely low- income families.

**Applicability.** The Form HUD-50075-ST is to be completed annually by **STANDARD PHAs or TROUBLED PHAs**. PHAs that meet the definition of a High Performer PHA, Small PHA, HCV-Only PHA or Qualified PHA do not need to submit this form.

**Definitions.**

- (1) **High-Performer PHA** – A PHA that owns or manages more than 550 combined public housing units and housing choice vouchers, and was designated as a high performer on both the most recent Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS) and Section Eight Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) assessments if administering both programs, or PHAS if only administering public housing.
- (2) **Small PHA** - A PHA that is not designated as PHAS or SEMAP troubled, that owns or manages less than 250 public housing units and any number of vouchers where the total combined units exceed 550.
- (3) **Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Only PHA** - A PHA that administers more than 550 HCVs, was not designated as troubled in its most recent SEMAP assessment and does not own or manage public housing.
- (4) **Standard PHA** - A PHA that owns or manages 250 or more public housing units and any number of vouchers where the total combined units exceed 550, and that was designated as a standard performer in the most recent PHAS or SEMAP assessments.
- (5) **Troubled PHA** - A PHA that achieves an overall PHAS or SEMAP score of less than 60 percent.
- (6) **Qualified PHA** - A PHA with 550 or fewer public housing dwelling units and/or housing choice vouchers combined and is not PHAS or SEMAP troubled.

A.	PHA Information.
A.1	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority dba Raise Up</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>OH012</b></span></p> <p>PHA Name: _____ PHA Code: _____</p> <p>PHA Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Standard PHA <input type="checkbox"/> Troubled PHA</p> <p>PHA Plan for Fiscal Year Beginning: (MM/YYYY): <b>7/1/2025</b></p> <p>PHA Inventory (Based on Annual Contributions Contract (ACC) units at time of FY beginning, above)</p> <p><b>Number of Public Housing (PH) Units 1,438 Number of Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) 3,171</b></p> <p><b>Total Combined Units/Vouchers 4,609</b></p> <p>PHA Plan Submission Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Submission <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revised Annual Submission</p> <p><b>Availability of Information.</b> PHAs must have the elements listed below readily available to the public. A PHA must identify the specific location(s) where the proposed PHA Plan, PHA Plan Elements, and all information relevant to the public hearing and proposed PHA Plan are available for inspection by the public. At a minimum, PHAs must post PHA Plans, including updates, at each Asset Management Project (AMP) and main office or central office of the PHA. PHAs are strongly encouraged to post complete PHA Plans on their official website. PHAs are also encouraged to provide each resident council a copy of their PHA Plans.</p> <p>LMHA dba Raise Up posts the Annual PHA plan, the Five-Year Plan, and the Capital Fund Program 5-Year Action Plan elements on its website at <a href="http://www.rupartners.org">www.rupartners.org</a></p> <p>Plans are also available at the LMHA Main Office, 1600 Kansas Avenue, Lorain, OH 44052 and at all administrative and property management offices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o LMHA (formerly LMHA's procurement office) 1604 Kansas Avenue, Lorain, OH 44052</li> <li>o Leavitt Homes 2153 Lorain Drive, Lorain, OH 44052</li> <li>o Kennedy Plaza 1730 Broadway, Lorain, OH 44052</li> <li>o Lakeview Plaza 310 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Lorain, OH 44052</li> <li>o Southside Gardens 3010 Vine Ave., Lorain, OH 44055</li> <li>o Albright Terrace 129 Milan Ave., Amherst, OH 44001</li> <li>o John Frederick Oberlin Homes 138 South Main St., Oberlin, OH 44074</li> <li>o Wilkes Villa 104 Loudon Court, Elyria, OH 44035</li> <li>o Riverview Plaza 310 East Ave., Elyria, OH 44035</li> <li>o Harr Plaza 15 Chestnut Street, Elyria, OH 44035</li> <li>o International Plaza 1825 Homewood Drive, Lorain, OH 44055</li> </ul> <p>LMHA provides the Plans to its resident councils.</p> <p>To obtain additional information on the policies contained in the Annual Plan, visit <a href="https://rupartners.org/about/agency-plans-policies-and-documents/">https://rupartners.org/about/agency-plans-policies-and-documents/</a> For further assistance, call 440.288.1600 or TDD/TTY (800) 750-0750.</p>

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>PHA Consortia:</b> (Check box if submitting a Joint PHA Plan and complete table below)					
Participating PHAs	PHA Code	Program(s) in the Consortia	Program(s) not in the Consortia	No. of Units in Each Program	
				PH	HCV
Lead PHA:					

<b>B.</b>	<b>Plan Elements</b>
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<b>B.1</b>	<p><b>Revision of Existing PHA Plan Elements.</b></p> <p>(a) Have the following PHA Plan elements been revised by the PHA?</p> <p>Y    N</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Statement of Housing Needs and Strategy for Addressing Housing Needs</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Deconcentration and Other Policies that Govern Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions.</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Resources.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rent Determination.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Operation and Management.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grievance Procedures.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Homeownership Programs.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Service and Self-Sufficiency Programs.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety and Crime Prevention.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pet Policy.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Asset Management.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial Deviation.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Amendment/Modification</p> <p>(b) If the PHA answered yes for any element, describe the revisions for each revised element(s):</p> <p><b>b.1</b></p> <p><b>Attachment A - Statement of Housing Needs and Strategy for Addressing Housing Needs</b></p> <p><b>Attachment B -Deconcentration and Other Policies that Govern Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions</b></p> <p><b>Attachment C - Financial Resources</b></p> <p><b>Attachment D – Operation and Management</b></p> <p><b>Attachment E - Safety and Crime Prevention</b></p> <p><b>Attachment F - Substantial Deviation Significant Amendment/Modification</b></p> <p>(c) The PHA must submit its Deconcentration Policy for Field Office review.</p> <p><b>See Attachment G Deconcentration Policy of the Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority</b></p>
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<b>B.2</b>	<p><b>New Activities.</b></p> <p>(a) Does the PHA intend to undertake any new activities related to the following in the PHA's current Fiscal Year?</p> <p>Y   N</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Hope VI or Choice Neighborhoods.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Finance Modernization or Development.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Demolition and/or Disposition.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Designated Housing for Elderly and/or Disabled Families.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conversion of Public Housing to Tenant-Based Assistance.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Conversion of Public Housing to Project-Based Rental Assistance or Project-Based Vouchers under RAD.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupancy by Over-Income Families.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupancy by Police Officers.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Smoking Policies.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Project-Based Vouchers.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Units with Approved Vacancies for Modernization.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Other Capital Grant Programs (i.e., Capital Fund Community Facilities Grants or Emergency Safety and Security Grants).</p> <p>(b) If any of these activities are planned for the current Fiscal Year, describe the activities. For new demolition activities, describe any public housing development or portion thereof, owned by the PHA for which the PHA has applied or will apply for demolition and/or disposition approval under section 18 of the 1937 Act under the separate demolition/disposition approval process. If using Project-Based Vouchers (PBVs), provide the projected number of project-based units and general locations, and describe how project basing would be consistent with the PHA Plan.</p> <p>See Attachment H New Activities.</p>
<b>B.3</b>	<p><b>Progress Report.</b></p> <p>Provide a description of the PHA's progress in meeting its Mission and Goals described in the PHA 5-Year and Annual Plan.</p> <p>See Attachment I Progress Report</p>
<b>B.4</b>	<p><b>Capital Improvements.</b> Include a reference here to the most recent HUD-approved 5-Year Action Plan in EPIC and the date that it was approved.</p> <p>Capital Fund 5-YR 2023-2027 Revision #5, approved by HUD on 04/22/2025.</p>
<b>B.5</b>	<p><b>Most Recent Fiscal Year Audit.</b></p> <p>(a) Were there any findings in the most recent FY Audit?</p> <p>Y   N</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(b) If yes, please describe:</p>
<b>C. Other Document and/or Certification Requirements.</b>	
<b>C.1</b>	<p><b>Resident Advisory Board (RAB) Comments.</b></p> <p>(a) Did the RAB(s) have comments to the PHA Plan?</p> <p>Y   N</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(b) If yes, comments must be submitted by the PHA as an attachment to the PHA Plan. PHAs must also include a narrative describing their analysis of the RAB recommendations and the decisions made on these recommendations.</p> <p>See Attachment J</p>
<b>C.2</b>	<p><b>Certification by State or Local Officials.</b></p> <p><a href="#">Form HUD-50077-SL</a>, <i>Certification by State or Local Officials of PHA Plans Consistency with the Consolidated Plan</i>, must be submitted by the PHA as an electronic attachment to the PHA Plan.</p>

<b>C.3</b>	<b>Civil Rights Certification/ Certification Listing Policies and Programs that the PHA has Revised since Submission of its Last Annual Plan.</b>  Form HUD-50077-ST-HCV-HP, <i>PHA Certifications of Compliance with PHA Plan, Civil Rights, and Related Laws and Regulations Including PHA Plan Elements that Have Changed</i> , must be submitted by the PHA as an electronic attachment to the PHA Plan.				
<b>C.4</b>	<b>Challenged Elements.</b> If any element of the PHA Plan is challenged, a PHA must include such information as an attachment with a description of any challenges to Plan elements, the source of the challenge, and the PHA's response to the public.  (a) Did the public challenge any elements of the Plan?  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>Y   N</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> If yes, include Challenged Elements.				
<b>C.5</b>	<b>Troubled PHA.</b> (a) Does the PHA have any current Memorandum of Agreement, Performance Improvement Plan, or Recovery Plan in place? Y   N   N/A <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> (b) If yes, please describe:				
<b>D.</b>	<b>Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH).</b>				
<b>D.1</b>	<b>Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH).</b>  <b>Provide a statement of the PHA's strategies and actions to achieve fair housing goals outlined in an accepted Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) consistent with 24 CFR § 5.154(d)(5). Use the chart provided below. (PHAs should add as many goals as necessary to overcome fair housing issues and contributing factors.) Until such time as the PHA is required to submit an AFH, the PHA is not obligated to complete this chart. The PHA will fulfill, nevertheless, the requirements at 24 CFR § 903.7(o) enacted prior to August 17, 2015. See Instructions for further detail on completing this item.</b> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;"><b>Fair Housing Goal:</b></td></tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;"><u><i>Describe fair housing strategies and actions to achieve the goal</i></u></td></tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;"> <p><b>PHA is not required to submit.</b></p> <p><b>LMHA continually works to promote housing that is affordable, safe, decent, free of unlawful discrimination, and accessible as required under civil rights laws.</b></p> </td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f2f2f2;"><b>Fair Housing Goal:</b></td></tr> </table>	<b>Fair Housing Goal:</b>	<u><i>Describe fair housing strategies and actions to achieve the goal</i></u>	<p><b>PHA is not required to submit.</b></p> <p><b>LMHA continually works to promote housing that is affordable, safe, decent, free of unlawful discrimination, and accessible as required under civil rights laws.</b></p>	<b>Fair Housing Goal:</b>
<b>Fair Housing Goal:</b>					
<u><i>Describe fair housing strategies and actions to achieve the goal</i></u>					
<p><b>PHA is not required to submit.</b></p> <p><b>LMHA continually works to promote housing that is affordable, safe, decent, free of unlawful discrimination, and accessible as required under civil rights laws.</b></p>					
<b>Fair Housing Goal:</b>					

	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Fair Housing Goal:</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; margin-top: 5px;"></div> </div>
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## Instructions for Preparation of Form HUD-50075-ST Annual PHA Plan for Standard and Troubled PHAs

**A. PHA Information.** All PHAs must complete this section. (24 CFR §903.4)

**A.1** Include the full **PHA Name, PHA Code, PHA Type, PHA Fiscal Year Beginning** (MM/YYYY), **PHA Inventory, Number of Public Housing Units and or Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs), PHA Plan Submission Type**, and the **Availability of Information**, specific location(s) of all information relevant to the public hearing and proposed PHA Plan. ([24 CFR §903.23\(4\)\(e\)](#))

**PHA Consortia:** Check box if submitting a Joint PHA Plan and complete the table. ([24 CFR §943.128\(a\)](#))

**B. Plan Elements.** All PHAs must complete this section.

**B.1 Revision of Existing PHA Plan Elements.** PHAs must:

Identify specifically which plan elements listed below that have been revised by the PHA. To specify which elements have been revised, mark the “yes” box. If an element has not been revised, mark “no.” ([24 CFR §903.7](#))

☒ **Statement of Housing Needs and Strategy for Addressing Housing Needs.** Provide a statement addressing the housing needs of low-income, very low-income and extremely low-income families and a brief description of the PHA’s strategy for addressing the housing needs of families who reside in the jurisdiction served by the PHA and other families who are on the public housing and Section 8 tenant-based assistance waiting lists. The statement must identify the housing needs of (i) families with incomes below 30 percent of area median income (extremely low-income); (ii) elderly families (iii) households with individuals with disabilities, and households of various races and ethnic groups residing in the jurisdiction or on the public housing and Section 8 tenant-based assistance waiting lists based on information provided by the applicable Consolidated Plan, information provided by HUD, and other generally available data. The statement of housing needs shall be based on information provided by the applicable Consolidated Plan, information provided by HUD, and generally available data. The identification of housing needs must address issues of affordability, supply, quality, accessibility, size of units, and location. Once the PHA has submitted an Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH), which includes an assessment of disproportionate housing needs in accordance with 24 CFR §5.154(d)(2)(iv), information on households with individuals with disabilities and households of various races and ethnic groups residing in the jurisdiction or on the waiting lists no longer needs to be included in the Statement of Housing Needs and Strategy for Addressing Housing Needs. (24 CFR §903.7(a)).

The identification of housing needs must address issues of affordability, supply, quality, accessibility, size of units, and location. (24 CFR §903.7(a)(2)(i)) Provide a description of the ways in which the PHA intends, to the maximum extent practicable, to address those housing needs in the upcoming year and the PHA's reasons for choosing its strategy. (24 CFR §903.7(a)(2)(iii))

☒ **Deconcentration and Other Policies that Govern Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions.** PHAs must submit a Deconcentration Policy for Field Office review. For additional guidance on what a PHA must do to deconcentrate poverty in its development and comply with fair housing requirements, see 24 CFR 903.2. (24 CFR §903.23(b)) Describe the PHA's admissions policy for deconcentration of poverty and income mixing of lower-income families in public housing. The Deconcentration Policy must describe the PHA's policy for bringing higher income tenants into lower income developments and lower income tenants into higher income developments. The deconcentration requirements apply to general occupancy and family public housing developments. Refer to 24 CFR §903.2(b)(2) for developments not subject to deconcentration of poverty and income mixing requirements. (24 CFR §903.7(b)) Describe the PHA's procedures for maintain waiting lists for admission to public housing and address any site-based waiting lists. (24 CFR §903.7(b)). A statement of the PHA's policies that govern resident or tenant eligibility, selection and admission including admission preferences for both public housing and HCV. (24 CFR §903.7(b)) Describe the unit assignment policies for public housing. (24 CFR §903.7(b))

☒ **Financial Resources.** A statement of financial resources, including a listing by general categories, of the PHA's anticipated resources, such as PHA operating, capital and other anticipated Federal resources available to the PHA, as well as tenant rents and other income available to support public housing or tenant-based assistance. The statement also should include the non-Federal sources of funds supporting each Federal program, and state the planned use for the resources. (24 CFR §903.7(c))

☐ **Rent Determination.** A statement of the policies of the PHA governing rents charged for public housing and HCV dwelling units, including applicable public housing flat rents, minimum rents, voucher family rent contributions, and payment standard policies. (24 CFR §903.7(d))

☒ **Operation and Management.** A statement of the rules, standards, and policies of the PHA governing maintenance and management of housing owned, assisted, or operated by the public housing agency (which shall include measures necessary for the prevention or eradication of pest infestation, including cockroaches), and management of the PHA and programs of the PHA. (24 CFR §903.7(e))

☐ **Grievance Procedures.** A description of the grievance and informal hearing and review procedures that the PHA makes available to its residents and applicants. (24 CFR §903.7(f))

☐ **Homeownership Programs.** A description of any Section 5h, Section 32, Section 8y, or HOPE I public housing or Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) homeownership programs (including project number and unit count) administered by the agency or for which the PHA has applied or will apply for approval. (24 CFR §903.7(k))

☐ **Community Service and Self Sufficiency Programs.** Describe how the PHA will comply with the requirements of (24 CFR §903.7(l)). Provide a description of: 1) Any programs relating to services and amenities provided or offered to assisted families; and 2) Any policies or programs of the PHA for the enhancement of the economic and social self-sufficiency of assisted families, including programs subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (24 CFR Part 135) and FSS. (24 CFR §903.7(l))

☒ **Safety and Crime Prevention (VAWA).** Describe the PHA's plan for safety and crime prevention to ensure the safety of the public housing residents. The statement must provide development-by-development or jurisdiction wide-basis: (i) A description of the need for measures to ensure the safety of public housing residents; (ii) A description of any crime prevention activities conducted or to be conducted by the PHA; and (iii) A description of the coordination between the PHA and the appropriate police precincts for carrying out crime prevention measures and activities. (24 CFR §903.7(m)) A description of: 1) Any activities, services, or programs provided or offered by an agency, either directly or in partnership with other service providers, to child or adult victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking; 2) Any activities, services, or programs provided or offered by a PHA that helps child and adult victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, to obtain or maintain housing; and 3) Any activities, services, or programs provided or offered by a public housing agency to prevent domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, or to enhance victim safety in assisted families. (24 CFR §903.7(m)(5))

☐ **Pet Policy.** Describe the PHA's policies and requirements pertaining to the ownership of pets in public housing. (24 CFR §903.7(n))

☐ **Asset Management.** State how the agency will carry out its asset management functions with respect to the public housing inventory of the agency, including how the agency will plan for the long-term operating, capital investment, rehabilitation, modernization, disposition, and other needs for such inventory. (24 CFR §903.7(q))

☒ **Substantial Deviation.** PHA must provide its criteria for determining a "substantial deviation" to its 5-Year Plan. (24 CFR §903.7(r)(2)(i))

☒ **Significant Amendment/Modification.** PHA must provide its criteria for determining a "Significant Amendment or Modification" to its 5-Year and Annual Plan. For modifications resulting from the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program, refer to the 'Sample PHA Plan Amendment' found in Notice PIH-2012-32 REV-3, successor RAD Implementation Notices, or other RAD Notices.

If any boxes are marked "yes", describe the revision(s) to those element(s) in the space provided.

PHAs must submit a Deconcentration Policy for Field Office review. For additional guidance on what a PHA must do to deconcentrate poverty in its development and comply with fair housing requirements, see 24 CFR 903.2. (24 CFR §903.23(b))

**B.2 New Activities.** If the PHA intends to undertake any new activities related to these elements in the current Fiscal Year, mark "yes" for those elements, and describe the activities to be undertaken in the space provided. If the PHA does not plan to undertake these activities, mark "no."

☒ **HOPE VI or Choice Neighborhoods.** 1) A description of any housing (including project number (if known) and unit count) for which the PHA will apply for HOPE VI or Choice Neighborhoods; and 2) A timetable for the submission of applications or proposals. The application and approval process for Hope VI or Choice Neighborhoods is a separate process. See guidance on HUD's website at:

[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/programs/ph/hope6](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/hope6) . (Notice PIH 2011-47)

☒ **Mixed Finance Modernization or Development.** **1)** A description of any housing (including project number (if known) and unit count) for which the PHA will apply for Mixed Finance Modernization or Development; and **2)** A timetable for the submission of applications or proposals. The application and approval process for Mixed Finance Modernization or Development is a separate process. See guidance on HUD's website at: [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/programs/ph/hope6/mfph#4](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/hope6/mfph#4)

☒ **Demolition and/or Disposition.** With respect to public housing only, describe any public housing development(s), or portion of a public housing development projects, owned by the PHA and subject to ACCs (including project number and unit numbers [or addresses]), and the number of affected units along with their sizes and accessibility features) for which the PHA will apply or is currently pending for demolition or disposition approval under section 18 of the 1937 Act (42 U.S.C. 1437p); and (2) A timetable for the demolition or disposition. This statement must be submitted to the extent that approved and/or pending demolition and/or disposition has changed as described in the PHA's last Annual and/or 5-Year PHA Plan submission. The application and approval process for demolition and/or disposition is a separate process. Approval of the PHA Plan does not constitute approval of these activities. See guidance on HUD's website at: [http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/centers/sac/demo\\_dispo/index.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/centers/sac/demo_dispo/index.cfm). (24 CFR §903.7(h))

☒ **Designated Housing for Elderly and Disabled Families.** Describe any public housing projects owned, assisted or operated by the PHA (or portions thereof), in the upcoming fiscal year, that the PHA has continually operated as, has designated, or will apply for designation for occupancy by elderly and/or disabled families only. Include the following information: **1)** development name and number; **2)** designation type; **3)** application status; **4)** date the designation was approved, submitted, or planned for submission; **5)** the number of units affected and; **6)** expiration date of the designation of any HUD approved plan. **Note:** The application and approval process for such designations is separate from the PHA Plan process, and PHA Plan approval does not constitute HUD approval of any designation. (24 CFR §903.7(i)(C))

☐ **Conversion of Public Housing under the Voluntary or Mandatory Conversion programs.** Describe any public housing building(s) (including project number and unit count) owned by the PHA that the PHA is required to convert or plans to voluntarily convert to tenant-based assistance; **2)** An analysis of the projects or buildings required to be converted; and **3)** A statement of the amount of assistance received to be used for rental assistance or other housing assistance in connection with such conversion. See guidance on HUD's website at:

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/centers/sac/conversion.cfm>. (24 CFR §903.7(j))

☒ **Conversion of Public Housing under the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program.** Describe any public housing building(s) (including project number and unit count) owned by the PHA that the PHA plans to voluntarily convert to Project-Based Rental Assistance or Project-Based Vouchers under RAD. See additional guidance on HUD's website at: [Notice PIH 2012-32 REV-3, successor RAD Implementation Notices, and other RAD notices.](#)

☐ **Occupancy by Over-Income Families.** A PHA that owns or operates fewer than two hundred fifty (250) public housing units, may lease a unit in a public housing development to an over-income family (a family whose annual income exceeds the limit for a low income family at the time of initial occupancy), if all the following conditions are satisfied: (1) There are no eligible low income families on the PHA waiting list or applying for public housing assistance when the unit is leased to an over-income family; (2) The PHA has publicized availability of the unit for rental to eligible low income families, including publishing public notice of such availability in a newspaper of general circulation in the jurisdiction at least thirty days before offering the unit to an over-income family; (3) The over-income family rents the unit on a month-to-month basis for a rent that is not less than the PHA's cost to operate the unit; (4) The lease to the over-income family provides that the family agrees to vacate the unit when needed for rental to an eligible family; and (5) The PHA gives the over-income family at least thirty days notice to vacate the unit when the unit is needed for rental to an eligible family. The PHA may incorporate information on occupancy by over-income families into its PHA Plan statement of deconcentration and other policies that govern eligibility, selection, and admissions. See additional guidance on HUD's website at: [Notice PIH 2011-7.](#) (24 CFR 960.503) (24 CFR 903.7(b))

☐ **Occupancy by Police Officers.** The PHA may allow police officers who would not otherwise be eligible for occupancy in public housing, to reside in a public housing dwelling unit. The PHA must include the number and location of the units to be occupied by police officers, and the terms and conditions of their tenancies; and a statement that such occupancy is needed to increase security for public housing residents. A "police officer" means a person determined by the PHA to be, during the period of residence of that person in public housing, employed on a full-time basis as a duly licensed professional police officer by a Federal, State or local government or by any agency of these governments. An officer of an accredited police force of a housing agency may qualify. The PHA may incorporate information on occupancy by police officers into its PHA Plan statement of deconcentration and other policies that govern eligibility, selection, and admissions. See additional guidance on HUD's website at: [Notice PIH 2011-7.](#) (24 CFR 960.505) (24 CFR 903.7(b))

☐ **Non-Smoking Policies.** The PHA may implement non-smoking policies in its public housing program and incorporate this into its PHA Plan statement of operation and management and the rules and standards that will apply to its projects. See additional guidance on HUD's website at: [Notice PIH 2009-21 and Notice PIH-2017-03.](#) (24 CFR §903.7(e))

☒ **Project-Based Vouchers.** Describe any plans to use Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) for new project-based vouchers, which must comply with PBV goals, civil rights requirements, Housing Quality Standards (HQS) and deconcentration standards, as stated in 983.57(b)(1) and set forth in the PHA Plan statement of deconcentration and other policies that govern eligibility, selection, and admissions. If using project-based vouchers, provide the projected number of project-based units and general locations, and describe how project-basing would be consistent with the PHA Plan (24 CFR §903.7(b)).

☒ **Units with Approved Vacancies for Modernization.** The PHA must include a statement related to units with approved vacancies that are undergoing modernization in accordance with [24 CFR §990.145\(a\)\(1\).](#)

☒ **Other Capital Grant Programs** (i.e., Capital Fund Community Facilities Grants or Emergency Safety and Security Grants).

For all activities that the PHA plans to undertake in the current Fiscal Year, provide a description of the activity in the space provided.

**B.3 Progress Report.** For all Annual Plans following submission of the first Annual Plan, a PHA must include a brief statement of the PHA's progress in meeting the mission and goals described in the 5-Year PHA Plan. (24 CFR §903.7(r)(1))

**B.4 Capital Improvements.** PHAs that receive funding from the Capital Fund Program (CFP) must complete this section (24 CFR §903.7 (g)). To comply with this requirement, the PHA must reference the most recent HUD approved Capital Fund 5 Year Action Plan in EPIC and the date that it was approved. PHAs can reference the form by including the following language in the Capital Improvement section of the appropriate Annual or Streamlined PHA Plan Template: "See Capital Fund 5 Year Action Plan in EPIC approved by HUD on XX/XX/XXXX."



**B.5 Most Recent Fiscal Year Audit.** If the results of the most recent fiscal year audit for the PHA included any findings, mark “yes” and describe those findings in the space provided. (24 CFR §903.7(p))

**C. Other Document and/or Certification Requirements.**

**C.1 Resident Advisory Board (RAB) comments.** If the RAB had comments on the annual plan, mark “yes,” submit the comments as an attachment to the Plan and describe the analysis of the comments and the PHA’s decision made on these recommendations. (24 CFR §903.13(c), 24 CFR §903.19)

**C.2 Certification by State of Local Officials.** Form HUD-50077-SL, *Certification by State or Local Officials of PHA Plans Consistency with the Consolidated Plan*, must be submitted by the PHA as an electronic attachment to the PHA Plan. (24 CFR §903.15). Note: A PHA may request to change its fiscal year to better coordinate its planning with planning done under the Consolidated Plan process by State or local officials as applicable.

**C.3 Civil Rights Certification/ Certification Listing Policies and Programs that the PHA has Revised since Submission of its Last Annual Plan.** Provide a certification that the following plan elements have been revised, provided to the RAB for comment before implementation, approved by the PHA board, and made available for review and inspection by the public. This requirement is satisfied by completing and submitting form HUD-50077 ST-HCV-HP, *PHA Certifications of Compliance with PHA Plan, Civil Rights, and Related Laws and Regulations Including PHA Plan Elements that Have Changed*. Form HUD-50077-ST-HCV-HP, *PHA Certifications of Compliance with PHA Plan, Civil Rights, and Related Laws and Regulations Including PHA Plan Elements that Have Changed* must be submitted by the PHA as an electronic attachment to the PHA Plan. This includes all certifications relating to Civil Rights and related regulations. A PHA will be considered in compliance with the certification requirement to affirmatively further fair housing if the PHA fulfills the requirements of §§ 903.7(o)(1) and 903.15(d) and: (i) examines its programs or proposed programs; (ii) identifies any fair housing issues and contributing factors within those programs, in accordance with 24 CFR 5.154 or 24 CFR 5.160(a)(3) as applicable; (iii) specifies actions and strategies designed to address contributing factors, related fair housing issues, and goals in the applicable Assessment of Fair Housing consistent with 24 CFR 5.154 in a reasonable manner in view of the resources available; (iv) works with jurisdictions to implement any of the jurisdiction’s initiatives to affirmatively further fair housing that require the PHA’s involvement; (v) operates programs in a manner consistent with any applicable consolidated plan under 24 CFR part 91, and with any order or agreement, to comply with the authorities specified in paragraph (o)(1) of this section; (vi) complies with any contribution or consultation requirement with respect to any applicable AFH, in accordance with 24 CFR 5.150 through 5.180; (vii) maintains records reflecting these analyses, actions, and the results of these actions; and (viii) takes steps acceptable to HUD to remedy known fair housing or civil rights violations. impediments to fair housing choice within those programs; addresses those impediments in a reasonable fashion in view of the resources available; works with the local jurisdiction to implement any of the jurisdiction’s initiatives to affirmatively further fair housing; and assures that the annual plan is consistent with any applicable Consolidated Plan for its jurisdiction. (24 CFR §903.7(o)).

**C.4 Challenged Elements.** If any element of the Annual PHA Plan or 5-Year PHA Plan is challenged, a PHA must include such information as an attachment to the Annual PHA Plan or 5-Year PHA Plan with a description of any challenges to Plan elements, the source of the challenge, and the PHA’s response to the public.

**C.5 Troubled PHA.** If the PHA is designated troubled, and has a current MOA, improvement plan, or recovery plan in place, mark “yes,” and describe that plan. Include dates in the description and most recent revisions of these documents as attachments. If the PHA is troubled, but does not have any of these items, mark “no.” If the PHA is not troubled, mark “N/A.” (24 CFR §903.9)

**D. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH).**

**D.1 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing.** The PHA will use the answer blocks in item D.1 to provide a statement of its strategies and actions to implement each fair housing goal outlined in its accepted Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) consistent with 24 CFR § 5.154(d)(5) that states, in relevant part: “To implement goals and priorities in an AFH, strategies and actions shall be included in program participants’ ... PHA Plans (including any plans incorporated therein) ... Strategies and actions must affirmatively further fair housing ....” Use the chart provided to specify each fair housing goal from the PHA’s AFH for which the PHA is the responsible program participant – whether the AFH was prepared solely by the PHA, jointly with one or more other PHAs, or in collaboration with a state or local jurisdiction – and specify the fair housing strategies and actions to be implemented by the PHA during the period covered by this PHA Plan. If there are more than three fair housing goals, add answer blocks as necessary.

Until such time as the PHA is required to submit an AFH, the PHA will not have to complete section D., nevertheless , the PHA will address its obligation to affirmatively further fair housing in part by fulfilling the requirements at 24 CFR 903.7(o)(3) enacted prior to August 17, 2015, which means that it examines its own programs or proposed programs; identifies any impediments to fair housing choice within those programs; addresses those impediments in a reasonable fashion in view of the resources available; works with local jurisdictions to implement any of the jurisdiction’s initiatives to affirmatively further fair housing that require the PHA’s involvement; and maintain records reflecting these analyses and actions. Furthermore, under Section 5A(d)(15) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, as amended, a PHA must submit a civil rights certification with its Annual PHA Plan, which is described at 24 CFR 903.7(o)(1) except for qualified PHAs who submit the Form HUD-50077-CR as a standalone document.

This information collection is authorized by Section 511 of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act, which added a new section 5A to the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, as amended, which introduced the 5-Year and Annual PHA Plan.

Public reporting burden for this information collection is estimated to average 7.52 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. HUD may not collect this information, and respondents are not required to complete this form, unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

**Privacy Act Notice.** The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development is authorized to solicit the information requested in this form by virtue of Title 12, U.S. Code, Section 1701 et seq., and regulations promulgated thereunder at Title 12, Code of Federal Regulations. Responses to the collection of information are required to obtain a benefit or to retain a benefit. The information requested does not lend itself to confidentiality.



## **Attachment A**

### **Statement of Housing Needs and Strategy for Addressing Housing Needs**

At the end of calendar year 2024, nearly 82% of applicants for LMHA's housing programs were at or below the Extremely Low Income (ELI) level. Approximately 90% of public housing residents, 94% of multifamily residents, and 84% of participants in HCVP are ELI. For comparison, 2023 data shows that approximately 10.6% of families in Lorain County are ELI. Approximately 21% of the public housing households (285) have zero annual income.

Approximately 17% of LMHA applicants for PH, Multifamily, and HCVP are elderly families or families with disabilities. In public housing, if an accessible unit is vacant, that unit will be offered to the first family that needs the features of the unit, even if the family is not at the top of the waiting list. If an applicant or current family does not need the accessibility, LMHA contacts agencies who serve persons with disabilities to advise them of the availability of such units.

Though none of LMHA's Public Housing properties are designated for persons who are elderly or have disabilities LMHA manages two Multifamily Project-Based Section 8 properties (Harr and International Plazas) with 100 units each designated for elderly or persons with disabilities 92 are elderly; 159 are persons with a disability. In LMHA's public housing, 485/36% of the heads of households are persons with a disability, and 240/18% of the heads of household are elderly.

This demonstrates that LMHA housing programs are providing housing for the neediest residents of Lorain County. Source for Lorain County statistics:

<https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023.S1701?q=Lorain%20County,%20Ohio&t=Income%20and%20Poverty:Poverty>

LMHA responds to requests for reasonable accommodations for modifications to units or transfers to appropriate units to ensure that the household member has full access to live in the apartment without limitations. LMHA processed more than 281 requests for Reasonable Accommodations annually for all housing programs in calendar year 2024.

LMHA administers 175 vouchers for persons who are Non-Elderly Disabled (NED), 117 Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers and are housing 2 persons via the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative. LMHA had 2 referrals in 2024 for the FYI initiative. One referral was withdrawn as other housing was secured. One was issued a voucher and is in the process of leasing up.

During projects involving substantial renovations, units will be constructed/renovated utilizing principles of universal design and visit ability. LMHA has a goal of establishing at least 72 mobility accessible public housing units. Currently there are 28. There are many units that are not fully mobility accessible but are visitable, having been renovated following principles of Universal Design.

LMHA has exceeded its Section 504 goal of having 2%, or 29, units for persons with sensory impairments. LMHA now has 396 (or 28%) of its public housing units accessible for persons with sensory (hearing) impairments. Additional units are made accessible for sensory impairments upon request.

Despite the high demand for subsidized housing in Lorain County, applicant families consisting of only 1 person are becoming more selective and will turn down an offer for housing in a zero-bedroom (i.e., efficiency) apartment. It is not uncommon for an efficiency unit to be rejected an average of 3 times.

LMHA is considering a modernization project to convert efficiencies to 1-bedroom units by combining 3 adjacent efficiencies into 1-bedroom or two-bedroom units. Lakeview Plaza, 310 W 7th Street, Lorain, OH 44052, in which 150 of the 209 units are efficiencies is ideal for this conversion. The project was added to the 2019 5-Year Action Plan and plans have been made to proceed with the project.

### **Homelessness in Lorain County**

LMHA is in the process of adding a homeless preference to its housing programs. This is a Substantial Deviation/Significant Amendment to LMHA's approved plan and all requirements to amend the Annual Plan were followed. LMHA submitted its revised July 1, 2024 Annual Plan to include a homeless preference for its programs on January 31, 2025 and is awaiting HUD approval.

Information provided from Lorain County Homeless Shelters estimates that 178 persons are unsheltered on any given night. COHHIO's PIT count unsheltered figure was 11.

The City of Elyria Consolidated Plan identifies housing issues, homelessness, and other special needs as priorities. The 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan is in effect until September 30, 2025.

The plan is available at: <https://www.cityofelyria.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/HUD-Consolidated-Plan-5-Year-Strategic.pdf>); the 2024 Action Plan, currently available only in draft form, is available at: [https://www.cityofelyria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/DRAFT\\_2024\\_ANNUAL\\_ACTION\\_PLAN.pdf](https://www.cityofelyria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/DRAFT_2024_ANNUAL_ACTION_PLAN.pdf)

LMHA is reviewing its portfolio and exploring collaborations with the City of Elyria to support increased affordable housing development in Elyria. In addition LMHA has a CHAP for the redevelopment of Wilkes Villa (Elyria).

LMHA's Annual and Capital Fund Program 5-Year Action Plans are consistent with the City's identified goals and objectives as to support housing issues, homeless, and other special needs as follows:

*Housing Priority: There is a need to maintain, expand and improve affordable housing.*

Goal/Strategy:

Housing Rehabilitation: Rehabilitate the existing owner-occupied and rental housing stock in the city. LMHA is proposing to rehabilitate units as needed, including, but not limited to the following: bath/plumbing, appliances, furnace replacement, electrical, light replacement, doors, windows, and radon testing.

Housing Construction: Increase the supply of affordable, decent, safe, accessible, and sanitary housing through new construction. LMHA is proposing to construct new housing units at Wilkes Villa which will include multiple bedroom units. The design will also integrate full mobile accessibility for approximately 10% of the units and for all units to be visitable.

Home Ownership: Assist low- and moderate-income households to become homeowners through credit counseling, housing counseling and financial incentives. LMHA provides homeowner counseling services. The Authority maintains a Housing Choice Voucher Program. LMHA also continues to work with current households to raise their incomes.

*Homeless Priority: There is a need for housing opportunities and services for homeless persons and persons at-risk of becoming homeless.*

Goal/Strategy:

Housing Support: Support local agencies efforts to provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing. LMHA provides affordable housing to families/individuals at the extremely low-income range. LMHA continues to work with community partners to identify specific target populations to be served through project-based vouchers. The Authority will also issue project-based vouchers to eligible developer(s) who assist homeless persons or who have more disabling conditions that complicate a person's ability to find and maintain housing. LMHA may project base up to the 438 vouchers approved by HUD in February 2019. LMHA has awarded 79 vouchers that are in financing and development stages. These projects will serve seniors, homeless families, and homeless Veterans. Vouchers will be awarded throughout Lorain County either through a competitive RFP process or LIHTC or other competitive processes for supportive services.

Housing Development: Support the development of housing for the homeless and disabled by nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies. LMHA provides affordable housing to those at risk for becoming homeless. LMHA is proposing to increase the number of units that are handicap accessible with a goal of establishing at least 72 mobility accessible public housing units. Further, LMHA has exceeded its goal of having 2%, or 29, units for persons with sensory impairments. LMHA has 396 (28%) of its public housing units accessible for persons with sensory (hearing) impairments.

*Other Special Needs Priority: There is a need for housing opportunities, services, and facilities for persons with special needs.*

Goal/Strategy:

LMHA is proposing to increase the number of units to those with special needs in the 5-year plan. In addition, LMHA's Project based Voucher Program is supporting the development of additional supportive housing.

Housing: Increase the supply of decent, safe, accessible, and sanitary housing for the elderly, persons with disabilities, and persons with other special needs through rehabilitation, new construction, and reasonable accommodation. LMHA will continue its efforts to rehabilitate, construct and provide reasonable accommodations, as provided throughout the plan.

*Public Service Priority: There is a need to support social services, programs, and facilities for the elderly, persons with disabilities, the homeless and persons with other special needs.*

Goal/Strategy:

Public Service: Support programs for the elderly and disabled, social service programs, emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing. LMHA will enhance the provision of services to residents, applicants, and the public.

LMHA's Annual and Capital Fund Program 5-Year Action Plans also consistent with the City of Lorain's Consolidated Plan goals to improve the availability and accessibility of affordable housing for persons of low and moderate income in Lorain and to reduce homelessness. The City of Lorain Consolidated Plan for 2025 to 2030 is available in draft form at:

<https://www.cityoflorain.org/718/Consolidated-Plan-2025---2030>

The plan will be finalized after two public hearings to be held on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 5:30 PM and Monday, February 17, 2025 at 5:30 PM.

All City of Lorain Annual Action Plans and the Consolidated Plan are available at:

<https://www.cityoflorain.org/397/Permits-Publications>

LMHA's mission and specialty is the provision of safe, decent, affordable housing for persons of low-income in Lorain County. Lorain's primary housing problem is affordability, and LMHA's housing programs are tailored to that problem for general populations, elderly persons, and persons with disabilities.

LMHA was awarded a Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant for the Southside Gateway Community in South Lorain in December 2022. The grant area includes Southside Gardens. The Final Southside Gateway Community Plan was submitted to HUD on December 20, 2024. More information on the Southside Gateway Community Plan is available at: <https://www.southsidegateway.com/>

The tables that follow provide a snapshot in time of the demographics of applicants on the waiting lists and families housed in LMHA's public housing, Housing Choice Voucher Program, and Multifamily housing programs.

### Waiting List Statistics

<b>PUBLIC HOUSING (PH) - Reflects both active and in process As of 12/31/2024</b>	<b># of Families</b>	<b>% of Total Families</b>
Total	7877	100
Extremely low income ( $\leq 30\%$ AMI)	6406	81
Very low income ( $> 30\%$ but $\leq 50\%$ AMI)	811	10
Low Income ( $> 50\%$ but $< 80\%$ AMI)	188	2
Families with children <sup>4</sup>	2284	30
Elderly families	303	3
Families with Disabilities	1343	17
Female HOH	5659	71
Hispanic		
White	4877	62
Black/African American	3242	41
American Indian/Alaska Native	289	3
Asian	51	0
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	99	1
Multi-racial	681	1

**NOTE:** LMHA Public Housing waiting list is currently closed.

<b>Housing Choice Voucher Program Waiting List As of 12/31/2024</b>	<b># of Families</b>	<b>% of Families</b>
Total	3064	100
Extremely low income	2461	80
Very Low Income	468	15
Low Income	112	4
Families with children	1335	44
Elderly families	132	4
Families with disabilities	476	16
Female HOH	2504	82
Hispanic		
White	1515	49
Black/African American	1618	53
American Indian/Alaska Native	117	3
Asian	13	0
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	41	1
Multi-racial	240	7

Not reported	0	0
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**NOTE:** LMHA Housing Choice Voucher waiting list is currently closed.

<b>MULTIFAMILY HOUSING APPLICANTS (Harr and International Plazas) As of 12/31/2024</b>	<b># of Families</b>	<b>% of Families</b>
Total	559	100
Extremely low income	526	94
Very Low Income	32	16
Low Income	1	0
Families with children	29	5
Elderly families	57	10
Families with disabilities	50	9
Female HOH	311	56
Hispanic	55	10
White	91	16
Black/African American	22	4
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0
Asian	0	0
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0	0
Multi-racial	0	0
Not reported	0	0

## HCVP Participant Statistics

<b>Housing Choice Voucher Program Active Participants As of 12/31/2024</b>		
Total	2859	100
Disabled HOH	1157	40
Elderly HOH	597	21
Hispanic	870	30
Non-Hispanic	1989	70
Female HOH	2376	83
Male HOH	483	17
White	1642	57
Black/African American	1241	43
American Indian/Alaska Native	36	1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	28	1
Asian	4	0
Multi-Racial	80	3
Extremely low income (ELI)	1724	60
Very low income (VLI)	390	14
Low Income (LI)	52	2
High Income	4	0.1
Average Household Income	14,485.82	

## **Attachment B**

### **Deconcentration and Other Policies that Govern Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions.**

LMHA dba Raise Up is amending its Administrative Plan to address the elimination of funding for the Emergency Voucher program in accord with HUD guidance and PIH Notice 2025-19 and 2023-23 (or most current notice) to absorb eligible Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs) into the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program. The proposed language is attached as Ex. 1

On May 2, 2025 HUD LMHA's approved significant amendment the FY 07/01/2024 Annual Plan adding a homeless preference.

LMHA is updating its ACOP and Administrative Plan to add a policy allowing for opening and closing of public housing and S8 HCV waitlists for certain preferences only. If this policy is implemented, LMHA will clearly state in any public notices announcing the waitlist openings that only those eligible for the preference can apply. Preferences for HCV waitlists or public housing waitlists may be added to the Administrative Plan or ACOP, respectively, to allow for those households impacted by RAD or other rehabilitation and modernization projects undertaken by a project owner that require displacement or temporary relocation to receive preference point priority.

LMHA will also produce Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plans and Tenant Selection Plans for the Leavitt/Westgate/Westview Terrace and the Wilkes Villa properties which are to be converted to project-based rental assistance through RAD. Additionally, for any house rules developed by LMHA for these properties, the housing authority will ensure that the house rules are consistent with HUD's requirements for HUD subsidized projects, will be reasonable, and will not infringe on tenants' civil rights.

## **Administrative Plan Amendment: Absorption of Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs) into the HCV Program**

### **Section X: Transition of Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs)**

In accordance with HUD guidance and PIH Notice 2025-19 and 2023-23 (or most current notice), Raise Up will absorb eligible Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs) into the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program.

#### **A. Purpose**

This amendment outlines the policies and procedures for the absorption of EHVs into the HCV program, as permitted when:

- The EHV funding or leasing authority is no longer available or is being phased out, and
- The PHA has available HCV funding and voucher capacity to support ongoing assistance for the EHV participants.

#### **B. Waiting List Preference**

Current voucher holders subsidized through the EHV program are given preference when applying for the HCV program.

##### **1. Application for HCV waiting list**

EHV families who apply must:

- Submit an application when the waiting list is open.
- Be a current participant with an EHV voucher through Raise Up at the time of application.
- Continue to be a current participant with an EHV voucher through Raise Up at the time of HCV issuance.
- Families who previously held an EHV voucher and were terminated from the program or were ported and absorbed by another county do not qualify for this preference.

##### **2. Voucher Conversion**

Absorption will occur upon:

- Funding availability as determined by the PHA Executive Director or designee.

##### **3. Notification to Participants**

- All current EHV families will be notified of this preference and when waiting lists open and close. Notification to families will be made by mail, email, and resident portal.

#### **C. Program Rule Alignment**



Ex. 1

Once absorbed, families will be subject to all regular HCV policies as outlined in this Administrative Plan, including:

- Social security number and citizenship verification
- Minimum rent and payment standards
- Portability policies
- Termination and grievance procedures

During the transition from EHV to HCV, the following eligibility criteria do not apply, per PIH notice 2025-19:

- Criminal rescreening
- Income eligibility and targeting requirements
- Rent burden limiting family share to 40% or less of monthly adjusted income at initial occupancy, if the family is leasing in place

When transitioning from EHV to HCV, PHAs are not required to execute a new HAP contract or tenancy addendum for the family provided that the family is remaining in the same unit.

Supportive services provided under EHV will no longer be guaranteed but may continue under local partnerships if available.

#### **D. Funding and Reporting**

Absorbed EHV's will be reported under the PHA's regular HCV program in PIC-NG and VMS. The PHA will ensure accurate tracking and documentation of the transition for HUD reporting purposes.

#### **E. Administrative Oversight**

The absorption process will be monitored by the HCV Manager or designee to ensure compliance with HUD regulations and to prevent adverse impacts on leasing and budget utilization.

## Attachment C

### Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority Annual Plan

Financial Resources - Expended on eligible purposes.		FFY Beginning July 1, 2025
1	Federal Grants - Current	
	Public Housing Operating Fund	\$8,506,558.00
	Public Housing Capital Fund	\$2,048,709.00
	HOPE VI Revitalization	\$0.00
	HOPE VI Demolition	\$0.00
	Annual Contributions for Section 8 Tenant Based Assistance	\$27,748,077.13
	Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency Grants	\$275,700.00
	Community Development Block Grant	\$0.00
	HOME	\$0.00
	Other Federal Grants	\$0.00
	Shelter Plus Care	\$0.00
2	Prior Year Federal Grants(unobligated funds only)	\$12,106,915.00
3	Public Housing Dwelling Rental Income	\$3,204,646.00
		<u>\$53,890,605.13</u>

## **Attachment D**

### **Operations and Management**

A statement of the rules, standards, and policies of the PHA governing maintenance and management of housing owned, assisted, or operated by the public housing agency (which shall include measures necessary for the prevention or eradication of pest infestation, including cockroaches), and management of the PHA and programs of the PHA. (24 CFR §903.7(e))

LMHA operates and manages public housing properties, a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit property, multifamily housing/project-based properties (funded under the Section 8 New Construction program), and the Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP).

LMHA is governed by a Board of Commissioners which contracts with three employees to lead the Housing Authority: Chief Executive Office, Chief Operating Officer, and Chief Development and Financial Officer. The Authority is comprised of various departments to administer its programs: executive management, accounting, contract administration/procurement, Human Resources, admissions, work orders, resident services, Housing Choice Voucher Program, and public/multifamily housing property management.

Property management is comprised of 5 public housing AMPs and 5 management/maintenance teams, one of which is responsible for the multifamily properties.

LMHA's rules, standards, and policies for governing the management and maintenance of public housing and LIHTC properties are contained in LMHA's Public Housing Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP).

LMHA's rules, standards, and policies for governing the management and maintenance of multifamily housing properties are contained the Harr and International Plaza Tenant Selection Plan.

LMHA's rules, standards, and policies for governing the management of the Housing Choice Voucher Program are contained in LMHA's HCVP Administrative Plan.

These documents are posted at [www.lmha.org/about-lmha/lmha-policies/](http://www.lmha.org/about-lmha/lmha-policies/).

LMHA's Public Housing ACOP, HCVP Administrative Plan, and the Tenant Selection Plan incorporate a variety of rules, standards, policies, and procedures which govern the management, operation and maintenance of the Public Housing, Multifamily Housing, and the Housing Choice Voucher programs. Some policies may not apply to all programs. Some documents are stand alone and are not in the Policy or Plans. The list of rules, standards, policies, and procedures include, but are not limited to:

- Air Conditioner Surcharge Policy
- Applicant Screening Process
- Appointment of Personal Designee Policy
- Biohazard Cleanup Procedure
- Canvassing Policy
- Community Service Policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- Deconcentration Policy
- Drug Free Safety Program

EIV Usage & Security Policy  
Elevator Entrapment Procedure  
Emergency Evacuation Procedures  
Ethics/Conflict of Interest Policy  
Excess Water Consumption Surcharge Policy  
Fair Housing Plan  
Flat Rent Policy  
Flood Cleanup Procedure  
Hazard Communication Program  
House Inspection Policy  
Housekeeping Policy  
Housekeeping Referral Program  
ID Policy for entrance into High Rises  
Integrated Pest Management Extermination & Bed Bug Policy  
Key Usage Policy  
Language Access Plan (Limited English Proficiency (LEP))  
Minimum Rent Policy  
One Strike Policy  
Personal Information Policy  
Pet Policy/Assistance Animal Policy  
Procurement Policy  
Public Records Request Policy  
Reasonable Accommodations Procedure Manual  
Records Retention Policy  
Satellite Dish Installation Procedure  
Scattered Site Eligibility Criteria  
Smoke Detector Policy  
Smoke Free Policy  
Social Media Policy  
Take Possession Policy  
Transfer Policy  
Unreported Income Repayment Policy  
VAWA Policy/Emergency VAWA Transfer Policy  
Work Order Procedures

### **Extermination Policies**

LMHA has implemented an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program which requires a commitment from all LMHA employees, residents, and extermination contractors to prevent and eradicate bed bugs, cockroaches, and other pests and vermin from all LMHA-owned/managed residential units.

Cooperative efforts on the part of the LMHA as well as all residents and guests will increase the likelihood of successful eradication not only with respect to bed bugs, but also regarding future infestations which pose a severe threat of contamination and are adverse to the health, safety, and welfare of LMHA residents.

All tenants must immediately notify the LMHA of the presence of bed bugs or other insects or vermin in or around his or her unit and cooperate with the LMHA extermination services. After the resident makes

the report, LMHA shall schedule an appointment for an inspection of the unit and personal property of the resident. Upon inspection, if the exterminator confirms the presence of roaches, bed bugs, insects, rodents, or animals, the reporting resident's apartment will be scheduled for extermination services. When possible, this extermination service will occur the same day as the inspection.

The resident will be responsible for the preparation of his or her unit for these services. Before the extermination services are started, an appointment letter with a description of all preparation requirements will be provided to the resident. In addition LMHA collaborates

During the course of routine maintenance, inspection, or other services, if it is found that a resident has a pest or insect infestation that has not been previously reported or that has remained unresolved, then the resident will be scheduled for extermination treatment. In this case, the LMHA will notify the resident of the preparation required for the extermination and the date of the treatment.

In cases of severe infestations of either bed bugs or other vermin that pose a similar threat of severe contamination, it may be necessary for the furnishings of the resident to be removed from the premises. This will only occur when the pest control contractor advises both the LMHA and the resident in writing that no level of extermination treatment could safely remove or eliminate the pests which are infesting the resident's furniture or belongings. Notably, such furnishings must be completely removed from LMHA property; containment or dumping in dumpsters or trash bins located on property owned or operated by the LMHA will not be permitted. In such cases, LMHA strongly advises the resident to destroy the furnishings and LMHA will assist with this process upon request at no charge to the resident.

Due to the persistent nature of some insect infestations, such as bed bugs and cockroaches, LMHA will continue to have the extermination contractor inspect and treat the unit on a recurring basis until the infestation has been eliminated.

To mitigate the occurrence of heavy infestations, LMHA's extermination contractors conduct quarterly inspections of all LMHA-owned/managed residential units. During these quarterly inspections, monitors are placed in high traffic areas and checked at the next quarterly inspection.

LMHA may implement a Vacancy Reduction Plan to address persistent pest infestations affecting unit leasing and vacancy rates.

LMHA's Bed Bug Heat Treatment Room at Lakeview Plaza will be completed the first quarter of 2025 and will provide additional service so that tenants' possessions can be treated as necessary. LMHA will install a Bed Bug Treatment Room at Kennedy Plaza in 2025.

## **Attachment E**

### **Safety and Crime Prevention**

LMHA's Safety and Service Director continually reviews LMHA's Safety and Crime Prevention procedures.

LMHA Security Department includes the Director, (1) Senior Security Officer and (7) Security Officers that work in the High-Rises in Lorain and Elyria. The security team monitors the buildings and fills out detailed logs for their buildings that provide information so that problems caused by residents or guests can be dealt with proactively. The security team monitors cameras and supports possible infractions or criminal offenses and has helped identify suspects and resolve issues.

Though crime rates are lower in LMHA properties when compared to any comparable geographical size or population in which they are located, residents might be fearful for the safety of their families. Some people on the waiting list are reluctant to move into LMHA developments due to perceived and/or actual levels of minor and/or drug-related crime. LMHA's Department of Safety and Security continues to strive to make the residents of LMHA safe and secure in their dwellings.

Our R.A.W. (Residence Assistance Watch) is present 5 of LMHA's 7 High-Rises. The RAW are resident volunteers living in the High-Rises; they patrol their buildings and act as the eyes and ears for identifying potential criminal activity and unsafe conditions. RAW meets with the Safety/Security Director bimonthly to discuss any safety or security concerns. Information obtained shared with building managers.

LMHA's partnership with our local police departments is strong. With the installation of the new security camera system in Wilkes Villa, Elyria Police rely on LMHA for camera footage of crimes that may have taken place on our property. This open communication opens up the door for other dialogue involving EPD and our property. Constant sharing of information between LMHA and EPD is crucial in our efforts to keep LMHA residents informed and safe.

Statistics provided by the Elyria Police Department for our three LMHA properties (Harr Plaza, Riverview Plaza and Wilkes Villa) show no significant change from previous years. Harr Plaza shows a decrease by eight calls, while Riverview shows an increase by nine calls. Wilkes Villa is down by twenty eight calls which is attributed to fewer domestics and less No Offense Calls. No offense calls are when police respond to a call and they find that no offense has been committed.

LMHA also has a strong partnership with the Lorain Police Department (LPD). In addition to the regular sharing of information between LMHA and LPD, LMHA coordinated with LPD to utilize empty family site units at Leavitt Homes and Westview Terrace for K-9 training for drug sniffs and suspect apprehensions. These training events serve as a good Community Policing tool. Sometimes these events draw and crowd giving residents the opportunity to speak with police officers, ask questions, and build relationships.

Statistics provided by the Lorain Police Department include International Plaza, Lakeview Plaza, Kennedy Plaza, Southside Gardens, Leavitt Homes and Westview Terrace. The total number of calls for 2024 was 1347, slightly reduced from the 1368 total calls in 2023. Significant improvements were noted: assaults

were down by 10; property damage that was also down by 10. Unauthorized persons decreased from 104 in 2023 to 77 in 2024. Warrant arrests increased to 20 in 2024 from 9 in 2023.

Total cases for 2023 were 316, a decrease from 421 in 2022. The statistics for actual calls for service shows that LPD responded to Lakeview Plaza more than any other LMHA High-rise while the Leavitt Homes has the highest police response compared to Westview Terrace and South Side Gardens.

### **Safety and Crime Prevention (VAWA)**

LMHA has adopted an Emergency Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Transfer Plan. LMHA is a member of the Domestic Violence Awareness Task Force. LMHA collaborates with local community agencies providing services and programs related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to ensure that current information and all informational community programs are available to applicants, residents, and staff.

The following local organizations aid victims:

El Centro de Servicios Sociales Inc.  
2800 Pearl Avenue  
Lorain, Ohio 44055  
440.277.8235

Genesis House (Lorain County Safe Harbor)  
PO Box 718  
Lorain, OH 44052  
24-hour Hotline: 440.244.1853; 440.323.3400

Pathways Counseling & Growth Center  
312 Third Street  
Elyria, OH 44035  
440.323.5707

Mental Health, Addiction and Recovery  
Services (MHARS) Board of Lorain County  
1173 North Ridge Road, East  
Lorain, OH 44055  
440.233.2020  
24/7 Emergency/Crisis Hotline: 800.888.6161

Nord Center  
6140 South Broadway Avenue  
Lorain, OH 44053  
24/7 Emergency/Crisis Hotline: 800.888.6161  
Sexual Assault Services Hotline: 440.204.4359

Far West Center/Amherst  
510 N. Leavitt Road  
Amherst, OH 44001  
440.988.4900



Far West Center/Westlake  
29133 Health Campus Drive  
Westlake, OH 44145  
440.835.6212

Tenants who are or have been victims of domestic violence are encouraged to contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233, or a local domestic violence shelter, for assistance in creating a safety plan. For persons with hearing impairments, that hotline can be accessed by calling 1-800-787-3224 (TTY).

Tenants who have been victims of sexual assault may call the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network's National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800- 656-HOPE or visit the online hotline at <https://ohl.rainn.org/online/>

Tenants who are or have been victims of stalking seeking help may visit the National Center for Victims of Crime's Stalking Resource Center at <https://www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center>.

Further, LMHA Resident Service Coordinators and FSS Case Managers facilitate direct connection to domestic abuse resources and shelter for residents who express need for assistance. Each LMHA site community restrooms include the domestic abuse hotline posters that include contact information for the local safe harbor location. Each management office is equipped with informational pamphlets containing domestic abuse resources. Residents are provided with a copy of HUD-5380: Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act at each annual recertification, with any notice of lease termination, and with any notice of a grievance hearing. Additionally, Domestic Abuse Awareness projects are displayed in collaboration with the Genesis House Lorain County Safe Harbor in each Public Housing site and LMHA main office annually during Domestic Abuse Awareness month.

## **Attachment F**

### **FY 2025 Proposed Statement of Substantial Deviation/Significant Amendment**

The Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) considers any of the following to be a substantial deviation from the Agency's Five-Year Plan and a significant amendment or modification to the Agency's Annual Plan. If any of the criteria are met, LMHA will submit a revised Plan that satisfies all public process requirements.

#### **Agency Five Year Plan**

- Additions or deletions of strategic goals
- Revisions to the LMHA mission statement that deviates from the present commitments

#### **Agency Annual Plan and Capital Fund Program (CFP) Five-Year Action Plan**

- Any change to rent or admission policies or organization of waiting lists
- Any change, for purposes of the CFP, to a proposed demolition, disposition, designation of housing, homeownership programs, development, mixed-finance proposal, RAD Conversion or Capital Fund Financing .

An exception to this definition will be made for any of the above that are adopted to reflect changes in HUD regulatory requirements since such changes are not considered significant.

Changes made to comply with new or revised HUD rules do not constitute significant deviation or modification from the Plans presently submitted. Revisions made to work items and activities contained in the Plan, to accommodate the loss of PFS subsidy or capital funds received from HUD as a result of inadequate appropriations, shall not be considered substantial deviation or significant modification from the present Plan.

The following RAD specific items do not constitute substantial deviation or significant modification from the present Plans.

#### **Substantial Deviation**

- a. The decision to convert to either Project Based Rental Assistance or Project Based Voucher Assistance;
- b. Changes to the Capital Fund Budget produced as a result of each approved RAD Conversion, regardless of whether the proposed conversion will include use of additional Capital Funds;
- c. Changes to the construction and rehabilitation plan for each approved RAD conversion; and
- d. Changes to the financing structure for each approved RAD conversion, including whether it incorporates a RAD/Section 18 Blend

#### **Significant Amendment/Modification**

- a. The decision to convert to either Project Based Rental Assistance or Project Based Voucher Assistance;

- b. Changes to the Capital Fund Budget produced as a result of each approved RAD Conversion, regardless of whether the proposed conversion will include use of additional Capital Funds;
- c. Changes to the construction and rehabilitation plan for each approved RAD conversion; and
- d. Changes to the financing structure for each approved RAD conversion, including whether it incorporates a RAD/Section 18 Blend

Any future issuance of HUD guidelines or additional regulations shall take precedence over the above criterion.

## **Attachment B – Deconcentration Policy and Analysis**

LMHA is committed to achieving a healthy mix of incomes in its public housing developments by attracting and retaining higher income families and by working toward deconcentration of poverty goals.

### **Methodology:**

1. LMHA will determine the average income of all families in all covered developments on an annual basis.
2. LMHA will determine the average income of all families residing in each covered development (not adjusting for unit size) on an annual basis.
3. LMHA will then determine whether each of its covered developments falls above, within, or below the established income range (EIR), which is from 85% to 115% of the average family income determined in Step 1.
4. LMHA with covered developments having average incomes outside the EIR will then determine whether these developments are consistent with its local goals and annual plan.
5. For developments outside the EIR LMHA will take the following actions to provide for deconcentration of poverty and income mixing:
  - As an incentive to employed individuals, LMHA will grant a permissive deduction to working families for medical insurance premiums withheld from the employed applicant's/resident's gross pay.
  - LMHA may also target investment and capital improvements toward developments with an average income below the Established Income Range to encourage applicant families whose income is above the Established Income Range to accept units in those developments.
  - For properties with average incomes below EIR, LMHA has chosen a strategy of working with current households to raise their incomes rather than adjusting admissions policies or criteria. LMHA will target the properties with high percentages of zero-income households, and which have an average household income below 85% of the LMHA average.
  - LMHA will consider its deconcentration goals when transfer units are offered.

### **Deconcentration Analysis and Statistics**

LMHA conducted the analysis below in accordance with 24 CFR Part 903 Subpart A. It is the policy of the LMHA to calculate the average income for all covered developments and LMHA does not adjust its analysis for unit size when evaluating each covered development.

<b>Average Income for All Covered Units</b>			
<b>Average Income</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>115%</b>	<b>Number of Units</b>
\$12,443.58	\$10,577.05	\$14,310.12	1438

<b>Average Income in Each Covered Development</b>
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Development Name	Number of Units	Average Income	% of Average Income of All Covered Developments	Below 85%	Above 115%
Albright Terrace	50	\$15,299.00	123%	No	Yes
John Frederick Oberlin	53	\$11,724.00	94%	No	No
Kennedy Plaza	177	\$9,818.00	79%	Yes	No
Lakeview Plaza	209	\$9,880.00	79%	Yes	No
Leavitt Homes	198	\$10,297.00	83%	Yes	No
Oberlin Homes	51	\$20,218.00	162%	No	Yes
Riverview Plaza	180	\$12,031.00	97%	No	No
Scattered Sites	80	\$18,329.00	147%	No	Yes
Southside Gardens	111	\$14,809.00	119%	No	Yes
Westgate	12	\$8,894.00	71%	Yes	No
Westview	143	\$9,669.00	78%	Yes	No
Wilkes Villa	174	\$8,355.00	67%	Yes	No

**Strategies to impact the income targeting goals for those below 85%:**

LMHA will work with current households to raise their incomes and will target the properties with high percentages of zero-income households, and which have an average household income below 85% of the LMHA average.

**Strategies to impact the income targeting goals for those above 115%:**

LMHA will consider income targeting goals when selecting applicants from the waiting list for housing offers and when processing transfers between public housing properties.

## **Attachment H**

### **New Activities**

#### **Hope VI or Choice Neighborhoods**

Choice Neighborhoods Transformation Grant: LMHA intends to apply for a Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant for the Southside Gateway Community including Southside Gardens when HUD issues the Notice of Funding Opportunity in 2025.

#### **Mixed Finance Modernization or Development**

LMHA is planning to pursue a portfolio wide CHAP to reposition its public housing stock through the RAD program. LMHA may utilize a variety of different options as part of the plan which could include RAD Section 18 blends or straight RAD conversions which may include project-based vouchers. Additionally, LMHA plans to utilize the 4% tax credit program through the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) to accomplish this plan along with Capital Funds or LMHA Funds. LMHA intends to submit an application for 4% Tax Credits the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2025.

LMHA also plans to develop new public/affordable housing units. LMHA is exploring the option of developing these units with the Faircloth to RAD program, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, and other funding/financing resources. LMHA will submit a 9% LIHTC application for a Multifamily tax-credit project on Clinton Avenue between 32nd and 33<sup>rd</sup> to include 1-to-4-bedroom units.

#### **Demolition and/or Disposition**

LMHA's request to dispose of the Central Administrative Office property at 1600 Kansas Avenue, Lorain, OH 44052 via sale was approved by HUD on December 18, 2024.

LMHA also plans to dispose of all scattered site units, listed below, through sale at fair market value.

List of Properties: Attached hereto as Ex. 1

Additionally, LMHA is planning to pursue a portfolio wide CHAP to reposition its public housing stock through the RAD program. LMHA may use a variety of different options as part of the plan, which could include the RAD/Section 18 Blends.

#### **Conversion of Public Housing to Project-Based Rental Assistance or Project-Based Vouchers under RAD**

Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA) was a successful applicant in the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD). As a result, the Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority will be converting to Project Based Rental Assistance under the guidelines of PIH 2019-23, REV-4, PIH Notice 2023-19, PIH Notice 2025-03 and any successor notices. LMHA is contemplating converting through RAD and Section 18 Construction Blend Strategy. Upon conversion to Project Based Rental Assistance, the Authority will adopt the resident rights, participation, waiting list and grievance procedures listed in Section 1.7 of PIH 2019-23, REV-4 (including Supplemental Notices 4B and 4C) and PIH-2016-17. These resident rights, participation, waiting list and grievance procedures are appended to this Attachment. Additionally, the Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority certifies that it is currently compliant with all fair housing and civil rights requirements, including relocation requirements. LMHA is compliant with all applicable site

selection requirements as set forth in PIH Notice 2016-17, including Section 5.2 relating to PHA's proposed site selection and certification.

RAD was designed by HUD to assist in addressing the capital needs of public housing by providing the Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority with access to private sources of capital to repair and preserve its affordable housing assets. Please be aware that upon conversion, the Authority's Capital Fund Budget will be reduced by the pro rata share of Public Housing Developments converted as part of the Demonstration, and the Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority may also borrow funds to address their capital needs.

Below, please find specific information related to the Public Housing Developments selected for RAD:

#### Development #1: Leavitt, Westgate, and Westview Terrace

<b>Project Name:</b> Leavitt Homes (Leavitt, Westgate, and Westview Terrace)	<b>PIC Development ID:</b> OH012000001	<b>Conversion Type:</b> PBRA	<b>Transfer of Assistance:</b> No
<b>Total units:</b> 353	<b>Pre-RAD unit type:</b> Family	<b>Post-RAD Unit type:</b> Family	Annual Capital Fund Grant attributable to the Project = \$1,258,981.56
<b>Bedroom type</b>	<b>Number of units pre-conversion</b>	<b>Number of Units post-conversion</b>	<b>Change in number of units per bedroom type, and why (de minimis reduction, transfer of assistance, unit reconfigurations)</b>
Studio/efficiency	0	0	0
One bedroom	28	28	0
Two bedroom	157	157	0
Three bedroom	138	138	0
Four bedroom	30	30	0
Five bedroom	0	0	0
Six bedroom	0	0	0
No transfer of assistance will occur.			

#### Development #2: Wilkes Villa

<b>Project Name:</b> Wilkes-Villa	<b>PIC Development ID:</b> OH012000003	<b>Conversion Type:</b> PBRA	<b>Transfer of Assistance:</b> No
<b>Total units:</b> 174	<b>Pre-RAD unit type:</b> Family	<b>Post-RAD Unit type:</b> Family	Annual Capital Fund Grant attributable to the Project = \$589,839.12
<b>Bedroom type</b>	<b>Number of units pre-conversion</b>	<b>Number of Units post-conversion</b>	<b>Change in number of units per bedroom type, and why (de minimis reduction, transfer of assistance, unit reconfigurations)</b>
Studio/efficiency	0	0	0
One bedroom	6	6	0



<b>Two bedroom</b>	80	80	0
<b>Three bedroom</b>	54	54	0
<b>Four bedroom</b>	18	18	0
<b>Five bedroom</b>	12	16	+4
<b>Six bedroom</b>	4	0	-4
No transfer of assistance will occur.			

### **Resident Rights, Participation, Waiting List and Grievance Procedures**

See Ex. 2 : PIH 2019-23, REV-4 (including Supplemental Notices 4B an 4C) Section 1.7.B & Section 1.7.C for provisions relating to PBRA administration; and

See Ex. 3: PIH-2016-17 for civil rights and relocation requirements.

### **Significant Amendment Definition:**

As part of the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD), Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority is redefining the definition of a substantial deviation from the PHA Plan to exclude the following RAD-specific items:

- a. The decision to convert to either Project Based Rental Assistance or Project Based Voucher Assistance;
- b. Changes to the Capital Fund Budget produced as a result of each approved RAD Conversion, regardless of whether the proposed conversion will include use of additional Capital Funds;
- c. Changes to the construction and rehabilitation plan for each approved RAD conversion; and
- d. Changes to the financing structure for each approved RAD conversion. Section 18 Demolition and/or Disposition

**Project Based Vouchers:** In 2019 HUD approved 438 vouchers to be utilized for Project Based Vouchers. LMHA may issue a rolling RFP to offer PBVs to create additional mixed income, deeply affordable, LIHTC, and PBV communities throughout Lorain County . Vouchers will be awarded through a competitive RFP process or based upon a LIHTC or other competitive process award as permitted under LMHA's Administrative Plan. This will include the construction of new designated housing for elderly and/or disabled families and or new family mixed income/workforce PBV communities. This will also include renovating existing housing through the LIHTC program and using PBV's as needed.

### **Units with Approved Vacancies for Modernization:**

LMHA is planning to convert efficiency units at Lakeview Terrace to one or two bedroom ADA Accessible units to meet the needs of LMHA's requested and approved transfer list. LMHA is exploring conversion of efficiency units at Kennedy Plaza to one or two bedroom ADA Accessible units to meet the needs of LMHA's requested and approved transfer list.

LMHA will submit a request for approval by HUD for modernization vacancies as applicable for this purpose and for units requiring extensive renovation.

### **Other Capital Grant Programs (i.e., Capital Fund Community Facilities Grants or Emergency Safety and Security Grants)**

LMHA is planning to apply for other capital grant programs as available. LMHA may apply for Capital Fund Community Facilities Grants or Emergency Safety and Security Grants.

LMHA continually reviews and intends to apply for HUD, other public, and private philanthropic grant opportunities that support development, community initiatives, and programming for residents and participants.

### **Other New Activities**

LMHA may pursue development of a Public Housing Home Ownership Program.

LMHA plans to acquire a property located at 457 Broadway, Lorain, OH for Central Office operations. LMHA will lease and/or partner with other local government, nonprofits, or businesses to lease space in the new building to provide LMHA income and increase service access to the community.

LMHA plans to acquire the following parcels:

- AMP 2 - Lakeview Plaza, 701 6th Court Lorain OH; Parcel No: 02-01-005-113-018; Use: Parking
- AMP 3 - Riverview Plaza, 317 East Avenue Elyria OH; Parcel No: 06-26-048-000-018; Use: Parking
- AMP 3 - Riverview Plaza, 319 East Avenue, Elyria, OH; Parcel No: 06-26-048-000-019; Use: Parking

LMHA may implement a Vacancy Reduction Plan to address persistent pest infestations affecting unit leasing and vacancy rates.

LMHA plans to install Bed Bug Heat Treatment rooms at its public housing high-rises: Riverview Plaza and John Frederick Oberlin Homes. LMHA is installing Bed Bug Heat Treatment rooms at Lakeview and at Kennedy Plaza. Lakeview Plaza's heat treatment room will be complete in early 2025 and Kennedy Plaza's in late 2025 or early 2026.

## Ex. 1

1100 Highland Pk., Lorain 44052	3719 Oxford Dr., Lorain 44053
1228 W. 8th St., Lorain 44052	3813 Oxford Dr., Lorain 44053
4302 Princess Anne Dr., Lor 44052	3923 Oxford Dr., Lorain 44053
2733 W. 39th St., Lorain 44053	3942 Oberlin Ave., Lorain 44053
1804 Lexington Ave., Lorain 44052	1503 Colorado Ave., Lorain 44052
1814 Lexington Ave., Lorain 44052	1515 Colorado Ave., Lorain 44052
1425 Pennsylvania Ave., Lorain 44052	1527 Colorado Ave., Lorain 44052
204 W. 17th St., Lorain 44052	1535 Colorado Ave., Lorain 44052
1405 W. 19th St., Lorain 44052	142 Brace Avenue, Elyria
318 W. 28th St., Lorain 44052	177 Brace Avenue, Elyria
443 Bell Avenue, Elyria	181 Brace Avenue, Elyria
230 Jackson Street, Elyria	930 Middle Avenue, Elyria
165 Erie Avenue, Elyria	152 Taft Street, Elyria
349 West Tenth St., Elyria	156 Taft Street, Elyria
138 Brace Avenue, Elyria	300 Parmely Avenue, Elyria
563 West Third St., Elyria	308 Parmely Avenue, Elyria
501 East Avenue, Elyria	304 Parmely Avenue, Elyria
425 14th Street, Elyria	748 West 16th Street, Elyria
162 Warden Ave., Elyria	163 Brunswick Drive, Elyria
143 Brunswick Drive, Elyria	165 Brunswick Drive, Elyria
145 Brunswick Drive, Elyria	107 Academy Court, Elyria
149 Brunswick Drive, Elyria	109 Academy Court, Elyria
151 Brunswick Drive, Elyria	125 Academy Court, Elyria
155 Brunswick Drive, Elyria	127 Academy Court, Elyria
157 Brunswick Drive, Elyria	4708 Clifton, Lorain
4600 Riverside Drive, Lorain	4710 Clifton, Lorain
4603 Riverside Drive, Lorain	4965 Clifton, Lorain
4604 Riverside Drive, Lorain	4967 Clifton, Lorain
4607 Riverside Drive, Lorain	4969 Clifton, Lorain
610 East 32nd Street, Lorain	4971 Clifton, Lorain
612 East 32nd Street, Lorain	5031 Clifton, Lorain
4921 Vincent Avenue, Lorain	5033 Clifton, Lorain
4924 Vincent Avenue, Lorain	5035 Clifton, Lorain
4925 Vincent Avenue, Lorain	5037 Clifton, Lorain
4928 Vincent Avenue, Lorain	5039 Clifton, Lorain
4932 Vincent Avenue, Lorain	3733 Dallas, Lorain
4936 Vincent Avenue, Lorain	3737 Dallas, Lorain
4940 Vincent Avenue, Lorain	3741 Dallas, Lorain
618 East 39th Street, Lorain	5341 Fleming, Lorain
5096 Libery Avenue, Lorain	5126 Liberty Avenue, Lorain

## **B. PBRA Resident Rights and Participation.**

1. **No Rescreening of Tenants upon Conversion.** Pursuant to the RAD Statute, at conversion, current households cannot be excluded from occupancy at the Covered Project based on any rescreening, income eligibility, or income targeting. With respect to occupancy in the Covered Project, current households in the Converting Project will be grandfathered for application of any eligibility criteria to conditions that occurred prior to conversion but will be subject to any ongoing eligibility requirements for actions that occur after conversion.<sup>51</sup> Post-conversion, the tenure of all residents of the Covered Project is protected pursuant to PBRA requirements regarding continued occupancy unless explicitly modified in this Notice (e.g., rent phase-in provisions). For example, a unit with a household that was over-income at time of conversion would continue to be treated as an assisted unit. Thus, the first clause of section 8(c)(4) of the Act and 24 CFR § 880.603(b), concerning determination of eligibility and selection of tenants for initial occupancy, will not apply for current households. Once the grandfathered household moves out, the unit must be leased to an eligible family. Further, so as to facilitate the right to return to the assisted property, this provision shall apply to current public housing residents of the Converting Project that will reside in non-RAD PBV units or non-RAD PBRA units placed in a project that contain RAD PBV units or RAD PBRA units. Such families and such contract units will otherwise be subject to all requirements of the applicable program, specifically 24 CFR § 983 for non-RAD PBV units and the PBRA requirements governing the applicable contract for non-RAD PBRA units.<sup>52</sup>
2. **Right to Return.** See section 1.4.A.5.b. and the RAD Fair Housing, Civil Rights, and Relocation Notice regarding a resident's right to return.

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<sup>51</sup> These protections (as well as all protections in this Notice for current households) apply when a household is relocated to facilitate repairs following conversion and subsequently returns to the Covered Project, even if they are considered a "new admission" upon return.

<sup>52</sup> For non-RAD PBV households, applicable program requirements includes the requirement that any admission to the project must be initially eligible for a HAP payment at admission to the program, which means their TTP may not exceed the gross rent for the unit at that time.

- 3. Phase-in of Tenant Rent Increases.** If, purely as a result of conversion, the amount a tenant would pay for rent and utilities under the PBRA program (the tenant's TTP) would increase the tenant's TTP by more than the greater of 10 percent or \$25, the rent increase will be phased in over 3 or 5 years. Eligibility for the phase-in is to be determined at the Initial Certification which occurs at the time the household is converted to PBRA. A phase-in must not be applied after the household's Initial Certification. To implement the phase-in, HUD is specifying alternative requirements for section 3(a)(1) of the Act, as well as 24 CFR § 880.201 (definition of "total tenant payment" (TTP)) to the extent necessary to allow for the phase-in of tenant rent increases. A PHA must create a policy setting the length of the phase-in period at three years, five years, or a combination depending on circumstances and must communicate such policy in writing to affected residents. For example, a PHA may create a policy that uses a three year phase-in for smaller increases in rent and a five year phase-in for larger increases in rent. This policy must be in place at conversion and may not be modified after conversion.

The method described below explains the set percentage-based phase-in a Project Owner must follow according to the phase-in period established. For purposes of this section "Calculated Multifamily TTP" refers to the TTP calculated in accordance with regulations at 24 CFR § 5.628 (not capped at Gross Rent) and the "most recently paid TTP" refers to the TTP recorded on the family's most recent HUD Form 50059. If a family in a project converting from Public Housing to PBRA was paying a flat rent immediately prior to conversion, the PHA should use the flat rent amount to calculate the phase-in amount for Year 1, as illustrated below.

**Three Year Phase-in:**

- Year 1: Any recertification (interim or annual) performed prior to the second annual recertification after conversion – 33% of difference between most recently paid TTP or flat rent and the Calculated Multifamily TTP
- Year 2: Year 2 Annual Recertification (AR) and any Interim Recertification (IR) in prior to Year 3 AR – 50% of difference between most recently paid TTP and Calculated Multifamily TTP
- Year 3: Year 3 AR and all subsequent recertifications – Year 3 AR and any IR in Year 3: Full Calculated Multifamily TTP<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> For example, where a resident's most recently paid TTP is \$100, but the Calculated PBV TTP is \$200 and remains \$200 for the period of the resident's occupancy, (i.e. no changes in income) the resident would continue to pay the same rent and utilities for which it was responsible prior to conversion. At the first recertification following conversion, the resident's contribution would increase by 33% of \$100 to \$133. At the second AR, the resident's contribution would increase by 50% of the \$66 differential to the standard TPP, increasing to \$166. At the third AR, the resident's contribution would increase to \$200 and the resident would continue to pay the Calculated PBV TTP for the duration of their tenancy.

#### Five Year Phase-in

- Year 1: Any recertification (interim or annual) performed prior to the second annual recertification after conversion – 20% of difference between most recently paid TTP or flat rent and the Calculated Multifamily TTP
- Year 2: Year 2 AR and any IR prior to Year 3 AR – 25% of difference between most recently paid TTP and Calculated Multifamily TTP
- Year 3: Year 3 AR and any IR prior to Year 4 AR – 33% of difference between most recently paid TTP and Calculated Multifamily TTP
- Year 4: Year 4 AR and any IR prior to Year 5 AR – 50% of difference between most recently paid TTP and Calculated Multifamily TTP
- Year 5 AR and all subsequent recertifications – Full Calculated Multifamily TTP

Please Note: In either the three year phase-in or the five-year phase-in, once Calculated Multifamily TTP is equal to or less than the previous TTP, the phase-in ends and tenants will pay full Calculated Multifamily TTP from that point forward

- 4. ~~Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) and Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency Service Coordinator (ROSS-SC) programs.~~** Public Housing residents that are ~~currently FSS participants will continue to participate in the PHA's FSS program once their housing is converted under RAD. Through waiver in this Notice, FSS grant funds may be used to continue to serve such FSS participants. All Project Owners will be required to administer the FSS program or partner with another agency to administer the FSS program in accordance with the requirements of 24 CFR part 984, the participants' contracts of participation, and current and future guidance published by HUD for all FSS participants enrolled in the FSS program prior to RAD conversion. All Project Owners will be required to provide both service coordination and payments to escrow until the end of the Contract of Participation for each resident. To ensure that HAP payments are processed correctly, and until TRACS is modified, the Project Owner must notify [MF\\_FSS@hud.gov](mailto:MF_FSS@hud.gov) that there are current FSS participants residing in the Covered Project and adhere to the escrow and reporting requirements in Notice H 2016-08. The Project Owner may enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the PHA (the grantee), allowing the PHA to continue to provide service coordination to RAD-affected PBRA participants until all have completed their Contracts according to 24 CFR § 984.303. The Project Owner must assume responsibility for the administrative duties associated with FSS such as calculating and crediting escrow and reporting. Ultimately, the new Project Owner is responsible for serving the RAD-affected FSS participants until the end of their CoPs.~~

~~The owner is not required to enroll new participants, but may choose to run its own voluntary FSS program in accordance with Notice H 2016-08.~~

~~At the completion of the FSS grant, grantees should follow the normal closeout procedures outlined in the grant agreement. Future FSS NOFAs will identify eligible FSS participants. Until HUD implements provisions of the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act that expand eligibility for FSS to PBRA properties, only a PHA that continues to run an FSS program that serves public housing and/or HCV/PBV FSS participants, the PHA will continue to be eligible (subject to NOFA requirements) to apply for FSS funding and may use that funding to serve public housing, HCV and/or RAD-affected PBRA FSS participants. However, if the PHA no longer has a public housing or HCV program, the PHA is not eligible to apply for FSS funding.~~

~~Upon conversion, if the PHA has closed out its public housing program in accordance with Notice PIH 2019-13, funds escrowed under the public housing program for FSS participants shall be transferred into the PBRA escrow account and be considered PBRA funds, thus reverting to PBRA if forfeited by the FSS participant.~~

~~Current ROSS-SC grantees will be able to finish out their current ROSS-SC grants once their housing is converted under RAD. However, once the property is converted, it will no longer be eligible to be counted towards the unit count for future ROSS-SC grants nor will its residents be eligible to be served by future ROSS-SC grants, as ROSS-SC, by statute, can serve only public housing residents. At the completion of the ROSS-SC grant, grantees should follow the normal closeout procedures outlined in the grant agreement. Please note that ROSS-SC grantees may be non-profits or local Resident Associations and this consequence of a RAD conversion may impact those entities.~~

5. **Resident Participation and Funding.** Residents of Covered Projects with assistance converted to PBRA will have the right to establish and operate a resident organization in accordance with 24 CFR part 245 (Tenant Participation in Multifamily Housing Projects). In addition, in accordance with Attachment 1B, residents will be eligible for resident participation funding.
6. **Resident Procedural Rights.** The information provided below must be included as part of the House Rules for the associated project and the House Rules must be submitted to HUD for review prior to Closing. See Attachment 1E for a sample Addendum to the House Rules.



- a. **Termination Notification.** HUD is incorporating additional termination notification requirements to comply with section 6 of the Act for public housing projects converting assistance under RAD, that supplement notification requirements in regulations at 24 CFR § 880.607 and the Multifamily HUD Model Lease.
- i. *Termination of Tenancy and Assistance.* The termination procedure for RAD conversions to PBRA will additionally require that Project Owners provide adequate written notice of termination of the lease which shall be:
    1. A reasonable period of time, but not to exceed 30 days:
      - If the health or safety of other tenants, Project Owner employees, or persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises is threatened; or
      - In the event of any drug-related or violent criminal activity or any felony conviction;
    - ~~2. Not less than 14 days in the case of nonpayment of rent; —and—~~
    3. Not less than 30 days in any other case, except that if a State or local law provides for a shorter period of time, such shorter period shall apply.
  - ii. *Termination of Assistance.* In all other cases, the requirements at 24 CFR § 880.603, the Multifamily HUD Model Lease, and any other HUD multifamily administrative guidance shall apply.
- b. **Grievance Process.** Pursuant to requirements in the RAD Statute, HUD is establishing additional resident procedural rights to comply with section 6 of the Act. In addition to program rules that require that tenants are given notice of covered actions under 24 CFR part 245 (including increases in rent, conversions of a project from project-paid utilities to tenant-paid utilities, or a reduction in tenant paid utility allowances), HUD requires that:
- i. Residents be provided with notice of the specific grounds of the Project Owner's proposed adverse action, as well as their right to an informal hearing with the Project Owner;
  - ii. Residents have an opportunity for an informal hearing with an impartial member of the Project Owner's staff within a reasonable period of time;
  - iii. Residents have the opportunity to be represented by another person of their choice, to ask questions of witnesses, have

others make statements at the hearing, and to examine any regulations and any evidence relied upon by the Project Owner as the basis for the adverse action. With reasonable notice to the Project Owner, prior to hearing and at the residents' own cost, residents may copy any documents or records related to the proposed adverse action; and

- iv. Project Owners provide the resident with a written decision within a reasonable period of time stating the grounds for the adverse action and the evidence the Project Owner relied on as the basis for the adverse action.

The Project Owner shall be bound by decisions from these hearings, except if (x) the hearing concerns a matter that exceeds the authority of the impartial party conducting the hearing, or (y) the decision is contrary to HUD regulations or requirements, or otherwise contrary to federal, State, or local law. If the Project Owner determines that it is not bound by a hearing decision, the Project Owner must promptly notify the resident of this determination, and of the reasons for the determination.

- c. **Family Right to Move.** [Pursuant to Section 1.7.C.5](#) and unless the Covered Project received a specific good cause exemption to such provision, families have a choice-mobility right which must be stated in the House Rules as shown in sample in Attachment 1E.

- 7. **Earned Income Disregard (EID).** Tenants who are employed and are currently receiving the EID exclusion at the time of conversion will continue to receive the EID exclusion after conversion, in accordance with regulations at 24 CFR § 960.255. After conversion, no other tenants will be eligible to receive the EID. If a tenant receiving the EID exclusion undergoes a break in employment, ceases to use the EID exclusion, or the EID exclusion expires in accordance with 24 CFR § 960.255, the tenant will no longer receive the EID exclusion and the Owner will no longer be subject to the provisions of 24 CFR § 960.255. Furthermore, tenants whose EID ceases or expires after conversion shall not be subject to the rent phase-in provision, as described in Section 1.7.B.3; instead, the rent will automatically be adjusted to the appropriate rent level based upon tenant income at that time.

- 8. ~~**Jobs Plus.** Jobs Plus grantees awarded FY14 and future funds that convert the Jobs Plus target project(s) under RAD will be able to finish out their Jobs Plus grant unless significant relocation and/or change in building occupancy is planned. If either is planned at the Jobs Plus target project(s), HUD may allow for a modification of the~~

~~Jobs Plus work plan or may, at the Secretary's discretion, choose to end the Jobs Plus program at that project. Jobs Plus target public housing projects must enroll public housing residents into the Jobs Plus rent incentive, JPEID, prior to conversion. Any resident of the Covered Project that had not enrolled prior to conversion is not eligible to enroll in JPEID but may utilize Jobs Plus services offered at the target project that predominantly benefit the former public housing residents who resided at the target project at the time of RAD conversion. If the program is continued, the Project Owner must agree to continue to implement the program according to HUD's program requirements.~~

9. **When Total Tenant Payment Exceeds Gross Rent.** Under the PBRA program, assisted families typically pay 30% of adjusted gross income toward rent and utilities, referred to as TTP. Under normal PBRA rules, a Project Owner must process a termination of assistance pursuant to section 8-5 C. of Housing Handbook 4350.3, REV-1 when the family's TTP has risen to a level that is equal to or greater than the contract rent, plus any utility allowance, for the unit (i.e., the Gross Rent). In addition, section 8-6 A.1 provides that, when terminating a tenant's assistance, the owner is to increase the tenant rent to the contract rent (assuming that the tenant does not receive the benefit of any other type of subsidy).

For residents living in the Converting Project on the date of conversion and all new admissions to the Covered Project thereafter, when TTP equals or exceeds the contract rent plus any utility allowance, the Project Owner must charge a tenant rent equal to the lesser of (a) TTP (which is not capped at gross rent), less the utility allowance in the contract, or (b) any applicable maximum rent allowable under LIHTC regulations.<sup>54</sup> To this end, HUD is waiving sections 8-5 C. and 8-6 A. 1. of Housing Handbook 4350.3, REV-1. In such cases, the tenant will still be considered a Section 8 tenant and will still have the rights and be subject to the requirements of Section 8 tenants. Tenants will retain all of the rights under the Model Lease, including the right to occupy the unit, as well as those provided through this Notice, and tenants will still be subject to the requirements for Section 8 tenants, including the requirements concerning reexamination of family income and composition found in 24 CFR §§ 5.657 and 880.603(c). When TTP equals or exceeds Gross Rent, the excess rent collected by the owner is considered project funds and must be used for project purposes. Assistance may subsequently be reinstated if the Tenant becomes eligible for assistance. In the event that the tenant moves out, the Project Owner must

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<sup>54</sup> For example, a public housing family residing in a property converting under RAD has a TTP of \$600. The property has an initial Contract Rent of \$500, with a \$50 Utility Allowance. Following conversion, the residents is still responsible for paying \$600 in tenant rent and utilities. Accordingly, the Project Owner must charge this resident \$550, i.e., \$600 TTP, minus \$50 Utility Allowance.

select an applicant from the waiting list who meets the applicable income limits for the project.

The Project Owner is not required to process these individuals through Multifamily Housing's Tenant Rental Assistance Certification System (TRACS) but may be required to do so in the future when a future revision of the TRACS can accept such certifications. All normal actions for the contract rent shall continue for these units, including application of the OCAF adjustment to the contract rent indicated in the HAP Contract—since the OCAF adjusted rent will still be in effect whenever the unit is occupied by a family eligible for rental assistance.

- 10. Under-Occupied Units.** If at the time of conversion, an eligible family assisted under the HAP Contract is occupying a unit that is larger than appropriate because of the family's composition, the family may remain in the unit until an appropriate-sized unit becomes available in the Covered Project. When an appropriate sized unit becomes available in the Covered Project, the family living in the under-occupied unit must move to the appropriate-sized within a reasonable period of time. In order to allow the family to remain in the under-occupied unit until an appropriate-sized unit becomes available in the Covered Project, HUD is waiving the portion of 24 CFR § 880.605 that assumes the unit has become under-occupied as the result of a change in family size.

**C. PBRA: Other Miscellaneous Provisions.**

- 1. Access to Records, Including Requests for Information Related to Evaluation of Demonstration.** PHAs and the Project Owner must cooperate with any reasonable HUD request for data to support program evaluation, including but not limited to project financial statements, operating data, Choice-Mobility utilization, and rehabilitation work.
- 2. Davis-Bacon prevailing wages and Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (Section 3).** These sections have been moved to [1.4.A.13](#) and [1.4.A.14](#).
- 3. Establishment of Waiting List.** The Project Owner can utilize a project-specific or community waiting list. The PHA shall consider the best means to transition applicants from the current public housing waiting list, including:
  - a. Transferring an existing site-based waiting list to a new site-based waiting list.
  - b. Transferring an existing site-based waiting list to a PBRA program-wide waiting list.

- c. Transferring an existing community-wide public housing waiting list to a PBRA program-wide waiting list, an option particularly relevant for PHAs converting their entire portfolio under RAD.
- d. Informing applicants on a community-wide public housing waiting list how to transfer their application to one or more newly created site-based waiting lists.

To the extent the wait list relies on the date and time of application, the applicants shall have priority on the wait list(s) to which their application was transferred in accordance with the date and time of their application to the original waiting list.

If the PHA is transferring assistance to another neighborhood and, as a result of the transfer of the waiting list, the applicant would only be eligible for a unit in a location which is materially different from the location to which the applicant applied, the PHA must notify applicants on the waiting list of the transfer of assistance, and on how they can apply for residency at other sites.

If using a site-based waiting list, PHAs shall establish a waiting list in accordance with 24 CFR § 903.7(b)(2)(ii)-(iv) to ensure that applicants on the PHA's public housing community-wide waiting list have been offered placement on the Covered Project's initial waiting list. In all cases, PHAs have the discretion to determine the most appropriate means of informing applicants on the public housing community-wide waiting list given the number of applicants, PHA resources, and admissions requirements of the projects being converted under RAD. A PHA may consider contacting every applicant on the public housing waiting list via direct mailing; advertising the availability of housing to the population that is less likely to apply, both minority and non-minority groups, through various forms of media (e.g., radio stations, posters, newspapers) within the marketing area; informing local non-profit entities and advocacy groups (e.g., disability rights groups); and conducting other outreach as appropriate. Any activities to contact applicants on the public housing waiting list must be conducted in accordance with the requirements for effective communication with persons with disabilities at 24 CFR § 8.6 and with the obligation to provide meaningful access for persons with limited English proficiency (LEP).<sup>55</sup>

When using a site-based waiting list, PHAs should consider waiting list and transfer policies that expand opportunities for tenants seeking an emergency transfer under, or consistent with, the PHA's Emergency Transfer Plan. This allows for easier moves

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<sup>55</sup> For more information on serving persons with LEP, please see HUD's Final guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons (72 FR 2732), published on January 22, 2007.

between assisted properties. Any such preference must be approved by HUD in accordance with Notice H 2013-21, prior to implementation.

To implement this provision, HUD is specifying alternative requirements for 24 CFR § 880.603 regarding selection and admission of assisted tenants. However, after the initial waiting list has been established, the Project Owner shall administer its waiting list for the Covered Project in accordance with 24 CFR § 880.603.

A Project Owner must maintain any site-based waiting list in accordance with all applicable civil rights and fair housing laws and regulations.

4. **Mandatory Insurance Coverage.** The Covered Project shall maintain at all times commercially available property and liability insurance to protect the project from financial loss and, to the extent insurance proceeds permit, promptly restore, reconstruct, and/or repair any damaged or destroyed property of a project.
5. **Choice-Mobility.** HUD seeks to provide all residents of Covered Projects with viable Choice-Mobility options. Unless provided an exemption as described below, PHAs that are applying to convert the assistance of a project to PBRA are required to provide a Choice-Mobility option to residents of Covered Projects in accordance with the following:<sup>56</sup>
  - a. *Resident Eligibility.* Residents have a right to move with tenant-based rental assistance (e.g., Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)) the later of: (a) 24 months from date of effective date of the HAP or (b) 24 months after the move-in date.
  - b. *Voucher Inventory Turnover Cap.* Recognizing the limitation on the availability of turnover vouchers from year to year, a voucher agency would not be required, in any year, to provide more than one-third of its turnover vouchers to the residents of Covered Projects. While a voucher agency is not required to establish a voucher inventory turnover cap, if such a cap is implemented the voucher agency must create and maintain a waiting list in the order in which the requests from eligible households were received.
  - c. *Project Turnover Cap.* Also recognizing the limited availability of turnover vouchers and the importance of managing turnover in the best interests of the property, in any year, a Project Owner and voucher agency

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<sup>56</sup> The Choice-Mobility requirements that apply to covered PBRA projects differ from the requirements that apply to covered PBV projects.



may agree to limit the number of Choice-Mobility moves exercised by eligible households to 15 percent of the assisted units in the project. (For example, if the project has 100 assisted units, the Project Owner and voucher agency could limit the number of families exercising Choice-Mobility to 15 in any year, but not to less than 15.) While a Project Owner and voucher agency are not required to establish a project turnover cap, if such a cap is implemented the voucher agency must create and maintain a waiting list in the order in which the requests from eligible households were received.

The voucher agency must maintain a written agreement with the owner describing how the Choice-Mobility option will be administered in accordance with these requirements and the process by which households may request a voucher. For example, the written agreement must specify whether the owner will receive requests from families or refer families to the PHA.

HUD's goal is to have all residents in the Demonstration offered a Choice-Mobility option within a reasonable time after conversion. However, as HUD recognizes that not all voucher agencies will have vouchers sufficient to support this effort, HUD will take the following actions:

- Provide voucher agencies that make such a commitment bonus points provided under the Section Eight Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) for deconcentration.<sup>57</sup>
- Grant a good-cause exemption from the Choice-Mobility requirement for no more than 10 percent of units in the Demonstration. HUD will consider requests for good-cause exemptions only from the following types of PHAs:
  - Public housing–only agencies, defined as agencies that own units under a public housing ACC, but do not administer, directly or through an affiliate, a Housing Choice Voucher program with non special-purpose vouchers; or
  - Combined agencies that currently have more than one-third of their turnover vouchers set aside for veterans, as defined for the purpose of

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<sup>57</sup> The sponsoring agency must commit to the full term of the initial HAP Contract, must undergo a significant amendment to its Annual Plan (no later than 60 days after execution of the project's CHAP), and must comply with section 8(o)(6)(A) relating to selection preferences. In order to implement this incentive, HUD is waiving provisions under 24 CFR § 985.3(h) to provide donating agencies with bonus points under the SEMAP for deconcentration.

HUD-VASH, or homeless populations, as defined in 24 CFR § 91.5.<sup>58</sup> To be eligible for this exemption, the PHA's admission policies must have been formally approved by the PHA's board prior to the time of application.

6. **Future Refinancing.** Project Owners must receive HUD approval for any refinancing or restructuring of secured debt during the HAP Contract term to ensure the financing is consistent with long-term preservation of the Covered Project. With respect to any financing contemplated at the time of conversion (including any permanent financing which is a conversion or take-out of construction financing), such consent may be evidenced through the RCC, but HUD review of liens must be performed prior to execution.
7. ~~**Submission of Year-End Financial Statements.** Projects converting assistance to PBRA must comply with 24 CFR part 5, subpart H, as amended, revised, or modified by HUD.<sup>59</sup>~~
8. **Classification of Converting Projects as Pre-1981 Act Projects under Section 16(c) of the United States Housing Act of 1937.** For purposes of ensuring maximum flexibility in converting to PBRA, all projects converting to PBRA shall be treated as Pre-1981 Act Projects under Section 16(c) of the Act. Section 16(c)(1), which applies to pre-1981 Act projects, restricts occupancy by families that are other than very low-income to 25% of overall occupancy. Thus, Project Owners of projects converting to PBRA may admit applicants with incomes up to the low-income limit. HUD Headquarters tracks the 25% restriction on a nationwide basis. Project Owners of projects converting to PBRA do not need to request an exception to admit low-income families. In order to implement this provision, HUD is specifying alternative requirements for section 16(c)(2) of the Act and 24 CFR § 5.653(d)(2) to require Project Owners of projects converting to PBRA to adhere to the requirements of section 16(c)(1) of the Act and 24 CFR § 5.653(d)(1).
9. **Owner-Adopted Preferences.** Covered Projects are not permitted to establish or, where previously approved under public housing rules, maintain a designation (i.e., a set-aside of units) for elderly families or for disabled families; unlike the statute

<sup>58</sup> A veteran is, for the purpose of HUD-VASH, a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable and is eligible for Veterans Administration health care.

<sup>59</sup> This provision is included to clarify existing requirements for PHAs that own PBRA-assisted projects through Single Asset Entities. Such owners are considered reporting entities under 24 CFR § 5.801 (a)(3) and (a)(4).



governing public housing, the Section 8 statute does not authorize designations. However, owners of Covered Projects may adopt a selection preference (e.g., for elderly individuals and/or elderly families) which permits those applicants to be selected from the waiting list and housed before other eligible families. Project Owners who wish to adopt a preference for populations that are not identified in 24 CFR § 5.655(c)(5) (e.g., elderly families, near-elderly single persons, near-elderly families), must obtain HUD approval from the prospective Multifamily Housing Account Executive (field office) prior to execution of the HAP contract to do so in accordance with Notice H 2013-21 (July 25, 2013). This approval must be secured prior to conversion if the owner intends to implement the preference for new admissions immediately following conversion.

**10. Initial Certifications and Tenant Rent Calculations.** Owners are to use the resident's pre-existing public housing 50058 data and maintain the tenant rent and utility allowance until the resident's next annual or interim certification. To effectuate this provision, HUD is waiving 24 CFR 5.601.

From RAD Supplemental Notice 4C  
(H-2025-01, PIH-2025-03 (HA))

4. Subsection 1.7.B.4 is deleted and replaced with:

**4. Family Self Sufficiency (FSS).** PHAs and Project Owners must follow the FSS regulations at 24 CFR part 984. Public Housing residents that are currently FSS participants must be allowed to continue to participate in the PHA's FSS program once their housing is converted through RAD for the duration of the grant's period of performance. The Project Owner must ensure that these participants continue to be served by an FSS program: The PBRA owner may administer their own FSS program or enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the PHA, another PHA or another owner, allowing the partner entity to provide service coordination to PBRA participants in accordance with the requirements of 24 CFR parts 984 and 877, and current and future guidance published by HUD. In all program administration scenarios, the Project Owner must submit an FSS Action Plan to HUD for approval upon RAD conversion where there are converted participants. Under a Cooperative Agreement, the Project Owner must assume responsibility for the administrative duties associated with FSS such as calculating and crediting escrow and reporting. The Project Owner may choose to continue to enroll new participants but is not required to continue enrollment if they plan to phase out the FSS program.

If, upon conversion, the PHA ceases to be a PHA and no longer has public housing or HCV participants, or if the PHA converts all units that were eligible for FSS and no longer wishes to run an FSS program, the FSS grant may be transferred to the PBRA Project Owner for the remainder of the FSS grant period of performance. Following such a transfer, an otherwise eligible entity will be identified as a renewal or new applicant under future FSS Funding Notices.

6. Subsection 1.7.B.8 is deleted and replaced with:

**8. Jobs Plus.** Jobs Plus grantees awarded FY2014 and/or subsequent fiscal year funds that convert the Jobs Plus target project(s) under RAD will be able to finish out their Jobs Plus period of performance unless significant relocation and/or change in building occupancy is planned. If either is planned at the Jobs Plus target project(s), HUD may allow for a modification of the Jobs Plus grant agreement and/or work plan or may, at the Secretary's discretion, choose to end the Jobs Plus program at that project (see provisions in the relevant Jobs Plus NOFO and/or Grant Agreement). If the Jobs Plus program is continued, the grantee must agree to continue to implement the program according to HUD's program requirements. During the term of the Jobs Plus grant period after conversion, residents previously enrolled in the Jobs Plus rent incentive may continue their enrollment and any project resident may enroll in services or the rent incentive after conversion. To facilitate the uniform treatment of residents and units in a Jobs Plus program at a target project(s), any Jobs Plus program at a target project(s) may also enroll residents in any Legacy Non-RAD PBRA units in a Covered Project that replaced former public housing at the time of conversion in Jobs Plus services and in the Jobs Plus financial/rent incentive. To facilitate the ongoing availability of services for resident participants of Jobs Plus, HUD is waiving and establishing an alternative requirement to the "Self Sufficiency Programs" account in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (and subsequent Appropriations Acts, as applicable) that restrict Jobs Plus grants to serving only public housing residents.

2. Section 1.7.C.7 is deleted and replaced with the following:

**7. Submission of Year-End Financial Statements.** Projects converting assistance to PBRA must comply with 24 CFR part 5, Subpart H, as amended, revised, or modified by HUD and must file annual financial statements to HUD in accordance with the following provisions.<sup>59</sup> HUD may require the Project Owner to amend the HAP Contract to incorporate these requirements:

- a. Within ninety (90) days, or such alternative period established in writing by HUD, following the end of the Project Owner's fiscal year, the Project Owner shall prepare a financial report for the Project Owner's fiscal year, or the portion thereof that started with the Project Owner's assumption of the HAP Contract, based on an examination of the books and records of the Project Owner in

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<sup>59</sup> This provision is included to clarify existing requirements for PHAs that own PBRA-assisted projects through Single Asset Entities. Such owners are considered reporting entities under 24 CFR § 5.801 (a)(3) and (a)(4).

accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and in such other form and substance as specified by HUD in supplemental guidance, and provide such report to HUD in such form, substance, and manner as may be specified by HUD under the Uniform Financial Reporting Standards at 24 CFR § 5.801 (“UFRS”), or any successor regulations.

- b. Unless specifically waived or modified by HUD or to the extent otherwise exempt, the Project Owner shall: (a) engage an independent, licensed Certified Public Accountant (“CPA”) to audit the Project Owner’s annual financial report and to produce an audit report in accordance with both Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards and Generally Accepted Auditing Standards; (b) engage an independent, licensed CPA to perform an agreed-upon procedure, in accordance with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Statement on Standards for Attestation Engagements, to compare the financial data template information submitted electronically by the Project Owner to HUD against the annual financial report examined by, and the audit report prepared by, the independent, licensed CPA, and report any variances to HUD; and (c) furnish to the Contract Administrator and HUD (if a PHA is the Contract Administrator) the audit report, and any other reports relating to the annual financial report or the audit report as required by HUD, by such means and in such form, substance, and manner as may be specified by HUD under UFRS, or any successor regulations.
- c. To the extent certain non-profit Project Owners’ requirement to submit annual financial reports may be waived or modified by HUD, or such Project Owners may otherwise be exempt from compliance, such waiver, modification, or exemption shall not be construed to relieve the Project Owner of any requirements of this provision, except for those requirements specifically waived, modified, or from which they are exempt.
- d. If the Project Owner fails to perform as required pursuant to this provision, the Contract Administrator or HUD (if a PHA is the Contract Administrator) may, at its sole election, and in a manner determined by HUD, and without affecting any other provisions herein, and after first providing to the Project Owner a notice of default of the HAP Contract with a reasonable opportunity to cure, initiate or cause to be initiated a forensic audit of the Project Owner’s books, records, and accounts in such a manner as to provide to the Contract Administrator and HUD (if a PHA is the Contract Administrator) with as much of the same information that would have been provided had the Project Owner not failed to perform as required. Any such audit initiated by the Contract Administrator or HUD does not relieve Project Owner of the requirement to submit to the Contract Administrator and HUD (if a PHA is the Contract Administrator) an annual audited financial report as required pursuant to this provision.

## **SECTION VI: NOTICES FOR NONPAYMENT OF RENT**

2. Section 1.7.B.6.a.i.2 is deleted and replaced with:

2. Not less than 30 days in the case of nonpayment of rent and in conformance with 24 CFR part 247; and



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**  
**Office of Public and Indian Housing**  
**Office of Housing**

<b>Special Attention of:</b>	<b>Notice</b>	H 2016-17 PIH 2016-17 (HA)
Public Housing Agencies		
Public Housing Hub Office Directors		
Public Housing Program Center Directors	<b>Issued:</b>	November 10, 2016
Multifamily HUB Directors		
Multifamily Program Center Directors	<b>Effective:</b>	November 10, 2016
Regional and Field Office Directors		
Regional Administrators	<b>Expires:</b>	This Notice remains in effect until amended, superseded, or rescinded
Performance Based Contract Administrators		
RAD Transaction Managers	<b>Supplements:</b>	PIH Notice 2012-32 (HA) REV-2
Regional Relocation Specialists		
	<b>Supersedes:</b>	H 2014-09/PIH 2014-17

**SUBJECT:** Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Notice Regarding Fair Housing and Civil Rights Requirements and Relocation Requirements Applicable to RAD First Component – Public Housing Conversions.<sup>1</sup>

## **SECTION 1. Purpose, Applicability and Major Provisions of this Notice**

### **1.1. Purpose**

This notice (Notice) provides PHAs,<sup>2</sup> Project Owners, and their RAD development partners with guidance regarding key fair housing and civil rights statutory and regulatory requirements, explains the situations in which HUD is requiring front-end fair housing and civil rights reviews, and provides information regarding the types of information that must be submitted to facilitate HUD’s review of certain fair housing and civil rights requirements in connection with public housing conversions under the First Component of RAD. This Notice also includes guidance

<sup>1</sup> While this Notice addresses fair housing and civil rights requirements and relocation requirements, the fair housing and civil rights requirements are not limited to relocation issues.

<sup>2</sup> Consistent with PIH Notice 2012-32 (HA) REV-2 (PIH 2012-32 (HA) REV-2) (the “RAD Notice”), this Notice uses the term “PHA” to refer to the owner of the project prior to the RAD conversion and “Project Owner” to refer to the owner of the project after the RAD conversion.



regarding key relocation statutory and regulatory requirements, and details relocation requirements under RAD. This Notice only applies to projects converting under the First Component of RAD; it does not apply to the Second Component of RAD.<sup>3</sup>

The RAD program was established as a tool for preserving and improving low-income housing stock. RAD is intended to facilitate reinvestment in or redevelopment of the long-term-affordable stock of HUD-assisted housing properties. RAD also provides mobility benefits for assisted residents of converted properties through the choice mobility option, allowing these households to access tenant-based Housing Choice Vouchers. In some cases, RAD can be a tool for transfer of rental assistance from distressed or poorly selected sites to new sites in high opportunity areas. In all cases, the objective is to better serve low-income residents and the broader community in complying with fair housing, other civil rights, and relocation laws.

This Notice provides PHAs and Project Owners with guidance relating to planning and implementing public housing (First Component) RAD conversions in a manner consistent with existing fair housing and other civil rights requirements, including, but not limited to, those associated with the Fair Housing Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11063, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, and their implementing regulations. Section 4 of this Notice summarizes key provisions of existing law applicable to RAD transactions.

To further compliance with these existing requirements, PIH 2012-32 (HA) REV-2, issued June 15, 2015 (the “RAD Notice”) established that specific PHA decisions and activities planned to be part of a First Component RAD conversion must be reviewed by HUD prior to implementation (the “front-end” fair housing and civil rights reviews). Through a front-end review of the enumerated PHA decisions, HUD seeks to assist PHAs and Project Owners in meeting their fair housing, other civil rights, and relocation obligations. Section 5 of this Notice explains the situations in which HUD is requiring front-end fair housing, other civil rights, and relocation reviews, details the procedures for HUD’s front-end review and the type of information that must be submitted for these reviews, and the timeframes for these reviews.

Finally, in Sections 6 and 7 this Notice provides PHAs and Project Owners with guidance regarding RAD program and other statutory and regulatory relocation assistance requirements when planning for or implementing resident moves as a result of a conversion of a public housing project under RAD. This guidance includes reiterated and new requirements, the corresponding required reviews, and explanation of the interaction between RAD relocation procedures and certain existing public housing requirements. PHAs and Project Owners implementing RAD transactions may be subject to (a) the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, (URA),

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<sup>3</sup> Important fair housing, other civil rights, and relocation considerations apply also to the Second Component of RAD as provided in the RAD Notice. Participants in the Second Component of RAD must continue to comply with applicable fair housing, civil rights, and relocation statutes and regulations, and HUD may, at any time, initiate compliance or enforcement actions in connection with such requirements. The RAD Notice will continue as the primary source of information on fair housing and other civil rights requirements covering the Second Component of RAD without any change until further notice.

(b) the requirements of Section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (Section 104(d)) if CDBG or HOME funds are included as part of the project, (c) fair housing and other civil rights considerations implicated by relocation activities, and (d) requirements for relocating residents under the RAD Notice.

## **1.2. PHA and Project Owner Responsibilities**

This Notice explains RAD's front-end fair housing and other civil rights review requirements in greater detail than was provided in the RAD Notice and this Notice restates and revises RAD's relocation requirements. However, the fair housing, other civil rights, and relocation requirements that apply to RAD conversions are neither limited to those discussed in this Notice, nor to those specifically reviewed by HUD in the front-end review.

### **MEETING HUD'S PROCESS AND REVIEW REQUIREMENTS NEVER CONSTITUTES COMPLIANCE WITH SUCH LAWS. THE OBLIGATION TO COMPLY WITH APPLICABLE FAIR HOUSING, OTHER CIVIL RIGHTS, AND RELOCATION LAWS REMAINS WITH THE PHA AND PROJECT OWNER.**

The fair housing and civil rights requirements that apply to RAD conversions are not limited to those discussed in this Notice. PHAs and Project Owners are responsible at all times for ensuring that their RAD activities (including those activities implemented by their agents, consultants, contractors, or other RAD team members) comply with all applicable fair housing and civil rights requirements. PHAs and Project Owners shall be accountable for all fair housing and civil rights compliance issues with respect to their RAD activities, whether those activities are undertaken directly or through agents, consultants, contractors, or other RAD team members. While HUD provides this non-exhaustive guidance to assist PHAs and Project Owners during transactions, complying with the requirements set forth in this Notice does not necessarily mean that they, or their agents or consultants, are in compliance with fair housing and civil rights requirements.<sup>4</sup>

This Notice is not intended to, and shall not be construed to, reduce or in any way limit the application of fair housing, other civil rights, and relocation laws and regulations to RAD transactions. For example, HUD's reliance on a PHA's certification that a site meets the site and neighborhood standards required by the RAD Notice is not a determination of compliance with the duty to affirmatively further fair housing or other fair housing and civil rights requirements. As another example, HUD's approval of a site for new construction does not, by itself, constitute a determination of the PHA's compliance with all provisions of Title VI and its duty to affirmatively further fair housing found in the Fair Housing Act and other fair housing and civil rights requirements, nor indicate HUD's approval of the PHA's or locality's overall housing strategy. HUD's approval of a RAD conversion after front-end review reflects only that the project may proceed through the RAD conversion process; it does not constitute a determination

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<sup>4</sup> The PHA's or Project Owner's agents, consultants, contractors, and other RAD team members may also have fair housing and other civil rights obligations (whether under this Notice or otherwise) and the forgoing does not, in any way, limit the independent obligation of any such parties to ensure their own compliance with applicable fair housing and other civil rights laws.

that the project is in compliance with applicable fair housing, civil rights, and relocation requirements.

HUD's approval of a front-end review submission is based on limited information and is intended to assist the PHA or Project Owner in meeting their fair housing, civil rights, and relocation obligations.<sup>5</sup> The PHA is responsible for ensuring that its RAD conversion is consistent with its certification to affirmatively further fair housing and complies with applicable civil rights laws.<sup>6</sup> The front-end reviews described in this Notice shall not be construed to limit other fair housing and civil rights investigations that HUD may conduct. HUD retains all compliance and enforcement authority.

HUD's determination that the PHA or Project Owner has failed to meet submission, certification, or approval requirements with respect to fair housing, other civil rights, or relocation requirements is grounds for terminating a Commitment to enter into a Housing Assistance Payments Contract (CHAP), denying the issuance of a RAD Conversion Commitment (RCC), or denying authority to convert under RAD.

### **1.3. Applicability**

The content of this Notice should not be relied upon in carrying out any other activities funded under any other HUD program, except where specifically directed by HUD.

This Notice supplements the RAD Notice with respect to fair housing and civil rights requirements applicable to public housing properties converting under RAD and with respect to all matters related to the relocation of residents as a result of RAD public housing conversions. To the extent that there is a conflict between this Notice and the RAD Notice, this Notice shall govern. This Notice replaces and supersedes Notice H 2014-09/PIH 2014-17 (issued July 14, 2014).

Upon issuance, the terms of this Notice will apply to all projects that have applied for conversion of assistance under the First Component of RAD but have not yet converted. As this Notice provides guidance, clarification, and explanation regarding fair housing and civil rights requirements that are already applicable to RAD conversions, this Notice shall not affect any front-end civil rights approvals provided by HUD prior to the effective date of this Notice and otherwise shall be effective with respect to front-end civil rights approvals without exception. However, with respect to relocation activities for Converting Projects under the First Component where a PHA has already submitted a Financing Plan pursuant to the RAD Notice at the time of issuance of this Notice, and provided that the Financing Plan has been accepted for full review after initial screening for completeness, the PHA may, within sixty (60) days after issuance of this Notice, request (in writing uploaded to the RAD Resource Desk) to be governed by H 2014-

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<sup>5</sup> For example, the front-end review is specific to an individual site. A PHA that does not promote fair housing choice outside areas of minority concentration and continues to site affordable housing in minority concentrated areas may be in noncompliance with the duty to affirmatively further fair housing and other fair housing and civil rights obligations, even if the specific site is approved based on the information provided and pursuant to the front-end review of the PHA's site and neighborhood standards submission.

<sup>6</sup> See 24 C.F.R. § 5.105 and, as applicable, 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(b)(2) or Appendix III of the RAD Notice.

09/PIH 2014-17. For such projects and where otherwise appropriate in cases of hardship as determined by HUD, HUD may apply the terms of H 2014-09/PIH 2014-17 with respect to relocation activities, but not with respect to fair housing and civil rights requirements.

RAD projects which have been awarded Choice Neighborhoods Implementation (CNI) grants are subject to the provisions of the applicable Choice Neighborhoods Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and grant agreement regarding site and neighborhood standards and are not subject to the RAD front-end civil rights transaction reviews described in this Notice. For properties being redeveloped with funding under a CNI grant, the relocation requirements set forth in this Notice are superseded by guidance regarding relocation included in the CNI NOFA. Permanent involuntary displacement of public housing or Section 8 assisted residents may not occur as a result of a Choice Neighborhood project's conversion of assistance.

#### **1.4. Explanation of Major Provisions**

This Notice adds to and revises pre-existing guidance related to fair housing, civil rights, and relocation (as contained in the RAD Notice and H 2014-09/PIH 2014-17) with respect to RAD transactions. Among the key provisions and changes are the following:

##### Fair Housing & Civil Rights

- Reaffirms the applicability of fair housing and civil rights requirements to all RAD-related activities (see, e.g., Section 3.3 and Section 4);
- Reiterates when HUD front-end civil rights review (originally outlined in the RAD Notice) is required in addition to the PHA's analysis and certification of compliance, to assist the PHA and Project Owner to comply with fair housing and civil rights requirements (see Section 5.3);
- Outlines certain conditions under which HUD will conduct a front-end review to determine whether the site is in an area of minority concentration relative to the site's housing market area (see Section 5.4(A));
- Provides guidance, for purposes of the RAD front-end civil rights review, on the concepts of "area of minority concentration" and "housing market area" that are reviewed when determining whether a site is in an area of minority concentration (see Section 5.4(B));
- Elaborates on specific information that HUD will consider, and that PHAs should provide evidence of, in order for a proposed site to meet the existing exceptions to permit new construction in an area of minority concentration, identifies presumptions for meeting the sufficient comparable opportunities exception and describes factors that HUD may consider in evaluating the overriding housing needs exception (see Section 5.4(C) and Section 5.4(D));
- Articulates issues that HUD will consider in completing the front-end civil rights review for transfers of assistance, including, for example, accessibility and minority concentration (see Section 5.5);
- Outlines the information to be submitted for HUD's front-end civil rights review of transactions where unit reductions, unit reconfigurations, or changes in occupancy are proposed (see Section 5.6);
- Identifies the situations where front-end civil rights reviews are required when changes in the accessibility features of a site are made (see Section 5.7(B)); and

- Prohibits the Project Owner of a Converted Project with a PBRA HAP contract from initiating any new leasing or marketing activities (other than leasing and outreach to households holding a right to return to the Covered Project), including the solicitation, distribution or acceptance of applications or development of a waiting list, until HUD has approved the Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan (“AFHMP”) (see Section 5.8).

### Relocation

- Requires PHAs or Project Owners to prepare a written relocation plan for all transactions that involve permanent relocation or temporary relocation anticipated to exceed 12 months (see Section 6.1);
- Requires PHAs to provide residents with a RAD Information Notice (RIN) in order to ensure that residents are informed of potential project plans and of their rights in connection with RAD prior to submission of the RAD application (see Section 6.6(A));
- Clarifies that the General Information Notice (GIN), when applicable, should be provided as soon as feasible and no later than 30 days following the issuance of the CHAP (see Section 6.6(B));
- Requires Project Owners to provide a notification of Return to the Covered Project, when applicable (see Section 6.6(F));
- Moves the date before which PHAs are prohibited from beginning any physical relocation earlier in the conversion process (specifically, from the date of Closing to the later of the effective date of the RCC and the expiration of the 30- or 90-day RAD Notice of Relocation period, as applicable) (see Section 6.8);
- Clarifies the specific requirements applicable to different types of relocation (e.g., moves within a property, temporary relocation of less than 12 months, etc.) (see, e.g., Section 6.4);
- Provides enhanced guidance on the right to return requirements, any offers of alternative housing options and the documentation that must be retained when tenants choose an alternative housing option and decline their right to return (see, e.g., Section 6.2 and Section 6.10);
- Describes how HUD has administratively implemented URA requirements and URA relocation assistance and payments for displaced persons, when applicable, to residents who choose to decline the right of return and, instead, choose voluntary permanent relocation (see, e.g., Section 6.4(C) through (F) and Section 6.10);
- Requires PHAs to maintain detailed data regarding each household that will be relocated, with key dates of notices and moves (see Section 6.9); and
- Identifies key fair housing and civil rights requirements applicable during relocation (see, e.g., Section 4).

## **1.5. Request for Public Comment**

HUD acknowledges the complexity of the issues addressed in this Notice. This Notice is effective immediately upon issuance, but HUD also seeks comment from the public regarding the clarity and organization of the Notice and regarding areas where the policies and procedures described are unclear or ambiguous. HUD will consider whether changes in response to comments are justified and will implement any appropriate changes in a revision of this Notice. Please submit all comments to [RAD@hud.gov](mailto:RAD@hud.gov) within 30 days of the issuance of this Notice.

## **1.6. Paperwork Reduction Act**

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), HUD may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection displays a currently valid OMB control number. OMB approved information collection forms will be posted on the RAD website and the Federal Register.



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## Appendix I – Applicable Legal Authorities

## Appendix II – Recommended Relocation Plan Contents

**SECTION 3. Background****3.1. RAD Authority**

RAD is authorized by the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2012 (Pub. L. No. 112-55, enacted November 18, 2011), as amended by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76, enacted January 17, 2014), the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235, enacted December 6, 2014), and the Division L, Title II, Section 237 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 114-113, enacted December 18, 2016), collectively and as it may be further amended from time to time, the “RAD Statute.” RAD allows certain eligible properties to convert assistance to long-term project-based Section 8 contracts and has two separate components. The First Component allows projects funded under the public housing program to convert their assistance to long-term, project-based Section 8 rental assistance contracts. Under this component of RAD, public housing agencies (PHAs) may choose between two different Section 8 housing assistance programs: project based vouchers (PBVs) or project-based rental assistance (PBRA). The “Second Component” of RAD allows owners of projects funded under the Rent Supplement (Rent Supp), Rental Assistance Payment (RAP), and Moderate Rehabilitation programs to convert certain units to PBV or PBRA Section 8 units following certain contract expirations or terminations. The RAD Statute is implemented by the RAD Notice.

**3.2. Definitions**

All capitalized terms defined in the RAD Notice, as amended, shall have the definitions ascribed to them therein unless otherwise specifically noted in this Notice.<sup>7</sup> Pre-conversion projects whose assistance is converting from public housing to Section 8 under RAD are referred to in the RAD Notice and in this Notice as “Converting Projects.” Post-conversion projects are referred to in the RAD Notice and this Notice as “Covered Projects.”

**3.3. Applicable Legal Authorities**

Appendix I to this Notice identifies key legal authorities with respect to fair housing, civil rights, and resident relocation. Part 2 of Appendix I provides greater detail regarding federal accessibility requirements set forth in three of the legal authorities described in Appendix I,

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<sup>7</sup> Many of the fair housing and civil rights concepts used throughout this Notice are terms of art that are defined in applicable statutes and regulations identified in Appendix I of this Notice, while others have been developed through judicial interpretation. PHAs and Project Owners should familiarize themselves with these terms of art and should consult 42 U.S.C. § 3602 (Fair Housing Act); 24 C.F.R. §§ 5.152-100.20 (Fair Housing Act); 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d-2000d-4a (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964); 24 C.F.R. § 1.2 (Title VI); 29 U.S.C. § 705 (Rehabilitation Act); 24 C.F.R. § 8.3 (Section 504); 42 U.S.C. §§ 12102, 12132, 12181 (Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)); 28 C.F.R. § 35.104 (Title II of the ADA); and 28 C.F.R. § 36.104 (Title III of the ADA). In addition, many of the relocation concepts are terms of art that are defined in 42 U.S.C. § 4601 *et seq.* (Uniform Relocation Act (URA)), Section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 codified at 42 U.S.C. § 5304(d), and their implementing regulations at 49 C.F.R Part 24 and 24 C.F.R. Part 42 subpart C.

Part 1. PHAs and Project Owners must be familiar with these legal authorities and must evaluate, based on the facts of their situation, which legal authorities are applicable in which situations. **Failure to comply with any legal authority as applicable to the PHA's or Project Owner's actions or inactions may result in liability under such authority.** Appendix I does not attempt to provide a complete and exhaustive explanation of the legal authorities, nor to fully inventory the situations in which each legal authority is applicable. Instead, Appendix I is an overview intended to serve as a general introduction or reminder for PHAs and Project Owners of these fair housing, other civil rights, and relocation authorities and to facilitate their identification of appropriate topics for further research or expert counsel. The recitation of these legal authorities neither expands nor diminishes their applicability to the PHA's and Project Owner's activities in connection with their RAD conversion.

The RAD Statute authorizes the Secretary of HUD to waive or specify alternative requirements for certain provisions of law, except for requirements related to, among others, fair housing and nondiscrimination.<sup>8</sup> In addition to the general application of various federal statutes and their implementing regulations as discussed in Appendix I, below, HUD regulations at 24 C.F.R. § 5.105 apply such authorities to all HUD programs, including RAD.

### **3.4. Further Information**

Because each RAD proposal varies in its scope, this Notice may not address each PHA's or Project Owner's specific circumstances. PHAs and Project Owners should carefully review the laws, regulations, notices, and guidance material referenced in this Notice. Any questions related to the administration of the RAD program should be referred to the appropriate RAD Transaction Manager (TM) or may be emailed to [rad@hud.gov](mailto:rad@hud.gov).

## **SECTION 4. Generally Applicable Fair Housing and Civil Rights Requirements Relevant Throughout the RAD Conversion Process**

This Section provides a summary overview of key principles regarding program implementation and an overview of generally applicable fair housing and civil rights requirements. Appendix I identifies the key legal authorities from which these principles are derived. These key principals, together and with the legal authorities identified in Appendix I, frame the PHA's efforts to implement a RAD conversion. In some cases, these requirements are particularly relevant to the process of planning the RAD conversion, while in others they have particular relevance for the structure of the RAD transaction itself, and in yet other cases, both. Elements of RAD transactions that have civil rights implications include, but are not limited to, transfers of assistance, temporary and permanent relocation, demolition, site selection, new construction, occupancy policies, changes in unit configuration, increases or reductions in units, waiting list administration policies, policies regarding return of temporarily relocated tenants, substantial rehabilitation or alteration, program accessibility, tenant selection policies and priority transfers, providing information to and communicating with persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and persons with disabilities, reasonable accommodation policies, and Affirmative Fair

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<sup>8</sup> See Pub. L. No. 112-55, as amended.

Housing Marketing Plans (AFHMPs). All PHAs must consider civil rights when structuring these and other elements of their RAD transaction.

RAD transactions are governed by the same civil rights authorities that govern HUD-assisted activities generally.<sup>9</sup> Converting Projects are subject to civil rights and equal opportunity requirements under the public housing regulations, and Covered Projects are subject to civil rights and equal opportunity requirements under the PBV regulations or the PBRA regulations, as applicable.<sup>10</sup> As described further below, the Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing<sup>11</sup> and requires all federal executive departments and agencies to “administer their programs and activities relating to housing and urban development ... in a manner affirmatively to further” fair housing.<sup>12</sup> In addition, all programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance are subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 forbidding discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin<sup>13</sup> and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which forbids discrimination on the basis of disability and requires that programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance make such programs or activities “when viewed in its entirety” readily accessible to persons with disabilities and make reasonable accommodation to the needs of persons with disabilities.<sup>14</sup> RAD transactions are also subject, as applicable, to the requirements of Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Executive Order 11063, and HUD regulations at 24 C.F.R. part 107. Thus, as with the administration of all HUD programs and all HUD-assisted activities, fair housing and civil rights issues must be considered in the administration of the RAD program. PHAs must not implement actions and policies that may have a discriminatory effect on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, disability, or familial status or that may impede, obstruct, prevent, or undermine efforts to affirmatively further fair housing.<sup>15</sup> Note, in particular, the following requirements:

- Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH):** The Fair Housing Act requires that HUD administer its programs and activities in a manner that affirmatively furthers the purposes of the Fair Housing Act. The Fair Housing Act not only prohibits discrimination but, in conjunction with other statutes, directs HUD’s recipients, including PHAs, to take significant actions to overcome historic patterns of segregation, achieve truly balanced and integrated living patterns, promote fair housing choice, and foster inclusive communities that are free from discrimination. Through various statutes, regulations, and executive orders, PHAs must take various actions in accordance and in conjunction with their Fair Housing Act obligation to affirmatively further fair housing. For example, under regulations implementing the United States Housing Act of 1937 (the Act), HUD recipients must, among other requirements, certify that they will affirmatively further fair housing. In addition, under HUD’s Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) rule promulgated July 16, 2015, PHAs must periodically conduct an Assessment

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<sup>9</sup> See 24 C.F.R. § 5.105.

<sup>10</sup> See, e.g., 24 C.F.R. §§ 880.601, 881.601 and 983.8 for civil rights related regulations applicable to PBV and PBRA transactions.

<sup>11</sup> See 42 U.S.C. §§ 3601 *et seq.*, and HUD regulations in 24 C.F.R. part 100

<sup>12</sup> 42 U.S.C. § 3608(d) and (e).

<sup>13</sup> See 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d *et seq.*, and HUD regulations in 24 C.F.R. part 1.

<sup>14</sup> See 29 U.S.C. §§ 701 *et seq.*, and HUD regulations in 24 C.F.R. part 8.

<sup>15</sup> See 24 C.F.R. part 1 and part 100 subpart G.

of Fair Housing (AFH) as set out by the rule, either individually or in collaboration with other program participants.<sup>16</sup> Under the AFFH rule, in order to develop a successful affirmatively furthering fair housing strategy, the PHA must assess the elements and factors that cause, increase, contribute to, maintain, or perpetuate segregation, racially or ethnically concentrated areas of poverty, significant disparities in access to opportunity, and disproportionate housing needs. PHAs must ensure that their activities in connection with a RAD conversion are consistent with their AFH, including any applicable joint or regional AFH in which they are a joint participant, and with any applicable Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI), Fair Housing Equity Assessment, PHA 5-Year Plan, PHA Annual Plan, Moving to Work (MTW) Plan, or related planning documents and other regulatory and programmatic requirements implementing the obligation to affirmatively further fair housing to which they are a party.<sup>17</sup>

- Nondiscriminatory Site Selection:** HUD’s site and neighborhood standards require that the proposed site is suitable from the standpoint of facilitating and furthering full compliance with the applicable provision of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, the Fair Housing Act, Executive Order 11063, and Department regulations implementing these authorities. The site must meet the Section 504 site selection requirements in 24 C.F.R. § 8.4(b)(5). Additional provisions appear in 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(b) of the PBV rules and, for PBRA, in Appendix III of the RAD Notice. HUD’s Title VI regulation specifically prohibits site selection that has the “purpose or effect of excluding individuals from, denying them the benefits of, or subjecting them to discrimination” on the basis of race, color, or national origin.<sup>18</sup> The Title VI regulations also impose an obligation on the part of an applicant or recipient of HUD financial assistance to take actions to overcome the effect of prior discrimination or conditions that limit participation by persons of a particular race, color, or national origin.<sup>19</sup> In addition, HUD’s Section 504 regulation prohibits recipients from selecting sites the purpose or effect of which would (1) exclude qualified individuals with disabilities from or deny them the benefit of a program or activity, or otherwise subject them to discrimination; or (2) defeat or substantially impair the accomplishment of the objectives of the program or activity with respect to qualified individuals with disabilities.<sup>20</sup> ADA regulations likewise prohibit site selections that have the purpose or effect of excluding individuals with disabilities (including members of the public with disabilities), denying them benefits, or subjecting them to discrimination.<sup>21</sup> Finally, the Fair Housing Act prohibits discriminatory site selection, including perpetuation of segregation in transfers of assistance and new construction.
- Meaningful Access for Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP):** The PHA or Project Owner is required to take reasonable steps to ensure (a) they provide meaningful access to programs and activities for persons who have a limited ability to read, speak, or understand English; (b) any person with LEP who will be temporarily relocated or

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<sup>16</sup> 24 C.F.R. § 5.150 *et seq.*

<sup>17</sup> See 24 C.F.R. § 5.150 *et seq.* and 24 C.F.R. §§ 91.225, 91.325, or 91.425.

<sup>18</sup> See 24 C.F.R. § 1.4(b)(3).

<sup>19</sup> See 24 C.F.R. § 1.4(b)(6).

<sup>20</sup> See 24 C.F.R. § 8.4(b)(5).

<sup>21</sup> See 28 C.F.R. § 35.130(b)(4); 28 C.F.R. § 36.301.

permanently displaced has meaningful access to any public meetings regarding the project; and (c) they provide meaningful access to LEP persons to any information provided to residents including, but not limited to, any relocation notices. Generally, the PHA or Project Owner will be responsible for providing oral interpreters at meetings, including ensuring their competence, and covering any associated translation and interpretation costs.<sup>22</sup>

- **Effective Communication for Persons with Disabilities:** Communications and materials must be provided in a manner that is effective for persons with hearing, visual, and other communication-related disabilities consistent with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (24 C.F.R. § 8.6) and with 49 C.F.R. § 24.5, and as applicable, the Americans with Disabilities Act. This includes ensuring that, unless such actions would result in undue financial and administrative burdens or fundamental alterations, notices and resident meetings are provided in appropriate alternative formats as needed, e.g., Braille, audio, large type, accessible electronic communications, assistive listening devices, and sign language interpreters. Even in cases where the proposed actions may result in undue financial and administrative burdens or fundamental alterations, certain actions must still be taken. Specifically, appropriate auxiliary aids and services that would not result in such undue burdens or fundamental alterations must still be provided to ensure effective communication.
- **Accessible Meeting Facilities for Persons with Disabilities:** Pursuant to regulations implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as applicable, all programs and activities must be held in accessible locations unless doing so would result in an undue financial and administrative burden on the PHA and/or Project Owner, in which case the PHA or Project Owner must take any action that would not result in such undue burden but would nevertheless ensure that individuals with disabilities receive the benefits and services of the program or activity, e.g., briefings at an alternate accessible site or in-home briefing.<sup>23</sup> Individuals with disabilities must receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. The most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities is a setting that enables individuals with disabilities to interact with persons without disabilities to the fullest extent possible.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> For more information about LEP obligations, see HUD's Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Frequently Asked Questions guidance at

[http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/fair\\_housing\\_equal\\_opp/promotingfh/lep-faq#q26](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/promotingfh/lep-faq#q26).

<sup>23</sup> In selecting locations for consultation with residents, the PHA and/or Project Owner shall be guided by the goal of maximizing participation in an integrated setting so that residents with disabilities and residents without disabilities may hear and consider each other's views. Priority shall be given to using on-site accessible locations (including, e.g., TV rooms or informal gathering places), even if doing so may require multiple sessions with smaller groups of residents. In addition, Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act requires private entities that operate places of public accommodation, including social service establishments, leasing offices of private housing developments, and certain private housing providers, to comply with certain physical accessibility requirements which are similar to the requirements under Section 504 and Title II.

<sup>24</sup> See 28 C.F.R. part 35, Appendix B.



- Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities Throughout the Planning and Implementation Process:** A number of accessibility requirements, including but not limited to site selection, apply to all RAD conversions, as they do to the PHA's activities regardless of the PHA's participation in RAD.<sup>25</sup> PHAs and Project Owners should also be aware that state or local laws, regulations, and codes may contain greater accessibility requirements. This Notice provides, in Appendix I, Part 2, an overview of accessibility requirements under existing law. The information in Appendix I, Part 2 is intended to assist with the PHA's or Project Owner's compliance with accessibility requirements. PHAs and Project Owners must review Appendix I, Part 2 early-on in planning for the RAD transaction. PHAs and Project Owners may determine that it is most efficient to address accessibility matters early in the project planning. In addition, PHAs and Project Owners must evaluate, throughout the transaction and based on the facts of their situation, which requirements are applicable in which situations to ensure they appropriately address accessibility requirements. PHAs and Project Owners are responsible for ensuring that the architectural drawings and construction comply with the PHA's and Project Owner's obligations and all Federal civil rights requirements, including accessibility requirements under the Fair Housing Act, Section 504, and the ADA.

Accessibility requirements also apply during all stages of a RAD transaction, including during relocation. Existing information (e.g., resident characteristics forms, including identification of the need for accessible unit features; records of approved reasonable accommodations; and records of the presence of accessible unit features) and the residents themselves should be consulted throughout the process of developing and implementing a RAD conversion. Related activities include, but are not limited to:

- Identifying and maintaining existing and pending reasonable accommodations, including the need for larger units to accommodate live-in aides or special equipment;
- Determining what direct services may be needed as a reasonable accommodation (e.g., packing, moving, identification of temporary housing);
- Identifying accessible unit features and assuring that temporary or permanent replacement housing contains comparable features;
- Budgeting appropriately to ensure that reasonable accommodations are addressed.

For more information about compliance with accessibility requirements, the PHA or Project Owner should refer to appropriate notices concerning civil rights requirements and may contact HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity in either the Washington, D.C. or applicable field offices for more specific guidance. For additional, non-exhaustive guidance on providing relocation assistance to persons with disabilities, see Exhibit 3-1 in HUD Handbook 1378.

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<sup>25</sup> For more detailed information on these laws and their requirements, see PIH Notice 2010-26, issued July 26, 2010 (available at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/publications/notices/10/pih2010-26.pdf>). While this notice has an expiration date in 2011, because the notice summarizes and discusses regulatory requirements, the information in the notice provides helpful guidance.

- Reasonable Accommodations in Rules, Policies, Practices and Services:** Under the Fair Housing Act, the PHA or Project Owner must make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices, and services when such accommodations may be necessary to afford a person with a disability an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling.<sup>26</sup> Under Section 504, the PHA or Project Owner must also make reasonable accommodations to residents with disabilities, which may include providing and paying for structural modifications to dwelling units and public or common use areas. Titles II and III of the ADA provide similar requirements. Common examples of reasonable accommodations that may occur during relocation are permitting an individual with a disability to relocate near public transportation, providing a unit larger than otherwise permitted for a live-in aide, and making exceptions to no-animal rules for assistance and service animals. Accommodations generally need not be made where providing such an accommodation would be an undue financial and administrative burden or a fundamental alteration of the nature of the service. However, reasonable accommodations must be made to the extent the accommodation does not impose an undue financial and administrative burden or a fundamental alteration of the nature of the service. Reasonable accommodations must follow the individual with the disability throughout the RAD process, including during relocation. Furthermore, PHAs and Project Owners may be required to provide particular reasonable accommodations during relocation, such as assistance moving household items.<sup>27</sup>
- Physical Changes to Dwelling Units, Public and Common Use Areas and Other Facilities for Accessibility:** Under the Fair Housing Act, the PHA or Project Owner may be required to permit reasonable modifications. A reasonable modification is a structural change made to existing premises, occupied or to be occupied by a person with a disability, in order to afford such person full enjoyment of the premises. Reasonable modifications can include structural changes to interiors and exteriors of dwellings and to common and public use areas. A request for a reasonable modification may be made at any time during the tenancy. When relocating an individual with a disability who has such modifications in their dwelling unit or public and common use areas because of the individual's disability, regardless of who made them, the PHA or Project Owner has an obligation to provide and pay for such modification in the new dwelling. When considering requests by individuals with disabilities for structural changes to units or public and common use areas, PHAs and Project Owners should take particular note that they may be required to make and pay for such structural modifications as reasonable

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<sup>26</sup> For additional information regarding reasonable accommodations under the Fair Housing Act, see the Joint Statement of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Justice, Reasonable Accommodations Under the Fair Housing Act (May 17, 2004), at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/library/huddojstatement.pdf>.

<sup>27</sup> See 49 C.F.R. part 24, Appendix A, § 24.2(a)(8)(vii), which states that under the URA, "Reasonable accommodation of a displaced person with a disability at the replacement dwelling means the Agency is required to address persons with a physical impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities. In these situations, reasonable accommodation should include the following at a minimum: Doors of adequate width; ramps or other assistance devices to traverse stairs and access bathtubs, shower stalls, toilets and sinks; storage cabinets, vanities, sink and mirrors at appropriate heights. Kitchen accommodations will include sinks and storage cabinets built at appropriate heights for access. The Agency shall also consider other items that may be necessary, such as physical modification to a unit, based on the displaced person's needs."

accommodations under Section 504 and because of similar requirements under the ADA even though the Fair Housing Act may only require the owner to allow such changes to be made and paid for by the individual with a disability. Before determining that they are not required to make or pay for structural changes, PHAs and Project Owners are encouraged to consider carefully their obligations under each applicable statute.

## **SECTION 5. Application of Key Fair Housing and Civil Rights Requirements to RAD Transactions**

The generally applicable fair housing and other civil rights requirements described above, and in Appendix I, apply throughout the planning and implementation of a RAD transaction and the PHA is responsible for ensuring compliance with these requirements. As key requirements may be misunderstood, the RAD program has established specific additional procedures to assist RAD participants to ensure they comply with the applicable requirements. Specifically, the RAD Notice established a civil rights eligibility review and criteria for front-end civil rights reviews.

This Section elaborates on these requirements from the RAD Notice. The front-end review procedures described below establish procedures and criteria for the supplemental front-end review and technical assistance, criteria which are specific to the RAD program. Criteria for this supplemental front-end review are informed by, but not the same as, fair housing or civil rights rules and policies generally.

This Section is organized to loosely follow the stages of a RAD conversion transaction, beginning with RAD eligibility and continuing through site selection, transfer of assistance, unit design requirements and marketing. In addition, this Section describes the timing and procedures for submitting data and documents to HUD so that HUD may complete its front-end review. The submission procedures are also designed to serve as a tool for PHAs to identify issues of potential concern at appropriate stages of the RAD conversion and as a tool for HUD to identify potential needs for technical assistance.

### **5.1. RAD Eligibility Review**

To be eligible for RAD, the PHA must meet all eligibility requirements set forth in Section 1.3 of the RAD Notice, including the civil rights threshold requirements found at Section 1.3.G of the RAD Notice. A PHA must not have a charge, cause determination, lawsuit, or letter of findings, referenced in Section 1.3.G of the RAD Notice, against the PHA itself, its transferees, proposed development partners, or sub-recipients that has not been resolved, or is not in the process of being resolved, to HUD's satisfaction. This determination shall be made prior to issuance of the CHAP.

The CHAP may be revoked by HUD if HUD determines that the terms of the conversion would be inconsistent with fair housing and civil rights laws or a fair housing or civil rights court order, settlement agreement, or voluntary compliance agreement. HUD may terminate a CHAP or RCC if it determines that the terms of the conversion would be inconsistent with fair housing or civil rights laws or is inconsistent with, would hinder, or would delay satisfaction of a fair housing or civil rights court order, settlement agreement, or voluntary compliance agreement.



HUD may terminate an approval to proceed with a RAD conversion if it determines that the terms of the conversion would be inconsistent with fair housing or civil rights laws or a fair housing or civil rights court order, settlement agreement, or voluntary compliance agreement.

## 5.2. PHA's Proposed Site Selection and Certification

For all RAD conversions, the PHA must comply with all applicable site selection requirements as set forth in this Notice and the RAD Notice and in accordance with any additional applicable published guidance provided by HUD. As set forth in the RAD Notice, conversions of assistance to PBV involving new construction, whether on a new site or on a current site, are subject to the site selection standards set forth in 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(a), (b), (c) and (e), but excluding 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(b)(1) and (c)(2). All other conversions to PBV, including transfers of assistance to an existing property other than the Converting Project, are subject to the standards set forth in 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(a), (b), (c) and (d), but excluding 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(b)(1) and (c)(2).<sup>28</sup> Site selection requirements set forth at Appendix III of the RAD Notice apply to RAD conversions to PBRA assistance, as does the requirement not to place housing in neighborhoods with highly concentrated poverty based on the criteria formulated for transfers under Section 8(bb) of the United States Housing Act of 1937.<sup>29</sup> PBV and PBRA site selection must also be consistent with the requirements of the Fair Housing Act, Title VI, Section 504, the ADA and their implementing regulations.

It is the PHA's responsibility to ensure that the site selection complies with all applicable site selection requirements, including the requirements of this Notice and the RAD Notice. Pursuant to the RAD Notice, the PHA must certify with the submission of its Annual Plan, Significant Amendment to its Annual Plan, or MTW Plan that it complies with the applicable site selection requirements and must maintain records of its analysis and the data relied upon in making its determination of compliance. The PHA must also determine and subsequently state in the certification that the site is "suitable from the standpoint of facilitating and furthering full compliance with the applicable provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, Executive Order 11063, and HUD regulations issued pursuant thereto."<sup>30</sup> Although this Notice provides detail regarding certain civil rights-related site and neighborhood standards, PHAs must certify compliance with all applicable site and neighborhood standards.<sup>31</sup>

The PHA must also certify that, in conducting its review of site selection for the proposed project, the PHA completed a review with respect to accessibility for persons with disabilities and that the proposed site is consistent with applicable accessibility standards under the Fair Housing Act, Section 504, and the ADA. The site and neighborhood standards for PBV and PBRA require the site to be "suitable from the standpoint of facilitating and furthering full compliance with" the Fair Housing Act and require the site to meet the Section 504 site selection

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<sup>28</sup> See the provisions of Section 1.6.A.4 of the RAD Notice.

<sup>29</sup> 42 U.S.C. § 1437f(bb).

<sup>30</sup> For RAD conversions to PBRA, the RAD Notice uses the term "the site and neighborhood is suitable," rather than "the site is suitable." See Appendix III of the RAD Notice, paragraph (a).

<sup>31</sup> See 24 C.F.R. § 983.57 and the RAD Notice at Section 1.4(A)(7)

requirements described in 24 C.F.R. § 8.4(b)(5).<sup>32</sup> The Fair Housing Act, as implemented at 24 C.F.R. § 100.205, requires “covered multifamily dwellings” built for first occupancy after March 13, 1991, to contain accessible design features. HUD’s Section 504 regulations at 24 C.F.R. § 8.4(b)(5) require that, in determining the site or location of a federally assisted facility, an applicant for assistance or recipient may not make selections the purpose or effect of which would: (i) exclude qualified individuals with disabilities from, deny them the benefits of, or otherwise subject them to discrimination under, any program or activity that receives Federal financial assistance from HUD, or (ii) defeat or substantially impair the accomplishment of the objectives of the program or activity with respect to qualified individuals with disabilities. Title II of the ADA contains a similar requirement that a public entity, such as the PHA, may not, in determining the site or location of a facility, make selections (i) that have the effect of excluding individuals with disabilities from, denying them the benefits of, or otherwise subjecting them to discrimination; or (ii) that have the purpose or effect of defeating or substantially impairing the accomplishment of the objectives of the service, program, or activity with respect to individuals with disabilities.<sup>33</sup> Factors relevant to a site review under these standards may include, among others:

- Site features, such as inaccessible slopes in routes, lack of accessible sidewalks, curb ramps, accessible parking spaces, and placement of dumpsters or other physical features that would impede access to and movement within the site;
- Building features, such as inaccessible building entrances, other methods of ingress and egress, public and common use areas (e.g., the rental office, parking areas, mail areas, trash areas, community rooms, shared use toilet rooms, laundry facilities and walkways inside and outside that connect these public and common use areas to units), and barriers to access by members of the public; and
- Lack of accessible transit or para-transit and accessible public sidewalks and accessible transportation stops.

When such conditions are present at the site and would exclude individuals with disabilities from, deny them the benefits of, or otherwise subject them to discrimination, or would defeat or substantially impair the accomplishment of the objectives of the program or activity with respect to individuals with disabilities, the site must not be selected unless the proposal includes remediation of the barriers to achieve compliance with accessibility requirements (including identification and remediation of any nonconforming design and construction conditions in “covered multifamily dwellings” under the Fair Housing Act). Remediation of the barriers may include, for example, physical accessibility improvements to the site, arrangements for access to accessible supportive services, or reasonable accommodations for current or prospective residents with disabilities, including members of the public. The Financing Plan submitted to HUD must describe and document resources sufficient to pay for the remediation of accessibility barriers.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> See 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(b)(2) (PBV conversions); *see also*, Appendix III (a) of the RAD Notice (PBRA conversions).

<sup>33</sup> See 28 C.F.R. § 35.130(b)(4).

<sup>34</sup> In conducting its review prior to certification, and in preparing for the certification, PHAs and Project Owners may find it useful to consult with their local or regional FHEO office, the United States Access Board, local or state

While all PHAs must certify their compliance with applicable site selection requirements as described in this Section, some RAD transactions will also be subject to a front-end review of the site selection. For transactions involving activities that present site selection issues of greater complexity, as described in Sections 5.3 through 5.5 below, front-end review will allow HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) to assist the PHA to consider relevant laws and regulations while completing its site selection review and certification.

### **5.3. RAD Front-End Civil Rights Transaction Review**

Fair Housing Act and other civil rights issues may arise throughout a RAD transaction. Under the Fair Housing Act, an assessment of site suitability includes an analysis of the impact that the siting of the project would have on patterns of segregation for protected classes. The Fair Housing Act is of particular importance when a RAD proposal concerns site selection for new construction or reconfiguration of housing on the original public housing site – for example, the unit size distribution (e.g., conversion of larger bedroom size units to one-bedroom units, which may have an adverse impact on housing opportunities for families with children) or a reduction in the number or distribution of accessible units (which may have an adverse impact on housing opportunities for persons with disabilities). RAD conversions involving new construction must also comply with the Fair Housing Act's accessibility requirements.

Compliance with all applicable fair housing and civil rights requirements is the responsibility of both the PHA and the Project Owner. However, to assist with compliance, HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) will conduct a front-end civil rights review of project proposals containing activities identified as particularly at risk of violating applicable fair housing and civil rights laws. The activities that must be submitted for front-end civil rights review are listed in Section 5.3(A), below.

#### *A) Activities Subject to Front-End Civil Rights Review*

All RAD conversions that include one or more of the activities listed below (Sections 5.3(A)(1) through 5.3(A)(9)) are subject to a front-end review for compliance with certain civil rights and fair housing requirements. The specific items that HUD will review in the front-end review will depend on which activities are involved in the specific transaction. A RAD conversion may not include one of the activities below without prior written approval from HUD. All Financing Plans must include evidence that the PHA has secured written approval from HUD for any of the following activities that are included in its RAD conversion:

- (1) Conversions of assistance involving new construction, whether on a new site or on a current site, in an area of minority concentration. Front-end review of this activity shall be pursuant to Section 5.4(B), below and, in addition, the PHA shall

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architectural access board or other accessibility authority for information on accessibility standards. Other sources of information on accessibility requirements may include protection and advocacy organizations or independent living centers. In addition, the non-HUD resources may provide advice on how to assess accessibility needs and formulate physical accessibility strategies.

certify in its Annual Plan compliance with site and neighborhood standards applicable to new construction as described in Section 5.2.

- (2) Transfers of assistance where all or a portion of the Converting Project's assistance is transferred to a new site(s) (either new construction or to an existing project) as part of the subject transaction. Front-end review of this activity shall be pursuant to Section 5.5(B), below and, in addition, the PHA shall certify in its Annual Plan compliance with site and neighborhood standards applicable to existing housing as described in Section 5.2.
- (3) Conversions of assistance where the total number of units in the Covered Project is less than the original number of units in the Converting Project (this includes de minimis reductions). Front-end review of this activity shall be pursuant to Section 5.6.
- (4) Conversions of assistance where the Covered Project's unit configuration is different from the unit configuration of the Converting Project. Front-end review of this activity shall be pursuant to Section 5.6.
- (5) Conversions involving a change in occupancy, where the Covered Project serves a different population from the one served by the Converting Project (e.g., when a Converting Project serves families but the Covered Project is subject to an elderly preference or introduction of restrictions or preferences based on age or disability that will change the occupancy of the property). Front-end review of this activity shall be pursuant to Section 5.6.
- (6) Conversions of assistance in which the construction schedule indicates that relocation is likely to exceed 12 months. Front-end review of this activity shall be pursuant to Section 5.7(A).
- (7) Conversions of assistance involving new construction or substantial alteration,<sup>35</sup> as those terms are defined in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Front-end review of this activity shall be pursuant to Section 5.7(B).
- (8) Conversions of assistance involving a Converting Project subject to a Voluntary Compliance Agreement or Conciliation Agreement with HUD or a Consent Decree or Settlement Agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice or HUD, or where the PHA is subject to such an agreement affecting its entire housing portfolio or otherwise related to the Converting Project. Front-end review of this activity shall be pursuant to Section 5.7(C).

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<sup>35</sup> Section 504 defines substantial alteration of a housing project as alterations where a housing project has 15 or more units, and the rehabilitation costs will be 75% or more of the replacement cost of the completed facility. *See* 24 C.F.R. § 8.23 (a).

- (9) Conversions of assistance where HUD has identified potential fair housing and civil rights concerns or a history of such concerns. Front-end review of this activity shall be pursuant to Section 5.7(C).

PHAs should note that a proposed RAD conversion may trigger front-end review regarding more than one of the activities listed in subsections (1) through (9) of this Section. For example, depending on the details of the proposal, a new construction on-site project could require review under subsections (1), (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7), or could require review under only subsections (1) and (7).

As part of HUD's review of these elements of the RAD conversion plans, HUD may require that PHAs that are carrying out portfolio or multi-phased conversions provide information on their conversion plans for other projects or subsequent phases to ensure that the overall plans for RAD conversion are consistent with civil rights and fair housing.

*B) Fair Housing, Civil Rights, and Relocation Checklist*

In connection with HUD's front-end fair housing and civil rights and relocation reviews described in this Section 5 and in Section 6, HUD is requiring submission of a Fair Housing, Civil Rights, and Relocation Checklist (the "Checklist"). The Checklist will facilitate the PHAs' and Project Owners' submission of necessary information to complete these reviews.<sup>36</sup> HUD anticipates that a revised Checklist, when available following Paperwork Reduction Act approval, will be separated into parts which can be submitted incrementally as the PHA and Project Owner develop the RAD transaction plans, with different elements of the Checklist applicable at different stages of the transaction planning process. For example, submissions regarding site selection for a RAD transaction involving new construction may occur well before submissions regarding a proposal to change the unit configuration.

The Checklist will outline the minimum information or documentation which HUD will need in order to review each part of the Checklist. After HUD's initial review of any portion of the Checklist, HUD may determine that the data provided in the Checklist is insufficient for HUD to complete its review, in which case HUD may require the PHA or Project Owner to provide supplemental information. The PHA should submit each part as early as possible once the information covered in the applicable part is known. All information specified in the applicable

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<sup>36</sup> The Checklist is available at [www.hud.gov/rad](http://www.hud.gov/rad). As of the publication of this Notice, references to the Checklist refer to the existing FHEO Accessibility and Relocation Plan Checklist under OMB Approval 2577-0276. The PHA shall use the existing Checklist to provide information related to demonstrating compliance with fair housing, other civil rights, and relocation requirements (including accessibility requirements) and, as necessary, may require additional materials for HUD to complete its review, which the PHA may provide in such form as the PHA determines appropriate. Also at [www.hud.gov/rad](http://www.hud.gov/rad), HUD has provided a listing of information that, depending on the circumstances, HUD may require to complete different components of its front-end review. The Checklist is being revised to fully capture the submission requirements described in this Notice. The revised Checklist will be subject to Paperwork Reduction Act approval and will be posted at the website listed above when available for use.



part of the Checklist must be submitted to HUD for HUD to begin its civil rights review – partial submissions of any applicable part of the Checklist will not be accepted.<sup>37</sup>

*C) Timing of Front-End Review Submissions*

PHAs and Project Owners are encouraged to submit applicable portions of the Checklist and information associated with a particular activity subject to front-end review as early as possible in the development of their plans. The PHA must ensure that HUD has approved all applicable parts of the Checklist prior to submission of the Financing Plan. Upon request from the PHA, HUD may, at HUD's sole discretion, permit submission of the Financing Plan prior to receipt of approval of the applicable parts of the Checklist and conditioned upon subsequent receipt of such approvals, in which event the PHA and Project Owner may proceed at their own risk.

Early approval of the site of the Covered Project is critical for RAD transaction proposals subject to front-end civil rights review involving site selection standards, specifically new construction in areas of minority concentration (see Section 5.3(A)(1)) and transfers of assistance (see Section 5.3(A)(2)). The PHA must conduct its own assessment of the site during the early stages of planning its RAD transaction. The guidance in this Notice and the Checklist are tools intended to assist the PHA in conducting its own assessment of the site.

The PHA must provide HUD with the Checklist and backup information sufficient for HUD to review the site with respect to the applicable standards. The site selection information should be provided to HUD no later than ninety (90) days following the issuance of the CHAP or, if the CHAP has already been issued as of the publication of this Notice, within ninety (90) days following publication of this Notice. In the event of a change in plans for the Converting Project that would require a front-end review of the site selection standards, the PHA must provide the Checklist and backup documentation within sixty (60) days of the change in plans. PHAs are strongly encouraged to provide front-end review submissions and secure HUD approval prior to applying for LIHTCs or taking action the reversal of which (in the event of non-approval of the site) would be detrimental to the PHA or the Project Owner. PHAs are also encouraged to contact FHEO for technical assistance prior to submission of these materials.

All PHAs shall submit a certification consistent with the requirements of Section 5.2, above. This certification may be prepared specifically in connection with the Checklist or as part of the PHA Annual Plan or Significant Amendment. However, HUD will not consider a submission complete for front-end civil rights review without this certification. All RAD conversions must submit the PHA certification described in Section 5.2 no later than at the time of submission of the Financing Plan.

*D) Completion of HUD's Front-End Review*

HUD will not approve a RAD conversion if HUD determines that the conversion would operate to discriminate in violation of applicable fair housing and civil rights laws. HUD will not approve proposals that have the purpose, intent, or effect of discriminating on the basis of

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<sup>37</sup> The Checklist refers to the existing FHEO Accessibility and Relocation Checklist until a revised Checklist is approved for use pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act.

protected class (*i.e.*, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, and familial status). If HUD does not approve a proposed activity based on a front-end review, then it will provide a written description of concerns or deficiencies. The PHA may resubmit the front-end review materials with a changed proposal and/or with additional information addressing HUD's concerns and any deficiencies in the proposal or the submission.

In some circumstances, a special condition to the transaction's RCC will be necessary to ensure that a RAD transaction conforms to fair housing and civil rights requirements. Special conditions to the RCC reflect the conditions necessary in order to complete the RAD conversion. For example, if there is an outstanding remedial agreement or order requiring particular development activities or operating policies to correct a violation of a fair housing or other civil rights requirement, the RCC generally will condition participation in RAD upon agreement by the PHA or the Project Owner, as applicable, to comply with the provisions of such agreements or orders after conversion.

#### **5.4. Front-End Civil Rights Review for RAD Transactions Involving New Construction**

##### *A) Conditions Triggering Review*

If the proposed project is located in an area of minority concentration, the new site may be approved only if it falls under a permitted exception and meets the other site selection requirements described in Section 5.2. Under the PBV and PBRA site and neighborhood standards, HUD may approve new construction in an area of minority concentration, consistent with the regulatory requirements cited above, only if:

- a. Sufficient, comparable housing opportunities for minority families in the income range to be served by the proposed project exist outside areas of minority concentration; or
- b. The project is necessary to meet overriding housing needs that cannot be met in that housing market area.<sup>38</sup>

As described in the RAD Notice and in Section 5.3(A) of this Notice, above, HUD will conduct a front-end civil rights review of the PHA's proposed site in certain circumstances. This Notice specifies that for conversions of assistance involving new construction where there are indications that the site may be located in an area of minority concentration per the criteria in subsections (i), (ii), or (iii), below (whether the construction is located on the existing public housing site or on a new site), HUD will conduct a front-end civil rights review of the site to determine whether the site is in an area of minority concentration and, if so, whether it meets one of the exceptions that would allow for new construction in an area of minority concentration.

The PHA shall submit for HUD front-end review the PHA's findings, together with backup documentation, regarding site selection when the site meets any of the following criteria:

- i. The PHA self-identifies the area of the site as an area of minority concentration,

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<sup>38</sup> 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(e)(3) and Appendix III of the RAD Notice, paragraph (e).

- ii. The census tract of the site meets the extent of minority concentration described in Section 5.4(B)(1), below, or
- iii. An area comprised of the census tract of the site together with all adjacent census tracts, analyzed as a whole, meets the extent of minority concentration described in Section 5.4(B)(1), below.

If any of these three criteria is applicable, HUD will conduct a review to determine whether the site is in an area of minority concentration and, if applicable, whether the proposed site fits one of the exceptions permitting new construction in an area of minority concentration described in this Section 5.4. A proposed RAD transaction which does not meet one of these triggers must still be evaluated by the PHA and the PHA must certify compliance with the site selection requirements as described in Section 5.2, above.

A PHA seeking to undertake new construction must receive written approval from HUD of any site selection subject to front-end review prior to entering into any construction contract for that new construction.

#### *B) Analysis of Areas of Minority Concentration*

This Section sets forth the methodology that HUD will use in the analysis of the extent of minority concentration, the area of the site, and the housing market area for purposes of the RAD front-end civil rights review. As noted below, this analysis is fact specific and PHAs may submit documentation to inform HUD's analysis in cases where there is strong evidence that an alternative methodology would be more appropriate.

- (1) For purposes of RAD, a site is considered to be in an area of minority concentration when either (i) the percentage of persons of a particular racial or ethnic minority within the area of the site is at least 20 percentage points higher than the percentage of that minority group in the housing market area as a whole or (ii) the total percentage of minority persons within the area of the site is at least 20 points higher than the total percentage of minorities in the housing market area as a whole.<sup>39</sup>
- (2) For purposes of RAD, the analysis of an area of minority concentration will use census tracts to approximate the "area" of the site but the analysis may consider alternate proposed geographies instead of the census tract in instances where there is strong evidence that such geography is more appropriate. Strong evidence that an alternative geography is more appropriate includes: (i) that the site is close to the edge of the census tract, (ii) that the population of the census tract is heavily influenced by the size of the Converting Project, or (iii) that the local community

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<sup>39</sup> The percentage of minorities shall be calculated by subtracting the percentage of White Non-Hispanic persons in the relevant area from 100%. The analysis shall be based on the most recently available decennial census data found at [http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=DEC\\_10\\_DP\\_DPDP1&src=pt](http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=DEC_10_DP_DPDP1&src=pt). However, if such data is more than five years old, and if either the PHA or HUD requests the use of more recent data based on such party's awareness of significant and material shifts in the demographics of the relevant area in the intervening years, the analysis shall be based on the most recent American Communities Survey data.



understanding of the immediate neighborhood dictates a different boundary. Local community understanding of the immediate neighborhood is often informed by factors such as patterns of housing stock (such as different residential densities in different areas or differential housing prices for similar properties), community facilities and amenities (such as schools and commercial areas) or major geographic barriers (such as rivers or interstate highways), among other factors.<sup>40</sup> HUD will determine the site's "area" using the best available evidence and following the legal standards set forth in applicable case law.

- (3) For purposes of the RAD analysis under this Section 5.4, a "housing market area" is the geographic region from which it is likely that residents of housing at the proposed site would be drawn for a given multifamily housing project. A housing market area generally corresponds to, as applicable: (i) the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MetroSA); (ii) the Micropolitan Statistical Area (MicroSA); or (iii) if the site is in neither a MetroSA nor a MicroSA, either (x) the county or statistically equivalent area, or (y) the PHA's service area, whichever is larger.<sup>41</sup> The analysis may consider a larger or smaller housing market area in instances where there is strong evidence that such housing market area is more appropriate. Strong evidence that an alternative housing market area is more appropriate may include factors such as regional employment centers and commuting patterns serving such employment centers. A PHA seeking to use an alternative housing market area must consult with HUD and establish to HUD's satisfaction that the methodology for identifying and documenting the alternative housing market area is warranted and sound.

### *C) The Sufficient Comparable Opportunities Exception*

As required by the RAD Notice and noted in Section 5.4(A), one of the exceptions under which the site and neighborhood standards permit new construction in areas of minority concentration is if sufficient, comparable housing opportunities for low-income minority families exist outside areas of minority concentration. This section clarifies HUD's procedures for assessing comparable housing opportunities and evaluating how the proposed new construction will impact the balance of housing choices within and outside areas of minority concentration. It also includes a list of the information PHAs should submit to inform HUD's assessment of relevant factors, and key considerations guiding HUD's analysis of each factor.

Under the governing PBV and PBRA requirements, units are considered comparable opportunities if they are the same household type (e.g., elderly, disabled, family, large family), tenure type (owner, renter), require approximately the same total tenant payment toward rent,

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<sup>40</sup> For further explanation, see, e.g., *King v. Harris*, 464 F.Supp.827, 839-41 (E.D.N.Y. 1979).

<sup>41</sup> Items (i) and (ii) are consistent with a Core Based Statistical Area as defined by the Office of Management and Budget. For reference, a Core Based Statistical Area consists of the county or counties or equivalent entities associated with at least one core (urbanized area or urban cluster) of at least 10,000 population, plus adjacent counties having a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured through commuting ties with the counties associated with the core.

serve the same income group, are located in the same housing market area, and are in standard condition.<sup>42</sup>

It is important to note that the sufficient comparable housing opportunities exception “does not require that in every locality there be an equal number of assisted units within and outside of areas of minority concentration. Rather, application of this standard should produce a reasonable distribution of assisted units each year, that, over a period of several years, will approach an appropriate balance of housing choices within and outside areas of minority concentration. An appropriate balance in any jurisdiction must be determined in light of local conditions affecting the range of housing choices available for low-income minority families and in relation to the racial mix of the locality’s population.”<sup>43</sup>

HUD will assess “the overall impact of HUD-assisted housing on the availability of housing choices for low-income minority families in and outside areas of minority concentration, and must take into account the extent to which the following factors are present, along with other factors relevant to housing choice.”<sup>44</sup> Under this exception, it is not sufficient for one factor to be present, nor is it required that all factors be present, as the analysis must consider all relevant facts and evaluate the totality of the circumstances.

- “A significant number of assisted housing units are available outside areas of minority concentration.”<sup>45</sup> While HUD must consider all factors relevant to housing choice, 30% or more of deeply subsidized housing units for very low-income persons would be a significant number. To facilitate HUD’s consideration of this factor, a PHA should provide the number, occupancy type, and location of all comparable assisted units.<sup>46</sup>
- “There is significant integration of assisted housing projects constructed or rehabilitated in the past 10 years, relative to the racial mix of the eligible population.”<sup>47</sup> To facilitate HUD’s consideration of this factor, a PHA should provide the name and location of assisted housing projects constructed or rehabilitated in the PHA’s jurisdiction in the past 10 years and the demographic characteristics of the residents of each of these projects;
- “There are racially integrated neighborhoods in the locality.”<sup>48</sup> To facilitate HUD’s consideration of this factor, a PHA should provide the name and census tracts where these racially integrated neighborhoods are located. In general, HUD will consider a neighborhood racially integrated if the neighborhood does not have a high concentration of persons of a particular race or ethnicity when compared to the housing market area in which the neighborhood is located.

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<sup>42</sup> See 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(e)(3)(iv) and Appendix III of the RAD Notice, paragraph (e)(1)(A).

<sup>43</sup> 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(e)(3)(iii); *see also* Appendix III of the RAD Notice, paragraph (e)(1).

<sup>44</sup> 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(e)(3)(v); *see also* Appendix III of the RAD Notice, paragraph (e)(1)(B).

<sup>45</sup> 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(e)(3)(v)(A) and Appendix III of the RAD Notice, paragraph (e)(1)(B)(i).

<sup>46</sup> Note that this factor is in reference to comparable assisted units that may or may not be in the PHA’s portfolio. The presumption stated at the end of this Section (i.e., that sufficient comparable opportunities exist if at least 50% of the comparable hard units in the PHA’s portfolio, including PBV developments using the PHA’s subsidy, are outside areas of minority concentration) is focused on units within the PHA’s portfolio.

<sup>47</sup> 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(e)(3)(v)(B) and Appendix III of the RAD Notice, paragraph (e)(1)(B)(ii).

<sup>48</sup> 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(e)(3)(v)(C) and Appendix III of the RAD Notice, paragraph (e)(1)(B)(iii).

- “Programs are operated by the locality to assist minority families that wish to find housing outside areas of minority concentration.”<sup>49</sup> Such programs may include measures such as increasing payment standards in excess of 110% of FMR or the use of Small Area FMRs, including in setting exception rents, or reservation of a percentage of HCVs dedicated to support choice mobility selections or implementation of proven mobility counseling and supports for residents, provided the PHA provides sufficient evidence that it will continue such measures. To facilitate HUD’s consideration of this factor, a PHA should provide the names of the applicable program(s); the entity responsible for implementing the program(s) (e.g., city, county, state government); and any information demonstrating that the program(s) has been successful or predictably will achieve success in assisting persons who wish to move to non-concentrated areas.
- “Minority families have benefited from local activities (e.g., acquisition and write-down of sites, tax relief programs for homeowners, acquisitions of units for use as assisted housing units) undertaken to expand choice for minority families outside of areas of minority concentration.”<sup>50</sup> To facilitate HUD’s consideration of this factor, a PHA should provide the names of the applicable activity(s); the entity responsible for implementing the activity(s) (e.g., city, county, state government); and any information demonstrating that the activity(s) has been successful in expanding choice for minority families outside of areas of minority concentration;
- “A significant proportion of minority households has been successful in finding units in non-minority areas under the tenant-based assistance programs” (e.g., the Housing Choice Voucher programs).<sup>51</sup> To facilitate HUD’s consideration of this factor, a PHA should provide the number of minority households receiving Housing Choice Vouchers; the number of minority households using HCVs in non-minority areas; and the non-minority census tracts where the HCVs are being used. While each local situation is distinct and HUD must consider all factors relevant to housing choice, 30% or more of new leases signed by minority heads of household using HCVs located in non-minority areas over a period greater than three years prior to the date of HUD’s analysis would be a significant proportion.
- “Comparable housing opportunities have been made available outside areas of minority concentration through other programs.”<sup>52</sup> To facilitate HUD’s consideration of this factor, a PHA should describe the opportunities that have been made available, the location of those opportunities, and the number of minority families that have benefitted from the program in recent years. Such programs could include choice mobility strategies, acquisition strategies to acquire and add to the PHA’s portfolio existing apartments in high opportunity areas and transfers of assistance to high opportunity areas.

HUD may consider evidence based on a reliable housing market analysis in evaluating the foregoing factors, along with other factors relevant to housing choice. In the event HUD

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<sup>49</sup> 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(e)(3)(v)(D); *see also* Appendix III of the RAD Notice, paragraph (e)(1)(B)(iv).

<sup>50</sup> 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(e)(3)(v)(E); *see also* Appendix III of the RAD Notice, paragraph (e)(1)(B)(v).

<sup>51</sup> 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(e)(3)(v)(F); *see also* Appendix III of the RAD Notice, paragraph (e)(1)(B)(vi).

<sup>52</sup> 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(e)(3)(v)(G) and Appendix III of the RAD Notice, paragraph (e)(1)(B)(vii).

determines such an analysis would assist in this evaluation, HUD will consult with appropriate parties to establish or accept an appropriate methodology for such an analysis to address HUD's civil rights concerns and to ensure appropriate independence between the analyst and the PHA or Project Owner commissioning and paying for the study.

Absent information to the contrary, for purposes of HUD's front-end review of the PHA's analysis, HUD will apply a presumption that sufficient comparable opportunities exist if at least 50% of the comparable hard units in the PHA's portfolio, including PBV developments using the PHA's subsidy, are outside areas of minority concentration.<sup>53</sup> The PHA's portfolio includes all public housing, PBV and PBRA hard units (including those developed under HOPE VI or Choice Neighborhoods) controlled by the PHA and its instrumentalities or funded using PHA-controlled subsidy. Upon adequate documentation of this presumption, the PHA need not provide additional documentation for HUD's front-end review of the sufficient comparable opportunities exception. This presumption may be rebutted by information to the contrary, including information regarding the preceding factors. In assessing whether sufficient comparable opportunities exist when the presumption does not apply, HUD will consider the factors listed above.

Absent information to the contrary, for purposes of HUD's front-end review of the PHA's analysis, HUD will apply a presumption that sufficient comparable opportunities exist if a set of RAD conversions from a single public housing property, individually or in a combination of transactions, will result in the creation of as many similarly-affordable housing units outside areas of minority concentration as are constructed on the original public housing site. To evaluate the creation of similarly-affordable units, HUD will compare (i) the number of affordable units that will be redeveloped on site, to (ii) the number of similarly-affordable housing units that will be created through new construction, imposition of new long-term affordability restrictions or transfer of RAD assistance to one or more sites outside areas of minority concentration.<sup>54</sup> Similarly-affordable shall mean RAD units compared to RAD units and LIHTC/non-RAD units compared to LIHTC/non-RAD units. The newly created similarly-affordable units must be owned, controlled, sponsored, under common ownership, control or sponsorship, or financially supported by the PHA or by an entity with a managing ownership interest in the Project Owner. When a PHA seeks to claim this exception, HUD prefers that the transaction creating the similarly-affordable units on the site outside areas of minority concentration close (with an immediate or delayed HAP effective date, if applicable) prior to the closing of the RAD conversion in the area of minority concentration. However, if the PHA determines that such a sequence is not reasonably possible, unless otherwise approved by HUD the PHA must provide evidence to HUD that the transfer of assistance to a site outside areas of

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<sup>53</sup> When determining the percentage of units outside of areas of minority concentration, the PHA must include the number of units planned at the proposed site in its calculations. While not required, PHAs or Project Owners may assist HUD in consideration of this presumption by submitting to HUD a map produced by the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Data and Mapping Tool ("AFFH-T"), as may be available on the HUD website from time to time, showing the location of publicly assisted housing.

<sup>54</sup> For example, if the PHA proposes to build 25 RAD units, 20 non-RAD LIHTC units and 15 unrestricted units on-site, such a plan could be acceptable if paired with creation of 15 RAD units at one site and 10 RAD units plus 20 non-RAD LIHTC units at a second site. The 15 unrestricted units in the minority concentrated area are not part of the analysis as they are not affordable units.

minority concentration is highly likely to occur and the PHA must contractually agree with HUD to create such units. Evidence that the transfer is highly likely to occur must include:

- The project name and property address of the site of the similarly-affordable units to be created,
- The census tract and data to confirm that it is not in an area of minority concentration,
- Evidence of site control,
- Evidence of zoning to permit construction of the similarly-affordable units if the affordable units are to be created through new construction,
- A reasonable and feasible sources and uses statement for the transaction, and
- Evidence of financing commitments exceeding 90% of the necessary sources to complete the transaction. Evidence of financing commitments must include an LIHTC allocation if the use of LIHTCs is projected.

*D) The Overriding Housing Needs Exception*

As noted in Section 5.4(A), the second exception under which the site and neighborhood standards permit new construction in areas of minority concentration is if the project is necessary to meet overriding housing needs that cannot be met in that housing market area. The new construction site selection standards under RAD<sup>55</sup> outline two examples of circumstances, consistent with fair housing and other civil rights objectives, that would permit the application of the overriding housing needs exception: (1) when the site is “an integral part of an overall local strategy for the preservation or restoration of the immediate neighborhood;” or (2) when the site is “located in a neighborhood experiencing significant private investment that is demonstrably improving the economic character of the area (a “revitalizing area”).”<sup>56</sup>

(1) Establishing that a Site is an Integral Part of an Overall Local Strategy for the Preservation or Restoration of the Immediate Neighborhood

To establish that a site is an integral part of an overall local strategy for the preservation or restoration of the immediate neighborhood, a PHA must document that the locality has a demonstrated commitment to revitalization that includes or is in addition to the RAD conversion, as demonstrated by the following:

- i. The site is located in a defined geographic area that is the subject of an official, currently operational and realistically achievable plan for the improvement or revitalization of the immediate neighborhood (which plan may include areas beyond the immediate neighborhood); and
- ii. The Covered Project conforms to, and the site is integral to, the goals, strategies, and objectives of the improvement or revitalization plan.

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<sup>55</sup> See 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(e)(2) for PBV transactions and paragraph (e) of Appendix III of the RAD Notice for PBRA transactions.

<sup>56</sup> 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(e)(3)(vi); *see also* Appendix III of the RAD Notice, paragraph (e)(1)(B)(viii)(2). In demonstrating an overriding housing need, the “neighborhood” is determined in each situation based on the overall facts and circumstances and cannot be mechanically determined. The “immediate neighborhood” is generally a smaller geographic area than the “neighborhood.”



In determining whether such an official, currently operational and realistically achievable plan for the improvement or revitalization of the area exists, HUD will consider relevant factors including, for example, whether:

- The strategy itself, or a plan supporting the strategy, has been enacted, adopted, or ratified by a municipal, county, or state legislative body;
- There has been progress to implement the plan, or the strategy as a whole.<sup>57</sup>
- The plan or strategy as a whole, or the elements applicable to the Covered Project, are consistent with the jurisdiction's land use or zoning code, development regulations, or other official body of laws or rules;
- Strategies or activities under the plan are incorporated in current public, quasi-public agency or major institutional work plans;
- The plan, or the strategy as a whole, includes objectives and initiatives related to the preservation or restoration of a geography larger than the Converting Project and any associated public housing site;
- A jurisdiction has published solicitations or incentives for development projects in the improvement or revitalization area;
- The plan is incorporated in the applicable jurisdiction's Consolidated Plan or other comprehensive community development plan;
- A jurisdiction has explicitly designated the geographic area for improvement or revitalization (e.g., Business Improvement District; Enterprise Zone designation; Promise Zone designation; Choice Neighborhoods designation);
- An implementing agency has retained a construction firm to break ground on the improvement or revitalization; and/or
- An implementing agency has secured financing, such as the issuance of bonds or final approval for tax increment financing.

(2) Establishing that the Site is Located in a "Revitalizing Area"

Evidence that the site is located in a revitalizing area experiencing significant private investment that is demonstrably improving the economic character of the area is also an example of a site which meets an overriding housing need. HUD will consider all relevant factors in making a determination that the site is located in a "revitalizing area" but in particular will consider whether:

- i. The neighborhood has demonstrated signs of revitalization, through indicators such as low or declining census tract poverty rates, low or declining violent crime rates or evidence of high or increased educational opportunity, high or increasing median

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<sup>57</sup> Indicators of progress should be appropriate to the amount of time since the plan or strategy was developed and there must be a reasonable, supportable expectation that the plan will continue to be implemented. For example, if a plan was launched 3-4 years prior and the initial steps of the plan required implementation of an initiative (such as real estate development) which has a long pre-development planning period, HUD may consider whether there has been activity to seek land development approvals or to develop construction drawings or to secure funding commitments or other activities providing evidence that one or more material elements of the plan or strategy are actually being implemented.

- household income, high or increasing homeownership rates and/or high or increased employment; and
- ii. There is high private and public investment in retail, commercial, or housing development that has occurred or will imminently occur in the area which may include, among other considerations:
    - Evidence of new or improved retail centers, grocery stores, pharmacies, healthcare facilities, community centers, educational and recreational facilities, municipal services, and transportation serving the neighborhood;
    - Evidence of private and public investment or housing development that has occurred or will imminently occur in the area;
    - Evidence of economic conditions that are impacting the preservation of affordable housing in the neighborhood, including indicators of gentrification such as housing costs rising more sharply in the neighborhood than in the jurisdiction overall, accelerated rates of homeownership in the neighborhood, and disproportionate depletion of larger dwellings for families with children.

### (3) Circumstances in Which an Overriding Housing Needs Exception Does Not Apply

A PHA cannot establish that a site meets the overriding housing needs exception if the only reason the need cannot otherwise be feasibly met is that discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, familial status, or disability renders sites outside areas of minority concentration unavailable or if the use of this standard in recent years has had the effect of circumventing the obligation to provide housing choice.<sup>58</sup> For example, the overriding housing needs exception may not be applied if the reason that the project cannot be sited outside of an area of minority concentration is due to community opposition to the project based on the actual or perceived protected characteristics of the residents or prospective residents of the project. In addition, a recipient may not exclusively rely on this exception as a means of siting projects without creating housing opportunities outside of areas of minority concentration or without preserving existing housing outside of areas of minority concentration.

## 5.5. Front-End Civil Rights Review for RAD Transactions Involving Transfer of Assistance

### A) *Applicable Standards*

Transfers of assistance are subject to the site selection standards for existing or rehabilitated housing set forth in 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(a)-(d), with the exception of 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(b)(1) and (c)(2), for PBV conversions and Appendix III of the RAD Notice for PBRA conversions. All transfers of assistance to a new site(s) are subject to front-end review by HUD, as required by the RAD Notice and noted in Section 5.3(A)(2) of this Notice. Conversions involving a transfer of assistance may also involve one or more of the other activities which trigger front-end review as described in Section 5.3(A). In transfers of assistance involving any of these activities, HUD

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<sup>58</sup> 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(e)(3)(vi) and Appendix III of the RAD Notice, paragraph (e)(2). The PBRA site and neighborhood standards use the phrase “on the basis of race, color, creed, sex or national origin.” See Appendix III of the RAD Notice.

will conduct a front-end review based on the requirements applicable to each activity. A PHA must submit documentation for the front-end civil rights review of each specific activity as required by the relevant sections of this Notice.

*B) Analysis of Transfers of Assistance*

Through the front-end review of transfers of assistance by FHEO, HUD seeks to assist the PHA in avoiding discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability or familial status. The front-end review of transfers of assistance will apply the site selection standards for existing/rehabilitated housing.<sup>59</sup> This review shall consider:

- (1) The accessibility of the proposed site for persons with disabilities;
- (2) The ability of the RAD conversion to remediate accessibility concerns;
- (3) Whether the transfer of assistance would result in assisted units being located in an area where the total percentage of minority persons is significantly higher than the total percentage of minority persons in the area of the original public housing site or in an area where the percentage of persons of a particular racial or ethnic minority is significantly higher than the percentage of that minority group in the area of the original public housing site.<sup>60</sup> For purposes of this analysis, HUD will examine the minority concentration of:
  - (a) the census tract of the original public housing site compared to the census tract of the proposed site; and
  - (b) an area comprised of the census tract of the original public housing site together with all adjacent census tracts compared to an area comprised of the census tract of the proposed site together with all adjacent census tracts.
- (4) Whether the site selection has the purpose or effect of:
  - (a) Excluding individuals from, denying them the benefits of, or subjecting them to discrimination under the RAD program or the applicable rental assistance program;
  - (b) Excluding qualified individuals with disabilities from or denying them the benefit of the RAD program or the applicable rental assistance program, or otherwise subjecting them to discrimination;
  - (c) Defeating or substantially impairing the accomplishment of the objectives of the RAD program or the applicable rental assistance program with respect to qualified individuals with disabilities; and

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<sup>59</sup> 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(d) and Appendix III of the RAD Notice, paragraphs (a) through (d). The site selection standards for existing/rehabilitated housing do not apply the minority concentration test used for new construction found at 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(e)(3) and Appendix III of the RAD Notice, paragraph (e).

<sup>60</sup> While this review is not explicitly called out in 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(d) and Appendix III of the RAD Notice, it is derived from HUD's and the PHA's obligations to comply with civil rights laws and regulations, including those referenced in 24 C.F.R. § 983.57(b)(2) and Appendix III of the RAD Notice.



- (d) Excluding individuals with disabilities (including members of the public with disabilities), denying them benefits or subjecting them to discrimination.

Under the RAD Notice, there are other standards for review of a transfer of assistance which are not examined as part of the front-end civil rights review but are examined as part of the RAD Financing Plan review (e.g., criteria formulated for transfers under Section 8(bb) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 regarding neighborhoods with highly concentrated poverty). Identification of considerations for the front-end review do not preclude review by HUD of all standards referenced in the RAD Notice.

### **5.6. Front-End Civil Rights Review for RAD Transactions Involving Reduction in Number of Units, Changes in Bedroom Distribution of Units and Changes in Occupancy Requirements**

The RAD Notice allows PHAs to reduce the number of units, change the bedroom distribution of units, or change the occupancy of projects as part of their RAD conversion.<sup>61</sup> However, the RAD Notice also provides that such changes (including de minimis changes) must undergo a front-end civil rights review and receive approval from HUD prior to submission of the Financing Plan. The Checklist will require data for review along with an explanation, backed by sufficient evidence, of how the PHA determined that the proposed change will not result in discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, familial status, actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status.<sup>62</sup>

#### *A) Review of Reductions in the Number of Units, Reductions or Increases in the Number of UFAS Accessible Units or Changes in Bedroom Distribution*

This Section describes the considerations relevant to a front-end review of reductions in units, changes in the number of UFAS accessible units or changes in bedroom distribution. Such changes must not be the result of an intentional effort to discriminate against members of a protected class. For example, reductions or changes, including reductions in UFAS accessible units or which would impede residents with disabilities from having live-in aides, that intended to exclude persons with disabilities would be unlawful discrimination because of a disability.

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<sup>61</sup> See Sections 1.4.A.4 and 1.4.A.10 of the RAD Notice.

<sup>62</sup> Reductions in the number of units, changes in the bedroom distribution of units, or changes in occupancy violate the Fair Housing Act (the Act) if they have a discriminatory effect on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or familial status. Unlawful housing discrimination may be established by a policy's or practice's discriminatory intent or by its discriminatory effect, even if not motivated by discriminatory intent, consistent with the standards outlined in 24 C.F.R. § 100.500. A policy or practice can have an unjustified discriminatory effect, even when the provider had no intent to discriminate. Under this standard, a facially-neutral policy or practice that has a discriminatory effect violates the Act if it is not supported by a legally sufficient justification. In addition, the policy or practice violates the Act if the housing developer or provider intentionally discriminates, including for example, by reducing the number of bedrooms with the intent of limiting families with children. Furthermore, the policy or practice may also violate the Act where it creates, increases, reinforces, or perpetuates segregated housing patterns because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin. In addition, any changes must conform with the Equal Access rule requirement that determinations of eligibility for housing that is assisted by HUD or subject to a mortgage insured by the FHA shall be made in accordance with program eligibility requirements, and the housing must be made available, without regard to actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status. 24 C.F.R. § 5.105(a)(2).

Similarly, replacing larger units with smaller units so as to exclude families with children would be unlawful discrimination because of familial status.

Additionally, reductions in units or changes in bedroom distribution must not have an unjustified discriminatory effect on members of a protected class. For example, a reduction in units could have a discriminatory impact if it excludes members of a particular race or religion. Reductions or changes that have a disparate impact on a protected class are unlawful under the Fair Housing Act if they are not necessary to achieve a substantial, legitimate, nondiscriminatory interest of the developer or housing provider, or if such interest could be served by another practice that has a less discriminatory effect.

The RAD Notice allows for a de minimis reduction in units at Converting Projects, which includes both a small number of units as well as the reduction of certain units that have been vacant for 24 months prior to application, that are being or will be used for social service delivery, or efficiencies that will be reconfigured to one-bedroom units.<sup>63</sup> In addition, a PHA converting multiple properties can consolidate the de minimis reductions derived from multiple properties at a small number of sites. The RAD Notice also allows for changes in bedroom distribution. Such de minimis reductions are still subject to front end civil rights review and applicable fair housing and civil rights laws.

HUD shall conduct a front-end civil rights review if the plan for a Converting Project results in:

- A reduction in the number of dwelling units in any of the following categories: (i) units with two bedrooms, (ii) units with three bedrooms or (iii) units with four or more bedrooms.
- A reduction in the number of UFAS accessible units;
- An increase in the number of UFAS accessible units for persons with mobility impairments beyond 10% of the units in the Covered Project or 1 unit, whichever is greater.
- An increase in the number of UFAS accessible units for persons with vision and hearing impairments beyond 4% of the units in the Covered Project or 1 unit, whichever is greater.

When a Converting Project is subject to a front-end civil rights review under this subsection, the PHA shall submit to HUD the relevant part of the Checklist together with a justification which must demonstrate that the changes are not the result of discriminatory intent and will not have a discriminatory effect on members of protected classes, particularly families with children and individuals with disabilities. Relevant data for this analysis of the proposed change at the project may include the PHA's overall affordable housing stock, the demand for affordable housing in the market as evidenced by information such as the overall jurisdiction and regional demographic data available from the AFFH Data and Mapping Tool (e.g., both basic demographic and disproportionate housing needs data), the PHA's waiting list or a reliable market study of households seeking assisted housing, compared to the relative proportions of

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<sup>63</sup> See Section 1.4.A.4 of the RAD Notice.

units serving any particular household type in the proposed project, the PHA's total housing stock or all assisted housing in the area.

For any increase in UFAS units subject to front-end review, HUD will assess indicators of local need (see Section 5.7(B), below) and whether the change would operate to concentrate individuals with disabilities in a particular property or to exclude individuals with certain types of disabilities from a particular property.

*B) Review of Changes in Occupancy Type*

RAD conversions that result in the implementation of an admissions preference (e.g., residency preferences or restrictions) at the Covered Project that would alter the occupancy of the property (e.g., family units converting to elderly units, elderly/disabled units converting to elderly only units) are subject to a front-end civil rights review by HUD pursuant to the RAD Notice and Section 5.3(A). A PHA must demonstrate that the proposed change in occupancy type is consistent with the demand for affordable housing in its jurisdiction as demonstrated by factors such as the demographics of its current occupancy, the demographics of its waiting list or a market study. Such preferences, restrictions, or geographic residency preferences must be reflected in a PBRA project's Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan (AFHMP) or, for a PBV project, the PHA's Administrative Plan.

## **5.7. Other Front-End Civil Rights Review for RAD Transactions**

*A) Conversions of Assistance in Which the Construction Schedule Indicates that Relocation is Likely to Exceed 12 Months.*

The front end civil rights review shall focus on whether the relocation will result in discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, and familial status, based primarily, but not exclusively, on the data required in the Checklist.

*B) Conversions of Assistance Involving New Construction or Substantial Alteration, as those terms are defined by Section 504.*

While the PHA is responsible for compliance with all requirements described in Section 4, above and in this subsection, the front-end review will be conducted based on a review of the Checklist and shall include confirming the provision of any required accessible units and confirming the PHA is applying the appropriate accessibility standards. HUD will require the PHA to provide information regarding the provision of at least the minimum number of units accessible for persons with mobility impairments and units accessible for persons with hearing and vision impairments as required by applicable law (generally 5% of units accessible for persons with mobility impairments and an additional 2% of units accessible for persons with hearing and vision impairments). For purposes of establishing an upper threshold of accessible units below which RAD front-end review will not be required, HUD will accept that up to 10% of units accessible for persons with mobility impairments and up to 4% of units accessible for persons with hearing and vision impairments is consistent with local need, without further review, absent information to the contrary. HUD will consider a PHA's request for higher percentages based, to HUD's satisfaction, on reliable indicators of local need, such as census data or other available current data. HUD is available to assist PHAs in determining appropriate indicators of local

need for units with accessible features. The RAD conversion scope of work submitted with the Financing Plan must reflect the construction or retrofitting of residential units and public and common use areas to comply with all applicable accessibility requirements.

*C) Remedial Agreements and Orders.*

Front-end review in situations where the Converting Project or PHA is subject to enforcement actions or binding voluntary compliance agreements, settlement agreements, conciliation agreements, or consent decrees or orders of the nature described in Sections 5.3(A)(8) and 5.3(A)(9) shall be conducted on a case-by-case basis as appropriate to the specific situation.

**5.8. Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan (AFHMP) Requirements for Projects Converting to PBRA Assistance**

For all projects converting to PBRA assistance, a PHA or Project Owner must complete form HUD-935.2A, the Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan (AFHMP) - Multifamily Housing, and submit it to HUD for approval with the RAD Financing Plan.<sup>64</sup> Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing requirements are designed to achieve a condition in which individuals of similar income levels in the same housing market area have similar housing choices available to them regardless of their race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or familial status.<sup>65</sup> They are also a means to carry out the mandate of Section 808(e)(5) of the Fair Housing Act that HUD administer its programs and activities in a manner to affirmatively further fair housing. These requirements mandate that PHAs or Project Owners identify groups that are least likely to apply for upcoming housing opportunities and to implement special marketing and outreach activities to ensure that these groups are aware of these opportunities.

The AFHMP must be submitted to HUD with the Financing Plan. A separate AFHMP is required for each distinct PBRA HAP contract. The PHA must submit an AFHMP even if the project has an existing waiting list and is not accepting new applicants. The PHA or Project Owner should consult the instructions in the form HUD 935.2A and HUD's Implementing Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Requirements Handbook (HUD Handbook 8025.1) for guidance on completing the AFHMP and carrying out an affirmative marketing program. The Handbook provides a detailed resource on the content of the AFHMP, which includes marketing activities, residency preferences, and staff training.

When submitting an AFHMP for HUD approval, the PHA or Project Owner must ensure that the occupancy designation and any residency preferences are consistent with the PHA Plan or Significant Amendment to the PHA Plan, that such designation and preferences are consistent with the Checklist submitted to HUD and that the AFHMP includes affirmative marketing

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<sup>64</sup> The most recent version of the AFHMP is HUD Form 935.2A, OMB Approval Number 2529-0013. *See* 24 C.F.R. § 880.601(a)(2) and 24 C.F.R. § 200.615; *see also* Section 10.8 of the Multifamily Accelerated Processing (MAP) Guide. The PHA or its management agent should consult the instructions in the form HUD 935.2A and HUD's Implementing Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Requirements Handbook (HUD Handbook 8025.1) for guidance on completing the AFHMP and carrying out an affirmative marketing program. The Handbook provides a detailed resource on the content of the AFHMP, which includes marketing activities, residency preferences, and staff training.

<sup>65</sup> *See* 24 C.F.R. § 200.610.

activities that are consistent with its occupancy designation and the populations identified as least likely to apply. Any subsequent changes to occupancy designation or residency preferences shall be proposed, submitted and reviewed in accordance with standard PBRA requirements. If a PHA or Project Owner plans to adopt any local or residency preferences, the Project Owner must submit its Tenant Selection Plan along with the AFHMP (see HUD Handbook 4350.3, page 4-4).

The Multifamily Housing Office of Asset Management and Portfolio Oversight and the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (“FHEO”) review the AFHMP. FHEO issues HUD’s official letter of approval or disapproval. Disapproval letters will specify the reason a plan was rejected and the revisions required. The PHA or Project Owner must make the required changes and resubmit a corrected plan to HUD for approval.

The PBRA contract becomes effective on the first day of a month, following closing. Approval of the AFHMP is not a condition to closing of the RAD conversion. When the project is preparing to accept applications, it must follow its approved AFHMP to ensure that groups least likely to apply are aware of the housing opportunities. The Project Owner is responsible for ensuring that the AFHMP is in place throughout the life of any FHA mortgage or PBRA contract. The Project Owner may not market or lease any unit not occupied by a household exercising its right to remain in or return to the Covered Project prior to approval of the AFHMP. Marketing or leasing includes the solicitation, distribution or acceptance of applications or development of a waiting list.

## **SECTION 6. RELOCATION REQUIREMENTS**

In some cases, as explained in this Section, the activities associated with the RAD transaction may require the relocation of residents. In the event of acquisition, demolition, construction or rehabilitation activities performed in connection with a RAD conversion, the PHA and/or Project Owner<sup>66</sup> should plan such activities to reasonably minimize any disruption to residents’ lives, to ensure that residents are not exposed to unsafe living conditions and to comply with applicable relocation, fair housing and civil rights requirements. As discussed in Section 6.1, below, a written relocation plan is required in some circumstances and strongly encouraged for any conversion resulting in resident moves or relocation. Further, the obligations due to relocating residents under RAD are broader than URA relocation assistance and payments and RAD specifies requirements which are more protective of residents than standard URA requirements, including additional notices (see Section 6.6) and a right to return (see Section 6.2). This Notice requires that certain information be provided to all households, beginning prior to submission of the RAD application.

Any resident who moves as a direct result of acquisition, rehabilitation or demolition for an activity or series of activities associated with a RAD conversion may, depending on the circumstances and length of time of the relocation, be eligible for relocation assistance and payments under the URA. Additionally, Section 104(d) relocation and one-for-one replacement

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<sup>66</sup> Under the URA, the term “displacing agency” refers to the agency or person that carries out a program or project which will cause a resident to become a displaced person. Projects vary and, for any specific task described in this Notice, the displacing agency may be either the PHA or the Project Owner, as determined by the allocation of roles and responsibilities between the PHA and Project Owner.



housing requirements may also apply when CDBG- or HOME-funds are used in connection with a RAD conversion. The applicability of the URA or Section 104(d) to RAD conversions is fact-specific, which must be determined in accordance with the applicable URA and Section 104(d) regulations.<sup>67</sup>

Eligibility for specific protections under this Notice applies to any person residing in a Converting Project who is legally on the public housing lease, has submitted an application to be added to an existing lease, or is otherwise in lawful occupancy at the time of the issuance of the CHAP and at any time thereafter until conversion of assistance under RAD. All such residents of a Converting Project have a right to return and are eligible for relocation protections and assistance as provided by this Notice. The eligibility criteria set forth in this paragraph apply to the protections under this Notice regardless of whether residents or household members meet the statutory and regulatory requirements for eligibility under URA.<sup>68</sup>

### **6.1. Planning**

If there is a possibility that residents will be relocated as a result of acquisition, demolition, or rehabilitation for a Converting Project, PHAs must undertake a planning process in conformance with the URA statutory and regulatory requirements in order to minimize the adverse impact of relocation (*see* 49 § C.F.R. 24.205). PHAs must also ensure that their relocation planning is conducted in compliance with applicable fair housing and civil rights requirements.

The PHA shall prepare a written relocation plan if the RAD conversion involves permanent relocation (including, without limitation, a move in connection with a transfer of assistance) or temporary relocation anticipated to last longer than one year. While a written relocation plan is not required for temporary relocation lasting one year or less, HUD strongly encourages PHAs, in consultation with any applicable Project Owners, to prepare a written relocation plan for all RAD conversions to establish their relocation process clearly and in sufficient detail to permit consistent implementation of the relocation process and accurate communication to the residents. Appendix II contains recommended elements of a relocation plan.

During the planning stages of a RAD transaction and based on the results of this planning process, a PHA must submit applicable portions of the Checklist described in Section 5.3(B) to HUD, together with any required backup documentation, as early as possible once the information covered in the applicable part is known.<sup>69</sup> All parts of the Checklist must be submitted to HUD prior to submission of the Financing Plan. The Checklist will allow HUD to assist the PHA to comply, and to evaluate the PHA's compliance, with relocation requirements, including civil rights requirements related to relocation.

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<sup>67</sup> 42 U.S.C. § 4601 *et seq.*, 42 U.S.C. § 5304(d), and their implementing regulations at 49 C.F.R. Part 24 and 24 C.F.R. Part 42 subpart C.

<sup>68</sup> A nonexclusive listing of persons who do not qualify as displaced persons under URA is at 49 C.F.R. 24.2(a)(9)(ii). See also, Paragraph 1-4(J) of HUD Handbook 1378. See Section 6.5 of this Notice for discussion of the date of "initiation of negotiations."

<sup>69</sup> The Checklist refers to the existing FHEO Accessibility and Relocation Checklist until a revised Checklist is approved for use pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act.

The following presents a general sequencing of relocation planning activities within the RAD conversion process for informational and planning purposes only. Specific requirements are set forth in the provisions of this Notice.

Stage	Activities
1. Prior to submission of RAD application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine potential need for relocation in connection with proposed conversion plans.</li> <li>• Meet with residents to discuss proposed conversion plans, communicate right to return, and solicit feedback.</li> <li>• Provide the <i>RAD Information Notice</i> (RIN) to residents as described in Section 6.6(A) of this Notice.</li> </ul>
2. After submission of RAD application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the need for relocation planning in connection with proposed conversion plans. Determine if technical assistance would be beneficial to ensuring compliance with relocation requirements.</li> <li>• Survey residents to inform relocation planning and relocation process.</li> <li>• Develop a relocation plan (see Appendix II for recommended content).</li> <li>• Prepare Significant Amendment to PHA Plan and engage with the Resident Advisory Board, residents and the public regarding Plan amendment.<sup>70</sup></li> </ul>
3. Following issuance of the CHAP, or earlier if warranted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide the <i>General Information Notice</i> (GIN) to residents when the project involves acquisition, rehabilitation, or demolition as described in Section 6.6(B) of this Notice and relocation may be required.</li> </ul>
4. While preparing Financing Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the outlines of the conversion plans and their impact on relocation with the HUD transaction manager.</li> <li>• Refine the plan for relocation and integrate the construction schedule into the relocation strategy; seek to minimize off-site or disruptive relocation activities.</li> <li>• Identify relocation housing options.</li> <li>• Budget for relocation expenses and for compliance with accessibility requirements.</li> <li>• Submit the Checklist and, where applicable, the relocation plan.</li> <li>• If the conversion involves acquisition, at the discretion of the Project Owner issue Notice of Intent to Acquire (NOIA).</li> <li>• If a NOIA is issued, at the discretion of the Project Owner provide residents with appropriate relocation notices as</li> </ul>

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<sup>70</sup> Alternatively, the PHA may submit a new PHA Five-Year or Annual Plan, especially if it is on schedule to do so. Under any scenario, the PHA must consult with the Resident Advisory Board and undertake the community participation process.

Stage	Activities
	described in Section 6.6(C) through 6.6(E) of this Notice at this time.
5. From RAD Conversion Commitment (RCC) to Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet with residents to describe approved conversion plans and discuss required relocation.</li> <li>• The effective date of the RCC marks the date of “Initiation of Negotiations” (ION), as defined in the URA (49 § C.F.R. 24.2(a)(15)).</li> <li>• If no NOIA was provided while preparing the Financing Plan, provide residents with appropriate relocation notices as described in Section 6.6(C) through 6.6(E) of this Notice.</li> <li>• Resident relocation may begin following the effective date of the RCC, subject to applicable notice requirements.</li> </ul>
6. Post-Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing implementation of relocation</li> <li>• Notify the residents regarding return to the Covered Project as described in Section 6.6(F) of this Notice</li> <li>• Implementation of the residents’ right to return</li> </ul>

## 6.2. Resident Right to Return

Any public housing or Section 8 assisted resident that may need to be relocated temporarily to facilitate rehabilitation or construction has a right to return to an assisted unit at the Covered Project once rehabilitation or construction is complete.<sup>71</sup> Permanent involuntary displacement of public housing or Section 8 assisted residents may not occur as a result of a project’s conversion of assistance. The Project Owner satisfies the RAD right to return to a Covered Project if the Project Owner offers the resident household either: a) a unit in the Covered Project in which the household is not under-housed; or b) a unit in the Covered Project which provides the same major features as the resident’s unit in the Converting Project prior to the implementation of the RAD conversion. In the case of a transfer of assistance to a new site, residents of the Converting Project have the right to reside in an assisted unit meeting the requirements set forth in this paragraph at the Covered Project (the new site) once the Covered Project is ready for occupancy in accordance with applicable PBV or PBRA requirements.

If proposed plans for a Converting Project would preclude a resident from returning to the Covered Project, the resident must be given an opportunity to comment and/or object to such plans. Examples of project plans that may preclude a resident from returning to the Covered Project include, but are not limited to:

- Changes in bedroom distribution which decrease the size of units such that the resident would be under-housed;<sup>72</sup>

<sup>71</sup> The right to return is not a right to any specific unit in the Covered Project. Tenancies other than public housing or Section 8 assisted residents (such as commercial tenants) do not hold a right to return and are subject to standard relocation requirements applicable to such tenants under the URA.

<sup>72</sup> See the RAD Notice for a description of the procedures that must be undertaken if a resident is over-housed.



- Where a) the PHA is reducing the number of assisted units at a property (if authorized to do so under Section 1.5.B of the RAD Notice) and b) the resident cannot be accommodated in the remaining assisted units;
- The imposition of income eligibility requirements, such as those associated with LIHTC or other program financing, under which the current resident may not be eligible;<sup>73</sup> and
- Failure to provide reasonable accommodation to an individual with disabilities, in violation of applicable law, which reasonable accommodation may include installation of accessibility features that are needed by the individual with disabilities.<sup>74</sup>

If the resident who would be precluded from returning to the Covered Project objects to such plans, the PHA must alter the project plans to accommodate the resident's right to return to the Covered Project.

If the resident who would be precluded from returning to the Covered Project prefers to voluntarily and permanently relocate rather than object to the project plans, the PHA must secure informed, written consent to a voluntary permanent relocation in lieu of returning to the Covered Project and must otherwise comply with all the provisions of Section 6.10, below, regarding alternative housing options. The PHA cannot employ any tactics to pressure residents into relinquishing their right to return or accepting alternative housing options. A PHA may not terminate a resident's lease if the PHA fails to obtain the resident's consent and the resident seeks to exercise the right to return.

In the case of a multi-phase transaction, the resident has a right to return to the Covered Project or to other converted phases of the property which have converted and are available for occupancy at the time the resident is eligible to exercise the right to return. A relocated resident should get the benefit of improvements facilitated by the resident's relocation and conversion and completion of future phases cannot be assured. In most cases, this means that the resident's right to return must be accommodated within the Covered Project associated with resident's original unit. However, in those cases where improvements to multiple phases of a site are occurring simultaneously, the PHA or Project Owner may treat multiple Covered Projects on the same site as one for purposes of the right to return. If the PHA or Project Owner seeks to have the resident exercise the right of return at a future phase, the PHA or Project Owner would need to secure the resident's consent to such plan as an alternative housing option pursuant to Section 6.10, below.

In implementing the right of return, the Project Owner shall comply with all applicable fair housing laws and implementing regulations, including, but not limited to, the Fair Housing Act,

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<sup>73</sup> In these cases, a PHA may elect to exclude some units from the applicable financing program, for example, claiming LIHTC for a subset of the units and not claiming tax credits in connection with the units occupied by households over the LIHTC maximum eligibility of 60% of AMI.

<sup>74</sup> Refer to the Joint Statement of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Justice, Reasonable Modifications Under the Fair Housing Act (March 5, 2008), at [http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/disabilities/reasonable\\_modifications\\_mar08.pdf](http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/disabilities/reasonable_modifications_mar08.pdf) for additional detail regarding applicable standards for reasonable accommodations and accessibility features which must be provided. If the resident has paid for installation of accessibility features in the resident's prior unit, the PHA or Project Owner shall pay for the installation of comparable features in the new unit. Violations of law may also result in other sanctions.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### **6.3. Admissions and Continued Occupancy Requirements**

Resident households may not be denied relocation housing or the right to return based on rescreening, income eligibility, or income targeting. PHAs may only offer housing options with screening, income eligibility or income targeting requirements if the impacted residents meet the admission and occupancy policies applicable to such housing. However, whether or not in a temporary relocation situation, the household remains subject to the applicable program policies regarding continued occupancy of an assisted unit by an incumbent resident of the unit.

### **6.4. Types of Moves and Relocation**

Any time project plans require a resident to move from their current unit, the resident is eligible for assistance as described in this Notice. Assistance may vary depending on the options provided to residents, whether the relocation is temporary or permanent and, if applicable, the length of time the resident is in temporary accommodations.<sup>75</sup> In all circumstances, the move or relocation must be in compliance with applicable requirements of this Notice and consistent with applicable fair housing and civil rights requirements. Each type of move is discussed below.

#### *A) Moves within the same building or complex of buildings<sup>76</sup>*

Temporary or permanent moves within the same building or complex of buildings may be appropriate given the extent of work to be completed to permit phasing of rehabilitation or construction. Moves within the same building or complex of buildings are not considered relocation under RAD and a tenant generally does not become displaced under the URA. Whether permanent (i.e., the tenant will move to and remain in an alternative unit) or temporary (i.e., the tenant will move to another unit and return to their original unit), the PHA or Project Owner must reimburse residents for all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with any move and all other terms and conditions of the move(s) must be reasonable.<sup>77</sup> The final move must be to a unit which satisfies the right to return requirements specified in Section 6.2 of this Notice.

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<sup>75</sup> PHAs should note that the definitions of “permanent” vary between the URA and RAD. For example, “permanent displacement” under the URA includes moves from the original building or complex of buildings lasting more than one year. The RAD Notice, meanwhile, considers “permanent relocation” to be separation from the RAD-assisted unit upon completion of the conversion and any associated rehabilitation and construction. The duration of a temporary move may exceed one year. In the case of a transfer of assistance, it is not permanent relocation under RAD when the resident must move from the original complex of buildings to the destination site in order to retain occupancy of the RAD-assisted unit.

<sup>76</sup> An example of relocation within the same building or complex of buildings would be if one floor of a multi-story building is vacant, and the PHA is moving residents from another floor to the vacant units.

<sup>77</sup> Failure to reimburse residents for moving or other out-of-pocket expenses and any other terms and conditions of the move which may be unreasonable may result in the resident becoming a displaced person under the URA if the resident subsequently moves from the property.

*B) Temporary relocation lasting one year or less*

If a resident is required to relocate temporarily, to a unit not in the same building or complex of buildings, for a period not expected to exceed one year in connection with the RAD conversion, the resident's temporarily occupied housing must be decent, safe, and sanitary and the resident must be reimbursed for all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with the temporary relocation. These expenses include, but are not limited to, moving expenses, increased housing costs (e.g., rent and utilities), meals if the temporary housing lacks cooking facilities (e.g., during a short hotel stay, whether or not on an emergency basis) and other applicable expenses.<sup>78</sup>

*C) Temporary relocation initially expected to last one year or less, but which extends beyond one year*

In the event that a resident has been temporarily relocated, to a unit not in the same building or complex of buildings, for a period which was anticipated to last one year or less but the temporary relocation in fact exceeds one year, the resident qualifies as a "displaced person" under the URA and as a result immediately becomes eligible for all permanent relocation assistance and payments as a "displaced person" under the URA, including notice pursuant to Section 6.6(E). This assistance would be in addition to any assistance the person has already received for temporary relocation, and may not be reduced by the amount of any temporary relocation assistance.

In such event, the PHA or Project Owner shall offer the resident the opportunity to choose to voluntarily permanently relocate with the offered URA assistance or to choose to remain temporarily relocated based on updated information from the PHA or Project Owner about when they can return to the completed RAD unit. The PHA or Project Owner must present this opportunity to the resident when the temporary relocation extends beyond one year and each time thereafter that the temporary relocation extends beyond the previously anticipated duration. In presenting such opportunity, the PHA or Project Owner must inform the resident in writing that his or her acceptance of voluntary permanent relocation, with the associated assistance, would terminate the resident's right to return to the Covered Project. The PHA or Project Owner must provide the resident with at least 30 days to decide whether to remain in temporary relocation status or to voluntarily relocate permanently.

*D) Temporary relocation anticipated to last more than one year*

When the PHA anticipates that the temporary relocation, to a unit not in the same building or complex of buildings, will last more than one year, but the resident is retaining the resident's right to return to the Covered Project, the resident is considered temporarily relocated under RAD and is eligible to receive applicable temporary relocation assistance and payments. Under the URA, the resident becomes eligible to receive applicable relocation assistance and payments as a "displaced person" when the temporary relocation period exceeds one year and each time thereafter that the temporary relocation extends beyond the previously anticipated duration, at

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<sup>78</sup> HUD Handbook 1378, Chapter 2, Section 2-7 governs activities subject to URA requirements and informs, but is not binding upon, any RAD activities not governed by the URA. PHAs may also refer to HUD Form 40030.

which time the PHA or Project Owner shall offer the resident the opportunity to choose to voluntarily permanently relocate or to remain temporarily relocated, as described in Section 6.4(C), above.

In order to allow residents to make the election earlier than required under the URA (thereby avoiding a year in temporary relocation housing prior to electing voluntary permanent relocation), if the PHA or Project Owner anticipates that temporary relocation will last more than one year, the PHA or Project Owner shall provide the resident with an initial option to (a) be temporarily relocated, retain the right to return to the Covered Project when a unit becomes available and receive assistance, including temporary housing and reimbursement for all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses associated with the temporary relocation, or (b) accept RAD voluntary permanent relocation assistance and payments equivalent to what a “displaced person” would receive under the URA. The PHA or Project Owner must inform the resident in writing that his or her acceptance of voluntary permanent relocation, with the associated assistance, would terminate the resident’s right to return to the Covered Project. The PHA or Project Owner must provide the resident with at least 30 days to decide whether to remain in temporary relocation status or to voluntarily relocate permanently.

*E) Permanent moves in connection with a transfer of assistance*

In cases solely involving a transfer of assistance to a new site, resident relocation from the Converting Project to the Covered Project is not, by itself, generally considered involuntary permanent relocation under RAD. However, the URA and/or Section 104(d) is likely to apply in most cases. In cases of a transfer of assistance to a new site where it has also been determined that the URA and/or Section 104(d) apply to the transfer of assistance, residents may be eligible for all permanent relocation assistance and payments for eligible displaced persons under the URA and/or Section 104(d). If the URA applies to a move of this type, the PHA or Project Owner must make available at least one, and when possible, three or more comparable replacement dwellings pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 24.204(a). However, provided the transfer of assistance unit meets the URA definition of a comparable replacement dwelling pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 24.2(a)(6), that unit could in fact represent the most comparable replacement dwelling as determined by the agency for purposes of calculating a replacement housing payment, if any, under 49 C.F.R. § 24.402.

Whether or not the URA and/or Section 104(d) apply, under RAD the residents are entitled to relocation assistance and payments, including counseling in preparation for the relocation, written notices of the relocation (including a 90-day RAD Notice of Relocation), and reimbursement for all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, including moving expenses, incurred in connection with the move. It should be noted that the RAD relocation assistance and payments provided to transferring residents in this paragraph differ from those required under the URA and/or Section 104(d) as described above. Where both frameworks apply, the residents must receive the more extensive protections offered under either framework.

If HUD determines that the distance from the Converting Project to the site of the Covered Project is significant and the resident could not reasonably be required to move to the new site, then HUD will require the PHA to adjust project plans to accommodate the resident in an assisted unit (e.g., a public housing unit, some other project-based Section 8 unit or a market unit

with a housing choice voucher) within a reasonable distance of the site of the Converting Project. HUD will evaluate whether this requirement applies on a case by case basis, considering whether the distance would impose a significant burden on residents' access to existing employment, transportation options, schooling or other critical services. Accommodating the resident may also be satisfied by the resident's consent to an alternative housing option pursuant to Section 6.10. The requirement set forth in this paragraph is in addition to all protections, including, for example, the offer of comparable replacement dwellings, which are required in all instances where a transfer of assistance is subject to the URA and/or Section 104(d).

*F) Voluntary permanent relocation*

A resident may elect to relinquish their right of return and consent to voluntary permanent relocation pursuant to an alternative housing option offered and accepted according to the procedures described in Section 6.10, which Section specifies protections to ensure the resident's decision is fully informed. By selecting voluntary permanent relocation, the resident is electing to receive RAD permanent relocation assistance and payments which are equivalent to the relocation payments and assistance required to be provided to a "displaced person" pursuant to the regulations implementing the URA.

## **6.5. Initiation of Negotiations (ION) Date**

Eligibility for URA relocation assistance is effective on the date of initiation of negotiations (ION) (49 C.F.R. § 24.2(a)(15)). For Converting Projects, the ION date is the effective date of the RCC. The ION date is also typically the date when PHAs can begin to issue RAD Notices of Relocation (except in the case of acquisitions when the PHA can issue a Notice of Intent to Acquire and RAD Notices of Relocation prior to the ION date). Any person who is in lawful occupancy on the ION date is presumed to be entitled to relocation payments and other assistance.

PHAs and Project Owners should note that prior to the ION date, a resident may be eligible as a displaced person for permanent relocation assistance and payments under the URA if HUD determines, after analyzing the facts, that the resident's move was a direct result of the project. However, resident moves taken contrary to specific instructions from the PHA or Project Owner (for example, contrary to instructions not to move if contained in a General Information Notice) are generally not eligible as a displaced person under the URA.

## **6.6. Resident Relocation Notification (Notices)**

PHAs and Project Owners are encouraged to communicate regularly with the residents regarding project plans and, if applicable, the resulting plans for relocation. When residents may be relocated for any time period (including, without limitation, a move in connection with a transfer of assistance), written notice must be provided to the resident heads of households, including the notices listed below as applicable.<sup>79</sup> PHAs and Project Owners are also encouraged to provide

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<sup>79</sup> The notices required under Sections 6.6(B) through 6.6(E) must be delivered in accordance with URA resident notification requirements, including the requirement that the notice be personally served or delivered by certified or registered first class mail return receipt requested. All notices must be delivered to each household (i.e., posting in



additional relocation notices and updates for the residents' benefit as appropriate for the specific situation.

To ensure that all residents understand their rights and responsibilities and the assistance available to them, consistent with URA requirements at 49 C.F.R. § 24.5 and civil rights requirements, PHAs and Project Owners must ensure effective communication with individuals with disabilities, including through the provision of appropriate auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters and alternative format materials. Similarly, PHAs and Project Owners are required to take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access for LEP persons in written and oral materials. Each notice shall indicate the name and telephone number of a person to contact with questions or for other needed help and shall include the number for the telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD) or other appropriate communication device, if applicable, pursuant to 24 C.F.R. §8.6(a)(2).

The purpose of these notifications is to ensure that residents are informed of their potential rights and, if they are to be relocated, of the relocation assistance available to them. Two initial notices launch this effort and provide critical information regarding residents' rights. The first, the RAD Information Notice, is to be provided at the very beginning of the RAD conversion planning process in order to ensure residents understand their rights, to provide basic program information and to facilitate residents' engagement with the PHA regarding project plans. The GIN, meanwhile, provides information specifically related to protections the URA provides to impacted residents. Subsequent notices provide more detailed information regarding relocation activities specific to the household, including tailored information regarding eligibility and timelines for relocation.

PHAs should note that a resident move undertaken as a direct result of the project may be eligible to receive relocation assistance and payments under the URA even though the PHA has not yet issued notices to them. Sample notices which may be used as-is or modified to fit the peculiarities of each situation are provided on the RAD website at [www.hud.gov/rad](http://www.hud.gov/rad).

#### *A) RAD Information Notice*

The RAD Information Notice is to be provided to residents at the very beginning of the RAD conversion planning process in order to convey general written information on potential project plans and residents' basic rights under RAD, and to facilitate residents' engagement with the PHA regarding the proposed RAD conversion. The PHA shall provide a RAD Information Notice to all residents of a Converting Project prior to the first of the two meetings with residents required by the RAD Notice, Section 1.8.2, and before submitting a RAD Application. This RAD Information Notice shall be provided without regard to whether the PHA anticipates any relocation of residents in connection with the RAD conversion. The RAD Information Notice must do the following:

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common areas is insufficient) and methods of delivery (e.g., certified mail, U.S. mail, or hand delivery) must be documented in the PHA's or Project Owner's files.

- Provide a general description of the conversion transaction (e.g., the Converting Project, whether the PHA anticipates any new construction or transfer of assistance, whether the PHA anticipates partnering with a developer or other entity to implement the transaction);
- Inform the resident that the early conceptual plans are likely to change as the PHA gathers more information, including, among other items, resident opinions, analysis of the capital needs of the property and financing options;
- Inform the resident that the household has a right to remain in the unit or, if any relocation is required, a right to return to an assisted unit in the Covered Project (which may be at the new site in the case of a transfer of assistance);
- Inform the resident that they will not be subject to any rescreening as a result of the conversion;
- Inform the resident that the household cannot be required to move permanently without the resident's consent, except in the case of a transfer of assistance when the resident may be required to move a reasonable distance, as determined by HUD, in order to follow the assisted unit;
- Inform the resident that if any relocation is involved in the transaction, the resident is entitled to relocation protections under the requirements of the RAD program and, in some circumstances, the requirements of the URA, which protections may include advance written notice of any move, advisory services, payment(s) and other assistance as applicable to the situation;
- Inform the resident that any resident-initiated move from the Converting Project could put any future relocation payment(s) and assistance at risk and instruct the resident not to move from the Converting Project; and
- Inform the resident that the RAD transaction will be completed consistent with fair housing and civil rights requirements, and provide contact information to process reasonable accommodation requests for residents with disabilities during the relocation.

*B) General Information Notice (49 C.F.R. § 24.203(a))*

The purpose of the General Information Notice (GIN) is to provide information about URA protections to individuals who may be displaced as a result of federally-assisted projects involving acquisition, rehabilitation or demolition. A GIN provides a general description of the project, the activities planned, and the relocation assistance that may become available.

A GIN shall be provided to any person scheduled to be displaced *as soon as feasible* based on the facts of the situation. In certain instances, such as when the PHA knows that a project will involve acquisition, rehabilitation or demolition, "as soon as feasible" may be simultaneous with issuance of the RAD Information Notice. For any RAD conversion involving acquisition, rehabilitation or demolition, "as soon as feasible" shall be no later than 30 days following the issuance of the CHAP. In instances where acquisition, rehabilitation or demolition is not anticipated at the time of the CHAP but project plans change to include such activities, pursuant to this Notice the PHA shall provide the GIN as soon as feasible following the change in project plans.

For RAD, the GIN must do at least the following:

- Inform the resident that he or she may be displaced for the project and generally describe the relocation payment(s) for which the resident may be eligible, the basic conditions of eligibility, and the procedures for obtaining the payment(s);
- Inform the resident that, if he or she qualifies for relocation assistance as a displaced person under the URA, he or she will be given reasonable relocation advisory services, including referrals to replacement properties, help in filing payment claims, and other necessary assistance to help the displaced resident successfully relocate;
- Inform the resident that, if he or she qualifies for relocation assistance as a displaced person under the URA, he or she will not be required to move without 90 days advance written notice;
- Inform the resident that, if he or she qualifies for relocation assistance as a displaced person under the URA, he or she cannot be required to move permanently unless at least one comparable replacement dwelling has been made available;
- Inform the resident that any person who is an alien not lawfully present in the United States is ineligible for relocation advisory services and relocation payments, unless such ineligibility would result in exceptional and extremely unusual hardship to a qualifying spouse, parent, or child (see 49 C.F.R. § 24.208(h) for additional information);
- Describe the resident's right to appeal the PHA's determination as to a resident's eligibility for URA assistance; and
- Inform the resident that the RAD transaction will be completed consistent with fair housing and civil rights requirements, and provide contact information to process reasonable accommodation requests for residents with disabilities during the relocation.

Because of the potential confusion caused by evolving policy directions in the RAD program regarding delivery of the GIN, for actions taken prior to the issuance of this Notice, HUD will consider the facts and circumstances of each conversion, with emphasis on the underlying URA requirements, in monitoring and enforcing a PHA's compliance with this requirement.

*C) Notice of Intent to Acquire (49 C.F.R. § 24.203(d))*

For conversions involving acquisition, the Project Owner (the "acquiring agency") may provide to residents of the Converting Project a Notice of Intent to Acquire (NOIA).<sup>80</sup> The NOIA may be provided no earlier than 90 days prior to the PHA's reasonable estimate of the date of submission of a complete Financing Plan. While eligibility for URA relocation assistance is generally effective on the effective date of the RCC (the ION date), a prior issuance of a NOIA establishes a resident's eligibility for relocation assistance and payments on the date of issuance of the NOIA and prior to the ION date.

*D) RAD Notice of Relocation*

If a resident will be relocated to facilitate the RAD conversion, the PHA shall provide written notice of such relocation by means of a RAD Notice of Relocation. The RAD Notice of

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<sup>80</sup> Acquisition includes a new ownership entity's purchase of the Covered Project from the PHA, such as a purchase by a single purpose entity, an affiliate or a low-income housing tax credit ownership entity.



Relocation may not be issued until: 1) the effective date of the RCC (the ION date) if the conversion does not involve acquisition; or 2) the earlier of the issuance of the Notice of Intent to Acquire (see Section 6.6(C)) or the effective date of the RCC (the ION date) if the conversion involves acquisition. Prior to issuance of the RAD Notice of Relocation, PHAs and Project Owners should meet with each resident household to provide preliminary relocation advisory services and to determine their needs and preferences.<sup>81</sup>

A RAD Notice of Relocation is not required for residents who will not be relocated. As a best practice, PHAs or Project Owners should notify residents that they are not being relocated once that determination has been made if they were previously informed by the GIN and/or by other methods that relocation was a possibility.<sup>82</sup>

A RAD Notice of Relocation shall provide either: 1) 30-days' notice to residents who will be relocated for twelve months or less; or 2) 90-days' notice to residents who will be relocated for more than twelve months.<sup>83</sup> The RAD Notice of Relocation must conform to the following requirements:

- (1) The notice must state the anticipated duration of the resident's relocation.
- (2) The notice must specify which entity (the PHA or the Project Owner) is primarily responsible for management of the resident's relocation and for compliance with the relocation obligations during different periods of time (i.e., before vs. after Closing).
- (3) For residents who will be relocated for twelve months or less:
  - The PHA or Project Owner must provide this notice a minimum of 30 days prior to relocation.<sup>84</sup> PHAs or Project Owners may deem it appropriate to provide longer notice periods for persons who will be temporarily relocated

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<sup>81</sup> PHAs and Project Owners should note the URA relocation advisory services requirement for personal interviews. See Section 6.7 of this Notice. In sequencing the RAD Notice of Relocation, PHAs and Project Owners wishing to offer alternative housing options pursuant to Section 6.10 should also note the additional complexity in the timeline of notices. Pursuant to Section 6.10(D), the resident can consent to an alternative housing option only after issuance of the NOIA or the effective date of the RCC and 30 days after presentation of the alternative housing options. In some cases, for example, when the resident would not otherwise be relocated for over twelve months, the RAD Notice of Relocation must include both the information described in Section 6.6(D)(3) and the information in Section 6.6(D)(4). The PHA or Project Owner should consider discussing the alternative housing options prior to issuing the RAD Notice of Relocation so that the RAD Notice of Relocation can be tailored to the resident's situation.

<sup>82</sup> The RAD program does not require a "notice of non-displacement," which HUD relocation policy generally uses for this purpose.

<sup>83</sup> The 90-day notice is required for residents relocated for more than twelve months, whether or not they intend to return to the Covered Project and whether or not they are eligible for assistance and payments as a displaced person under URA. Recipients of the 90-day notice would include those residents who have voluntarily accepted a permanent relocation option as well as those residents who are relocated within the same building or complex of buildings.

<sup>84</sup> Note that residents may elect to move to the relocation housing before the 30 days have elapsed. However, a PHA may not require a resident to move prior to this time.

for an extended period of time (over 6 months), or if necessary due to personal needs or circumstances.

- The notice must explain that the PHA or Project Owner will reimburse the resident for all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with any temporary move (including, but not limited to, increased housing costs and moving costs).
- The notice must explain the reasonable terms and conditions under which the resident may exercise the right to return to lease and occupy a unit in the Covered Project.

(4) For residents who will be relocated for more than twelve months, including for residents who may wish to voluntarily accept a permanent relocation option:

- The PHA or Project Owner must provide this notice a minimum of 90 days prior to relocation of residents.<sup>85</sup>
- The notice must offer the choice to be temporarily relocated, thereby preserving the resident's right to return, or the choice to be voluntarily permanently relocated pursuant to the procedures set forth in Section 6.10, together with guidance that the resident has at least thirty (30) days to consider the choice.
- For residents who voluntarily elect to be permanently relocated, the 90-day notice period may only begin once the PHA or Project Owner has made available at least one comparable replacement dwelling consistent with 49 C.F.R. § 24.204(a).<sup>86</sup>
- The notice must describe the available relocation assistance, the estimated amount of assistance based on the individual circumstances and needs, and the procedures for obtaining the assistance. The notice must be specific to the resident and his or her situation so that the resident will have a clear understanding of the type and amount of payments and/or other assistance the resident household may be entitled to claim.
- The notice must comply with all requirements for a URA Notice of Relocation Eligibility as described in 49 C.F.R. § 24.203(b).

(5) The notice must inform the resident that the relocation will be completed consistent with fair housing and civil rights requirements, and it must provide contact information to process reasonable accommodation requests for residents with disabilities during the relocation.

For short-term relocations, the RAD Notice of Relocation may also contain the information required in the Notice of Return to the Covered Project (see Section 6.6(F)).

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<sup>85</sup> Note that residents may elect to move to the relocation housing before the 90 days have elapsed. However, a PHA may not compel a resident to move prior to this time.

<sup>86</sup> PHAs should note that URA regulations also require, where possible, that three or more comparable replacement dwellings be made available before a resident is required to move from his or her unit.

*E) URA Notice of Relocation Eligibility – for residents whose temporary relocation exceeds one year (49 C.F.R. § 24.203(b))*

After a resident has been temporarily relocated for one year, notwithstanding a prior issuance of a RAD Notice of Relocation, the PHA or Project Owner must provide an additional notice: the notice of relocation eligibility in accordance with URA requirements (“URA Notice of Relocation Eligibility”). The URA Notice of Relocation Eligibility is not required if the resident has already accepted permanent relocation assistance.<sup>87</sup>

The URA Notice of Relocation Eligibility must conform to URA requirements as set forth in 49 C.F.R. part 24 and shall:

- Provide current information as to when it is anticipated that the resident will be able to return to the Covered Project.
- Give the resident the choice to remain temporarily relocated based upon the updated information or to accept permanent URA relocation assistance at that time instead of exercising the right to return at a later time.

If the resident chooses to accept permanent URA relocation assistance and this choice requires the resident to move out of their temporary relocation housing, the URA requires that the PHA or Project Owner make available at least one, and when possible, three or more comparable replacement dwellings pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 24.204(a), which comparability analysis is in reference to the resident’s original unit. The URA further requires that the resident receive 90 days’ advance written notice of the earliest date they will be required to move pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 24.203(c).

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<sup>87</sup> To illustrate, consider the following examples.

- Example 1: The household is expected to be relocated for 11 months. The resident would receive a RAD Notice of Relocation offering only temporary relocation. Construction delays result in the extension of the relocation such that, in fact, it exceeds 12 months. When the temporary relocation exceeds 12 months, the resident must receive a URA Notice of Relocation Eligibility offering a choice between continuation in temporary relocation status and permanent relocation.
- Example 2: The household is expected to be relocated for 14 months. The resident would receive a RAD Notice of Relocation offering a choice between temporary relocation status and permanent relocation. If the household elects temporary relocation, the URA Notice of Relocation Eligibility is required as an additional notice following twelve months in temporary relocation status.
- Example 3: The household is expected to be relocated for 14 months. The resident would receive a RAD Notice of Relocation offering a choice between temporary relocation status and permanent relocation. If the household elects permanent relocation, the URA Notice of Relocation Eligibility is not required.
- Example 4: The household can be accommodated with temporary relocation of 3 months, but has been offered and seeks to accept permanent relocation pursuant to an alternative housing option. This resident would receive a RAD Notice of Relocation under Section 6.6(D)(4) offering a choice between temporary relocation status (the default option) and permanent relocation (the alternative housing option), instead of the RAD Notice of Relocation under Section 6.6(D)(3) which would be expected absent a permanent relocation option. The URA Notice of Relocation Eligibility is not required in either case because a temporary relocation exceeding 12 months was never anticipated nor experienced.

### *F) Notification of Return to the Covered Project*

With respect to all temporary relocations, the PHA or Project Owner must notify the resident in writing reasonably in advance of the resident's expected return to the Covered Project, informing the resident of:

- The entity (the PHA or the Project Owner) with primary responsibility for managing the resident's relocation;
- The address of the resident's assigned unit in the Covered Project and, if different from the resident's original unit, information regarding the size and amenities of the unit;
- The date of the resident's return to the Covered Project or, if the precise date is not available, a reasonable estimate of the date which shall be supplemented with reasonable additional notice providing the precise date;
- That the PHA or Project Owner will reimburse the resident for all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with the return relocation; and
- The resident's options and the implications of those options if the resident determines that he or she does not want to return to the Covered Project and wants to decline the right of return.<sup>88</sup>

Reasonable advance notice shall be 15% of the duration of the resident's temporary relocation or 90 days, whichever is less. For short-term relocations, the PHA or Project Owner may include this information within the RAD Notice of Relocation.

### **6.7. Relocation Advisory Services**

Throughout the relocation planning process, the PHA and Project Owner should be in communication with the residents regarding the evolving plans for relocation. Notwithstanding this best practice, certain relocation advisory services, described below, are required by the URA.

The URA regulations require the PHA or Project Owner to carry out a relocation assistance advisory program that includes specific services determined to be appropriate to residential or nonresidential displacements. The specific advisory services to be provided, as determined to be appropriate, are outlined at 49 C.F.R. § 24.205(c). For residential displacement under the URA, a personal interview is required for each displaced resident household to determine the relocation needs and preferences of each resident to be displaced. The resident household shall be provided an explanation of the relocation payments and other assistance for which the resident may be eligible, the related eligibility requirements, and the procedures for obtaining such assistance. Advisory counseling must also inform residents of their fair housing rights and be carried out in

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<sup>88</sup> If the resident declines to return to the Covered Project upon completion of the period of temporary relocation, the resident shall be considered to have voluntarily moved out of the property, without the benefit of further relocation assistance. For example, a PHA or Project Owner may have rented a market-rate apartment as a temporary relocation resource for a six-month period. In such a situation, the resident may decline to return to the Covered Project and choose to remain in the market-rate apartment at the expiration of the six-month period, but shall not be eligible for any further relocation assistance and payments (including rent differential payments) under this Notice, the URA or Section 104(d), if applicable, in connection with the resident's decision to remain in the temporary housing and not return to the Covered Project.

a manner that satisfies the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, and Executive Order 11063 (49 C.F.R. § 24.205(c)(1)).<sup>89</sup> Such advisory services under the URA may include counseling to ensure that residents affected by the project understand their rights and responsibilities and the assistance available to them (49 C.F.R. § 24.205(c)). In addition, the PHA or Project Owner should inform residents that if they believe they have experienced unlawful discrimination, they may contact HUD at 1-800-669-9777 (Voice) or 1-800-927-9275 (TDD) or at <http://www.hud.gov>.

## 6.8. Initiation of Relocation

PHAs and Project Owners **may not initiate any involuntary physical relocation until both the RCC is in effect and the applicable RAD Notice of Relocation period has expired** (i.e., after either 30 or 90 days' notice as applicable depending on nature of the relocation, as described above). This prohibition applies to all types of RAD transactions, regardless of whether the RAD Notice of Relocation is provided after issuance of a NOIA (for conversions involving acquisition) or following the effective date of the RCC (for all other conversions). PHAs are advised to account for the required 30-day or 90-day written notice periods in their planning process, to ensure that notices which satisfy all applicable requirements are issued prior to taking any action to initiate relocation.

**Neither involuntary nor voluntary relocation for the project shall take place prior to the effective date of the RCC**, unless moves are authorized under Section 7, below ("Applicability of HCV and Public Housing Requirements") or unless HUD provides explicit approval which will only be provided in extraordinary circumstances. The PHA must wait until the RAD Notice of Relocation period has expired before it may initiate any involuntary relocation. However, a resident may request to move voluntarily, and the PHA may honor a resident's request to move, before the applicable 30-day or 90-day period has elapsed, provided that the PHA may not take any action to encourage or coerce a resident to make such a request. If a resident has elected an alternative housing option, PHAs are advised to ensure that any consent to voluntary permanent relocation does not expire prior to the date of the relocation, as described in Section 6.10.

HUD may use administrative data to identify and investigate projects where relocation may be occurring prior to RCC.

## 6.9. Records and Documentation; Resident Log

HUD may request from the PHA or Project Owner written records and documentation in order to evidence the PHA's and/or Project Owner's compliance, as applicable, with this Notice and the URA.<sup>90</sup> HUD may request to review some or all of such records in the event of compliance

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<sup>89</sup> For example, under fair housing and civil rights laws, the PHA and Project Owner may be required to inform residents about and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities, such as search assistance; take appropriate steps to ensure effective communication with individuals with disabilities, such as through the provision of auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters and alternate format documents; provide advisory counseling services in accessible locations and in an accessible manner for individuals with disabilities; and take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access for LEP persons. See Section 4 of this Notice for more information on these requirements.

<sup>90</sup> Chapter 6 of HUD Handbook 1378 includes guidance on URA recordkeeping requirements.

concerns, in the event a project is identified for additional review based on administrative data, in the event of audits for purposes of monitoring the RAD program as a whole, upon selection of a random sample of projects and/or at other times at HUD's sole discretion. The records shall include resident files for all households relocated in connection with RAD and a resident log as described in this Section.

As part of such written record, the PHA or Project Owner must maintain data sufficient to deliver to HUD a resident log of every household that resides at the Converting Project at the time of the first required resident meeting on the proposed conversion pursuant to Section 1.8 of the RAD Notice (the "First Resident Meeting") and of every household that moves into the Converting Project after the First Resident Meeting and before the conversion of assistance under RAD. If any relocation is required, the log shall track resident status through completion of rehabilitation and construction, including re-occupancy after relocation. The resident log must include, but need not be limited to, the following information:

- Name of head of household
- PHA's resident identification number and/or the last four digits of the head-of-household's Social Security Number
- The head of household's race and ethnicity as reported on the HUD Form 50058 or the HUD Form 50058 MTW (the "Form 50058"). For purposes of the resident log, all references to the Form 50058 shall be to the form most recently prepared at the time of the First Resident Meeting or, for residents who moved in after the First Resident Meeting, the form most prepared at the time of the resident's initial occupancy.
- A Yes/No indication if there is any household member reported as having a disability on the Form 50058.
- A Yes/No indication if there is any household member reported as under the age of 18 on the effective date of action of the Form 50058;
- The household's relevant unit address, unit size and household size at the following times:
  - The time of the First Resident Meeting or the time of a resident's initial occupancy if after the First Resident Meeting
  - The time of the issuance of the CHAP or the time of a resident's initial occupancy if after the issuance of the CHAP
  - Proximate and prior to the PHA or Project Owner having authority to initiate involuntary relocation activities (i.e., at the time of issuance of the RCC unless otherwise approved by HUD upon extraordinary circumstances)
  - Completion of the relocation process following construction or rehabilitation and with return of all households exercising the right of return
- The household's residence status at the time of issuance of the RCC (e.g., in residence at the Converting Project, transferred to other public housing, moved out, evicted or other with explanation)
- The household's residence status upon completion of re-occupancy (e.g., in residence at the Covered Project/never relocated, in residence at the Covered Project/temporarily relocated and returned, transferred to other public housing, moved out, evicted, permanently relocated or other with explanation)
- The following dates for each resident household, as applicable:
  - Date of the RAD Information Notice



- Date of the GIN
- Date of the CHAP
- Date of NOIA
- Date of RAD Notice of Relocation
- Date of URA Notice of Relocation Eligibility
- Date of most recent consent to voluntary permanent relocation<sup>91</sup>
- Date of relocation away from the Converting Project or Covered Project
- Dates of any intermediate relocation moves
- Date of return to the Covered Project or to the household's post-closing permanent address.<sup>92</sup>
- The following information for each resident household, as applicable:
  - The type of move (e.g., the types identified in Section 6.4, above)
  - The form of any temporary relocation housing (e.g., hotel, assisted housing, market-rate housing)
  - The address and unit size of any temporary relocation housing
  - Whether alternative housing options were offered consistent with Section 6.10, below
  - Any material terms of any selected alternative housing options
  - The type and amount of any payments for
    - Moving expenses to residents and to third parties
    - Residents' out-of-pocket expenses
    - Rent differential payments or other payments for temporary or permanent rental assistance, together with the rent and utilities (if applicable) that were the basis for the calculations
    - Any other relocation-related compensation or assistance

## 6.10. Alternative Housing Options

Under the RAD Notice, “involuntary permanent relocation” is prohibited and each resident must be able to exercise his or her right of return to the Covered Project. A PHA or Project Owner is permitted to offer a resident alternative housing options when a resident is considering his or her future housing plans, provided that at all times prior to the resident's decision, the PHA and Project Owner preserve the resident's ability to exercise his or her right of return to the Covered Project.

### *A) Requirements for Any Offer of Alternative Housing Options*

All residents who are similarly situated must be given the same offer of alternative housing options. If the PHA or Project Owner seeks to limit the number of households that accept the

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<sup>91</sup> The most recent consent must be within 180 days of the actual relocation date, as discussed in Section 6.10(D).

<sup>92</sup> In the case of voluntary permanent relocation, the date of “return” may be the same as the date of relocation away from the Converting Project.



offer of alternative housing options, the PHA or Project Owner shall determine a fair and reasonable method for selection among similarly situated residents.<sup>93</sup>

In connection with any offer and acceptance of alternative housing options, the PHA or Project Owner must ensure that the residents' decisions are: 1) fully informed; 2) voluntary; and 3) carefully documented. Any alternative housing option must include, at a minimum, all relocation assistance and payments required under this Notice, the URA and Section 104(d), as applicable, and may include other elements. Funds administered by HUD may not be used to pay any monetary elements not required under this Notice, the URA or Section 104(d).

Acceptance of an alternative housing option is considered voluntary permanent relocation and the accompanying RAD relocation assistance and payments for which the resident may be eligible must be administered in accordance with all requirements for an eligible displaced person under the URA and its implementing regulations and, where applicable, Section 104(d) and its implementing regulations.

PHAs may not propose or request that a displaced person waive rights or entitlements to relocation assistance under the URA or Section 104(d). The PHA must provide a written notice of URA or Section 104(d) relocation assistance and payments for which the resident may be eligible so that the resident may make an informed housing choice. The resident must be provided at least thirty (30) days to consider the offer of voluntary permanent relocation and the resident's acceptance of the PHA's offer of voluntary permanent relocation must be in writing signed by the head of the household for that unit.

#### *B) Assisted Housing Options as Alternatives*

Alternative housing option packages may include a variety of housing options and PHAs and Project Owners shall take particular care to ensure program compliance with the regulations applicable to the alternative housing options. Examples of alternative housing options may include:

- Transfers to public housing
- Admission to other affordable housing properties subject to the program rules applicable to such properties
- Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) subject to standard HCV program administration requirements. PHAs must operate their HCV programs, including any HCVs offered as an alternative housing option, in accordance with their approved policies as documented in their Section 8 Administrative Plan and HUD regulations at 24 C.F.R. part 982. Any offer of an HCV as an alternative housing option must be made consistent with the

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<sup>93</sup> For example, if the RAD conversion is financed by LIHTC and a few residents would not meet LIHTC program requirements, the PHA and Project Owner may want to offer these household alternative voluntary permanent relocation options. However, they must offer the same alternative housing options to all such households. As a second example, if the PHA and Project Owner seek to create two on-site vacancies of a particular unit size in order to facilitate temporary relocation on-site, the PHA may offer an alternative housing option of a housing choice voucher to all residents of applicably sized units (assuming that to do so is consistent with the PHA's voucher administration policies), and conduct a lottery to select the two households which will receive the vouchers.

PHA's admission preferences and other applicable policies and procedures set forth in the Section 8 Administrative Plan.

- Homeownership programs subject to the applicable program rules
- Other options as may be identified by the PHA and/or Project Owner

*C) Monetary Elements Associated With Alternative Housing Options*

A PHA or a Project Owner may include a monetary element in an alternative housing option package, provided that:

- Any monetary element associated with the alternative housing option shall be completely distinct from and in addition to any required RAD, URA or Section 104(d) relocation payments and benefits for which the resident is eligible ("Required Relocation Payments").
- No funds administered by HUD may be used to pay for any monetary element associated with the alternative housing option other than Required Relocation Payments.
- Any monetary element associated with the alternative housing option other than Required Relocation Payments must be the same amount offered to all similarly situated households.<sup>94</sup>
- Any alternative housing option package must comply fully with the disclosure and agreement provisions of this Notice.

*D) Disclosure and Agreement to Alternative Housing Options*

In providing an offer of alternative housing options to a resident, the PHA or Project Owner must inform the resident in writing of: a) his or her right to return;<sup>95</sup> b) his or her right to comment on and/or object to plans which would preclude the resident from returning to the Covered Project; c) the requirement that if the resident objects to such plans, the PHA or Project Owner must alter the project plans to accommodate the resident in the Covered Project; and d) a description of both the housing option(s) and benefits associated with the right of return and the alternative housing options and benefits being offered. In the description of the available housing options and benefits, the PHA or Project Owner shall include a description of any temporary housing options associated exercising the right of return and a description of any permanent alternative housing options as well as a reasonable estimate of the financial implications of all temporary and permanent options on the resident long-term.

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<sup>94</sup> Monetary payments other than Required Relocation Payments are considered "temporary, nonrecurring or sporadic income" pursuant to 24 C.F.R. § 5.609(c)(9) and consequently are excluded from income for purposes of eligibility and assistance calculations under certain HUD programs. Residents should be reminded that monetary payments other than URA relocation payments may be taxable under the Internal Revenue Code, that monetary payments, including required relocation payments, may affect residents' eligibility for other assistance programs and that the resident should seek knowledgeable guidance on these matters, including guidance on the taxation of monetary payments under state law.

<sup>95</sup> In the case of a transfer of assistance to a new site a significant distance from the Converting Project as described in Section 6.4(E), the resident shall be informed of the resident's right to return to the Covered Project at the new site and of the resident's right to an assisted unit within a reasonable distance of the site of the Converting Project, as described in Section 6.4(E).

The written notification may request written consent from the resident to exercise the alternative housing option and receive permanent relocation assistance and payments pursuant to RAD, the URA and/or Section 104(d), as applicable, in addition to any benefits associated with the alternative housing option. As part of any voluntary consent, the resident head of household must acknowledge in writing that acceptance of such assistance terminates the resident's right to return to the Covered Project. In order to ensure that the resident has sufficient time to seek advice and consider the alternative housing options, any consent to an alternative housing option executed within 30 days of the written presentation of the options shall be invalid.

Any offer of alternative housing options must be made in writing and the acceptance of the alternative must be voluntary and in writing. The offer of an alternative housing option must contain the following elements:

- The resident is informed of his or her right to return to the Covered Project and that neither the PHA nor the Project Owner can compel the resident to relinquish his or her right to return. The offer of alternative housing options must clearly state that acceptance of any alternative would relinquish the resident's right to return to the Covered Project.
- The offer of an alternative housing option must be accompanied by identification of comparable housing units which the resident may use to understand the nature of housing options available to them and the rent and estimated utility costs associated with such housing options. This information must also be accompanied by a reasonable estimate of any replacement housing payment or "gap payment" for which the resident may be eligible.
- The offer of an alternative housing option must be accompanied by information regarding moving payments and assistance that would be available if the resident exercises the right of return and if the resident accepts the alternative housing option.
- Residents must be offered advisory assistance to consider their options.
- To be fully informed, the offer must outline the implications and benefits of each alternative housing option being made available (i.e., of accepting each alternative housing option as compared to exercising his or her right to return) as well as a reasonable estimate of when the resident's relocation might occur. Implications and benefits include payment amounts, differences in rent calculations, differences in program rules, housing location, and potential long-term implications such as household housing expenses multiple years in the future.
- To be fully voluntary, the resident must have at least thirty (30) days following delivery of the written offer to consider their options. LEP persons must be provided a written translation of the offer and oral interpretation of any meetings or counseling in the appropriate language. In addition, PHAs must comply with their obligation to ensure effective communication with persons with disabilities.
- The resident cannot be asked to make a decision which will be implemented at a distant future time. Consequently, the resident may not provide written consent to an alternative housing option (and consequently, consent to voluntary permanent relocation) until after

the earlier of issuance of the NOIA or the effective date of the RCC.<sup>96</sup> If a resident signs a written consent to accept an alternative housing option, that written consent is valid for 180 days. If relocation (after the applicable notice periods) has not occurred within this 180 day period, then the PHA or Project Owner must secure a new consent to accept an alternative housing option. New relocation notices are generally not required.

- The acceptance must be in writing signed by the resident head of household, including a certification of facts to document that the household is relinquishing its right to return and that the decision and the acceptance of the alternative housing option was fully informed and voluntary.
- Residents accepting alternative housing options to relinquish their right to return will be considered to have voluntarily and permanently relocated. Such residents are to be provided applicable RAD, URA and/or Section 104(d) relocation assistance and payments.

The information included with the offer of alternative housing options is to aid the resident in making decisions regarding the desirability of the alternative housing options and neither satisfies nor replaces the relocation notices and information required to be provided to residents pursuant to this Notice, the URA or Section 104(d).

While HUD does not require PHAs to submit documentation of alternative housing options offered to residents or the residents' elections, PHAs must keep auditable written records of such consultation and decisions. HUD may request this documentation at any time, including as part of a review of the Checklist or if relocation concerns arise.

### **6.11. Lump Sum Payments**

PHAs and Project Owners should note that certain relocation payments to displaced residential tenants may be subject to 42 USC § 3537c ("Prohibition of Lump-Sum Payments") and must be disbursed in installments. The PHA or Project Owner may determine the frequency of the disbursements which must be made in installments. Handbook 1378, Chapter 3-7(D) provides guidance on the manner and frequency of disbursing payments subject to this requirement.

Any monetary element beyond Required Relocation Payments which may be associated with an alternative housing option described in Section 6.10, above, is not relocation assistance and is therefore not subject to the requirements regarding lump sum payments.

## **SECTION 7. APPLICABILITY OF HCV AND PUBLIC HOUSING REQUIREMENTS**

### **7.1. HCV Waiting List Administration Unrelated to the RAD Transaction**

From time to time, a resident of a Converting Project may place themselves on the PHA's waiting list for HCVs independent of any planned RAD transaction. With respect to residents of a Converting Project prior to the effective date of the HAP contract, PHAs should continue to

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<sup>96</sup> The PHA and Project Owner should note that securing resident consent to an alternative housing option may delay the issuance of the RAD Notice of Relocation. The RAD Notice of Relocation must be specific to whether the resident will be temporarily or permanently relocated.

administer their HCV waiting list in accordance with their Section 8 Administrative Plans. Residents who rise to the top of the HCV waiting list independent of any preference for relocating RAD residents or other RAD provisions and accept an HCV are not considered to be relocated as a result of the RAD conversion. Standard administration of the PHA's HCV waiting list is not considered relocation.

## **7.2. HCV Waiting List Administration Related to the RAD Transaction**

From time to time, a PHA may wish to use HCV resources as a relocation option in connection with a RAD transaction. In order to do so, a PHA must modify its Section 8 Administrative Plan to provide a preference for relocating RAD residents and the PHA is subject to Section 6.8 of this Notice relating to initiation of relocation. Further, if a PHA provides a preference for relocating RAD residents, the PHA must be explicit regarding the nature of the HCV as a relocation resource. If the PHA anticipates using the HCV as a temporary relocation resource, the PHA must recognize that it cannot rescind an HCV once issued to the resident (i.e., the family would have to voluntarily relinquish their voucher and may choose to remain in the HCV program indefinitely). The PHA must also provide a preference for admission to the Covered Project in order to satisfy the right to return. Alternatively, if the PHA anticipates using the HCV as a voluntary permanent relocation resources, the PHA must comply with the alternative housing options provisions of Section 6.10.<sup>97</sup>

## **7.3. Public Housing Transfers Unrelated to the RAD Transaction**

From time to time, a resident of a Converting Project may request a transfer to another public housing property independent of any planned RAD transaction. With respect to residents of a Converting Project prior to the effective date of the HAP contract, PHAs must continue to administer their admissions and occupancy procedures as adopted. Any prohibitions in this Notice on implementing relocation do not apply to residents requesting public housing transfers, moves pursuant to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)<sup>98</sup> or reasonable accommodation moves. Standard administration of the PHA's admissions and occupancy policy is not considered relocation.<sup>99</sup> Transfers not undertaken for the RAD project are not subject to URA. However, it is recommended that the PHA document the transfer carefully, including an acknowledgement by the resident that the transfer is not undertaken for the RAD project, is not

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<sup>97</sup> PHAs and Project Owners should note that while in most cases, there is no rent differential between the tenant paid rent in a public housing unit and in an HCV, there are some situations (such as flat rent households) where a difference does exist. Rental assistance payments under the URA are required if there is a difference between these two amounts.

<sup>98</sup> Title IV, section 40001-40703.

<sup>99</sup> Standard administration of the PHA's admissions and occupancy policy is permitted. However, HUD is sensitive to concerns that discussion of the planned RAD conversion and construction activities may cause residents to perceive a pressure to transfer without the counseling and moving assistance which would be available were the household to wait until relocation. If relocation at the Converting Project is planned, PHAs are strongly advised to document any such transfers carefully and to provide any households moving under standard admissions and occupancy policies with additional notices referencing the assistance and payments which would be available if the household were to remain in place until the relocation plan is implemented.



subject to URA requirements and that the resident is moving notwithstanding the guidance in the GIN or other relocation guidance from the PHA.

#### **7.4. Resident Initiated Public Housing Transfers Related to the RAD Transaction**

Pursuant to Section 1.8 of the RAD Notice, households in the Converting Project who do not want to transition to the Section 8 program may be offered, if available, the opportunity to move to other public housing owned by the PHA. Such move shall be implemented as a transfer and shall be prioritized equivalent to a “demolition, disposition, revitalization or rehabilitation transfer” as described in Section 11.2 of the applicable Public Housing Occupancy Guidebook. Transfers for this purpose do not require any modification to the PHA’s admissions and occupancy policy and may occur at any time pursuant to the PHA’s admissions and occupancy policy. Transfers for this purpose, while initiated by the resident, are the result of the PHA-initiated RAD transaction and the PHA must bear the reasonable costs of transfer. The reasonable cost of the transfer includes not just the cost of packing, moving, and unloading, but also the cost of disconnecting and reconnecting any existing resident-paid services such as telephone and cable television. The PHA must also document that the resident’s transfer request is fully informed and fully voluntary, which documentation must include an acknowledgement by the resident that the transfer is not undertaken at the request of the PHA or under pressure from the PHA, that the resident is moving notwithstanding the guidance in the GIN or other relocation guidance from the PHA and that the resident is withdrawing from participation in the RAD program and consequently losing rights, including the right to return, which accrue to residents participating in the RAD program. A public housing resident who voluntarily seeks a public housing transfer is generally not considered to be displaced under the URA or Section 104(d), where applicable.

#### **7.5. Public Housing as a Temporary Relocation Resource**

PHAs and Project Owners may wish to mitigate the relocation budget associated with the RAD conversion by using units within the PHA’s portfolio as relocation resources. In light of its mission to serve as many low-income households as possible, including its need to accommodate emergency transfers (such as moves pursuant to VAWA), the PHA should minimize the use of the public housing units not converting under RAD for temporary relocation of RAD impacted residents. HUD has a strong preference that the PHA use the units within the PHA’s Converting Projects as a temporary relocation resource prior to using units in the remainder of the PHA’s public housing portfolio. PHAs may elect not to lease units within the Converting Projects or, if necessary, the remainder of its portfolio, for this purpose only to the extent reasonably necessary to facilitate construction or rehabilitation.

Upon the effective date of the HAP contract (usually also the effective date of the RAD conversion), each resident of a Covered Project becomes a participant in the Section 8 program and is no longer part of the public housing program. A PHA may use public housing as a temporary relocation resource if approved by HUD, which approval shall depend on the proposed structure. PHAs wishing to use public housing units as a temporary relocation resource must consult with HUD’s Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) prior to the formal request for HUD approval. It is unlikely that HUD would approve a request to use public housing units

as a relocation resource for a period exceeding one year after the effective date of the HAP contract.

If HUD grants approval, HUD shall provide alternative requirements regarding PIH Information Center (PIC) documentation of the occupancy of these temporary relocation resources. PHAs must follow any guidance or instructions regarding treatment of the public housing units in HUD's data systems as may be provided from time to time.

PHAs and Project Owners should note that, absent written approval, if a resident seeks to occupy a public housing unit after the effective date of the HAP contract, the resident would need to be readmitted to public housing in a manner consistent with the waitlist and admissions policies and must exit the Section 8 program.

#### **7.6. Terminations (Including Evictions) and End of Participation Unrelated to the RAD Transaction**

Public housing program requirements related to continued occupancy and termination, including rules on grievances and related hearings, remain in effect until the effective date of a new PBV or PBRA HAP contract. If a resident is evicted in accordance with applicable state and local law and the eviction is not undertaken for the purpose of evading the obligation to make available RAD relocation and URA payments and other assistance, the resident is generally not entitled to relocation assistance and payments under this Notice or the URA (49 C.F.R. § 24.206). If a resident voluntarily ends his or her participation in the public housing program, in the absence of evidence that the end of participation was induced by the PHA for the purpose of evading the obligation to make available RAD relocation and URA payments and other assistance, the resident is generally not entitled to relocation assistance and payments under this Notice or the URA.

#### **7.7. Right-Sizing**

Public housing, PBV and PBRA requirements mandate that, upon the availability of a unit which is appropriate for the household size, the PHA or Project Owner must transfer a household that is under- or over-housed into the unit appropriate to the household's size. However, accommodating all residents pursuant to the right of return has primacy over right-sizing requirements and may, in some cases, require temporarily over-housing households. In such circumstances, the PHA or Project Owner shall subsequently transfer the household to an appropriate size unit when available, as is required by the applicable program regulation. Such actions shall be governed by the applicable program regulation and shall not be considered relocation under this Notice.



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Lourdes Castro-Ramirez  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for  
Public and Indian Housing

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Edward L. Golding  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for  
Housing

**APPENDIX I: Applicable Legal Authorities**

**APPENDIX II: Recommended Relocation Plan Contents**

## **APPENDIX I: Applicable Legal Authorities**

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### **Part 1**

This Appendix to the Notice identifies key legal authorities with respect to fair housing, civil rights, and resident relocation. This Appendix is not exhaustive of applicable legal authorities, which authorities may also include other Federal statutes, regulations and Executive Orders, and civil rights provisions related to other programs (including funding programs) associated with the RAD transaction.

#### **Fair Housing Act (Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended)**

The Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. § 3601 et seq., and its implementing regulations, 24 C.F.R. part 100, prohibit discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings, and in other housing-related transactions, based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or familial status. The Fair Housing Act applies to for-sale and rental housing, whether the housing is privately or publicly funded, including housing supported by tax credits. Single family homes, condominiums, apartment buildings, time-shares, dormitories, transitional housing, homeless shelters that are used as a residence, student housing, assisted living housing, and other types of housing are all covered by the Fair Housing Act.

Among its substantive provisions, the Fair Housing Act requires “covered multifamily dwellings,” designed and constructed for first occupancy after March 13, 1991, to be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities. In buildings with four or more dwelling units and at least one elevator, all dwelling units and all public and common use areas are subject to the Act’s design and construction requirements. In buildings with four or more dwelling units and no elevator, all ground floor units and public and common use areas are subject to the Act’s design and construction requirements.<sup>100</sup> In addition, the Fair Housing Act requires that housing providers make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, and services, when such accommodations may be necessary to afford a person with a disability equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling unit, including public and common use areas, and that housing providers permit reasonable modifications of existing premises for persons with disabilities.

The Fair Housing Act also requires HUD to administer HUD programs and activities in a manner that affirmatively furthers fair housing (42 U.S.C. § 3608(e)(5)). HUD’s affirmatively furthering fair housing (“AFFH”) rule in 24 C.F.R. §§ 5.150-5.180 will apply to PHAs (except for qualified PHAs) for the PHA’s fiscal year that begins on or after January 1, 2018 for which a new 5-year plan is due, as provided in 24 C.F.R. § 903.5. The affirmatively furthering fair housing regulations will apply to qualified PHAs, for the PHA’s fiscal year that begins on or after January 1, 2019 for which a new 5-year plan is due, as provided in 24 C.F.R. § 903.5.<sup>101</sup>

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<sup>100</sup> See 42 U.S.C. § 3604(f)(3)(c) and 24 C.F.R. § 100.205.

<sup>101</sup> For purposes of the AFFH rule, “[a]ffirmatively furthering fair housing means taking meaningful actions, in addition to combating discrimination, that overcome patterns of segregation and foster inclusive communities free from barriers that restrict access to opportunity based on protected characteristics. Specifically, affirmatively furthering fair housing under the AFFH rule means taking meaningful actions that, taken together, address

Additional detail and discussion of the interplay between the Fair Housing Act, Section 504, and Titles II or III of the Americans with Disabilities Act as these authorities relate to accessibility requirements is described in Part 2 of this Appendix.

### United States Housing Act of 1937 (1937 Act)

The United States Housing Act of 1937 (1937 Act) (42 U.S.C. § 1437c-1(d)(15)) requires PHAs to submit a 5-year plan and an Annual Plan. Pursuant to HUD regulations, the Annual Plan includes a certification by the PHA that the PHA will affirmatively further fair housing.

### Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.*) and HUD's implementing regulation (24 C.F.R. part 1) prohibit recipients of Federal financial assistance from discriminating, excluding from participation, or denying benefits to, any person on the basis of race, color, or national origin. In addition, Title VI regulations prohibit HUD recipients of Federal financial assistance from utilizing criteria or methods of administration which have the effect of subjecting individuals to discrimination because of their race, color, or national origin (24 C.F.R. § 1.4(b)(2)(i)). When determining the site or location of housing, recipients may not make selections with the purpose or effect of excluding individuals from, denying them the benefits of, or subjecting them to discrimination on the ground of race, color, or national origin (24 C.F.R. § 1.4(b)(3)). An applicant or recipient of HUD financial assistance also has an obligation to take reasonable action to remove or overcome the consequences of prior discriminatory practices regardless of whether the recipient engaged in discriminatory conduct (24 C.F.R. § 1.4(b)(6)).

Recipients of Federal financial assistance are required to take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to their programs and activities for persons who have limited ability to read, speak, or understand English – i.e., individuals who have limited English proficiency (LEP). This includes oral and written communications during relocation and throughout a RAD transaction. Such language assistance may include, but is not limited to, providing written translation of notices regarding the plans for the project and relocation and oral interpretation at meetings. Otherwise, LEP persons may be denied participation in, and the benefit of, the recipients' program or activity. On January 22, 2007, HUD issued "Final Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons" (LEP Guidance), available at: [http://www.lep.gov/guidance/HUD\\_guidance\\_Jan07.pdf](http://www.lep.gov/guidance/HUD_guidance_Jan07.pdf).<sup>102</sup>

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significant disparities in housing needs and in access to opportunity, replacing segregated living patterns with truly integrated and balanced living patterns, transforming racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty into areas of opportunity, and fostering and maintaining compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws." 24 C.F.R. § 5.150. Meaningful actions means significant actions that are designed and can be reasonably expected to achieve a material positive change that affirmatively furthers fair housing by, for example, increasing fair housing choice or decreasing disparities in access to opportunity. See 24 C.F.R. § 5.152.

<sup>102</sup> See also Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency, which requires recipients of Federal financial assistance to take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to

### Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 provides: “No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States ... shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program, service or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”<sup>103</sup>

Among other things, HUD’s regulations implementing Section 504 (in 24 C.F.R. part 8) prohibit recipients of Federal financial assistance, in determining the site or location of a facility receiving such assistance, from making site selections the purpose or effect of which would (1) exclude qualified individuals with disabilities from or deny them the benefits of a program or activity, or otherwise subject them to discrimination; or (2) defeat or substantially impair the accomplishment of the objectives of the program or activity with respect to qualified individuals with disabilities.<sup>104</sup> These prohibitions apply to both determining the site of permanent facilities and a site for relocation of residents.

Furthermore, HUD’s implementing regulations prohibit discrimination, the denial of benefits, or the exclusion of participation of individuals with disabilities from the programs or activities of recipients of federal financial assistance because a recipient’s facilities are inaccessible. Such recipients must provide qualified individuals with disabilities with program access, which may require modification of architectural features of facilities in RAD transactions for individuals with disabilities to have access to the program. Certain architectural specifications apply to facilities that are altered or newly constructed with HUD financial assistance, such as facilities where assistance is transferred and facilities used as temporary or permanent relocation sites for residents of a project undergoing a RAD conversion. If alterations are made to a housing facility, the alterations to dwelling units in the facility are required, to the maximum extent feasible (i.e., if doing so would not impose undue financial and administrative burdens on the operation of the project), to be made readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. If alterations taken to a development that has 15 or more units and the cost of the alterations is 75% or more of the replacement cost of the completed facility (except when it requires removal of structural load-bearing members), or if the facility is newly constructed, then a minimum of 5% of the total dwelling units, or at least one unit in a development, whichever is greater, must be made accessible for persons with mobility impairments. An additional 2% of the units, but not less than one unit, in a development must be accessible for persons with hearing and vision impairments.

In addition, regulations implementing Section 504 require recipients to make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. A reasonable accommodation is a change, adaptation, or modification to a policy, program, service, or workplace which will allow a qualified person with a disability to participate fully in a program, take advantage of a service, or perform a job. Section 504 also includes effective communication requirements, such as

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their programs and activities for LEP persons. E.O. 13166 directs all Federal agencies, including HUD, to issue guidance to help recipients of Federal financial assistance in providing such meaningful access to their programs.

<sup>103</sup> 29 U.S.C. § 794. HUD’s Section 504 regulation that applies to recipients of Federal financial assistance, including PHAs and Project Owners, is located at 24 C.F.R. part 8.

<sup>104</sup> 24 C.F.R. § 8.4(b)(5).

providing interpreters and alternate format documents (e.g., Braille, large print, accessible electronic communications) for persons with disabilities.

Additional detail and discussion of the interplay between Section 504, the Fair Housing Act, and Titles II or III of the Americans with Disabilities Act as these authorities relate to accessibility requirements is described in Part 2 of this Appendix.

### Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in all services, programs, and activities provided or made available by public entities. Title II of the ADA applies to housing developed or operated by state and local governments, which includes a PHA. Title III of the ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public accommodations and requires places of public accommodation and commercial facilities to be designed, constructed, and altered in compliance with established accessibility standards. For example, Title III applies to rental offices, sales offices, homeless shelters, hotels and motels, and commercial spaces associated with housing, such as daycare centers, social service offices, and sales and retail establishments. Titles II or III also will generally apply to community spaces and facilities, such as neighborhood networks, to computer centers (including the computers in the centers), and to transportation services and conveyances provided by PHAs and Project Owners.

Additional detail and discussion of the interplay between Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as these authorities relate to accessibility requirements is described in Part 2 of this Appendix.

### Section 109

Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (HCDA of 1974), Title I, prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, religion, and sex in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs and activities. Section 109 applies to RAD projects that receive CDBG or other assistance under Title I of the HCDA of 1974.

In addition to its responsibility for enforcing other Federal statutes prohibiting discrimination in housing, HUD has a statutory obligation under Section 109 to ensure that individuals are not subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, religion, or sex by recipients of CDBG funds. Section 109 charges HUD with enforcing the right of individuals to live in CDBG-funded housing and participate covered programs and activities free from such discrimination. However, this additional statutory authority only applies to programs authorized under Title I of the HCDA of 1974, such as CDBG and programs, such as Section 108 loan guarantees and the Historically Black Colleges and Universities program.

### Equal Access to HUD-assisted or HUD-insured Housing

HUD requires its housing programs to be open to all eligible individuals and families regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status. HUD recipients and subrecipients must comply with 24 C.F.R. § 5.105(a)(2) when determining eligibility for housing assisted with HUD

funds or subject to an FHA-insured mortgage, and when making such housing available. This includes making eligibility determinations and making housing available regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status, and prohibiting inquiries about sexual orientation or gender identity for the purpose of making eligibility determinations or making housing available. Applicants are encouraged to become familiar with these requirements, HUD's definitions of sexual orientation and gender identity at 24 C.F.R. § 5.100, clarifications to HUD's definition of family at 24 C.F.R. § 5.403, and other regulatory changes made through HUD's Equal Access Rule, published in the Federal Register at 77 FR 5662 (Feb. 3, 2012).

### Section 3: Economic Opportunities for Low- and Very Low-income Persons.

Certain HUD programs require recipients of assistance to comply with Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (Section 3), 12 U.S.C. § 1701u (Economic Opportunities for Low- and Very Low-Income Persons in Connection with Assisted Projects), and the HUD regulations at 24 C.F.R. part 135. The regulations at 24 C.F.R. part 135 implementing Section 3 ensure, to the greatest extent feasible, that training, employment, contracting and other economic opportunities be directed to low- and very low-income persons, especially recipients of government assistance for housing, and to businesses that provide economic opportunities to low- and very low-income persons where proposed project is located. Recipients of funds covered by Section 3 must comply with 24 C.F.R. part 135, particularly subpart B-Economic Opportunities for Section 3 residents and Section 3 Business Concerns, and Subpart E-Reporting and Recordkeeping. HUD encourages recipients to search the national Section 3 Business Registry to find local businesses that prioritize hiring Section 3 residents.

### Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970

The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, 42 USC § 4601 *et seq.* (URA) is a Federal law that establishes minimum standards for programs or projects receiving Federal financial assistance that include the acquisition of real property (real estate) and/or displace persons from their homes, businesses, or farms as a result of acquisition, rehabilitation, or demolition.<sup>105</sup> The URA implementing Federal regulations can be found at 49 C.F.R. part 24. Project-Based Voucher (PBV) and Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) are considered Federal financial assistance for purposes of the URA. As a result, the URA will apply to acquisitions of real property and relocation of persons from real property that occur as a direct result of acquisition, rehabilitation or demolition for a project that involves conversion of assistance to PBV or PBRA programs under RAD.

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<sup>105</sup> For additional guidance, see HUD Handbook 1378 Tenant Assistance, Relocation, and Real Property Acquisition), available at: [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/library/relocation/policyandguidance/handbook1378](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/library/relocation/policyandguidance/handbook1378).



### Section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974

Section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, 42 USC § 5304(d), (Section 104(d)), is a Federal law that applies when a lower-income dwelling is demolished or converted (as conversion is defined in accordance with 24 C.F.R. § 42.305) to a use other than lower-income housing in connection with a Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) or HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funded activity. Under Section 104(d), a lower-income person is considered displaced and, therefore eligible for Section 104(d) relocation assistance if the person permanently moves from real property or permanently moves personal property from real property as a direct result of the demolition or conversion of a lower-income dwelling to a use other than lower-income dwelling unit in connection with a CDBG or HOME funded activity. The Section 104(d) one-for-one replacement housing requirements may apply with respect to occupied and vacant occupiable lower-income dwelling units that are demolished or converted to a use other than lower-income dwelling units in connection with CDBG or HOME funded activity. Section 104(d) implementing regulations can be found at 24 C.F.R. part 42, Subpart C. Additional HUD policy and guidance for Section 104(d) is available in HUD Handbook 1378, Chapter 7.

### **Part 2 – Accessibility Requirements**

Federal accessibility requirements apply to all RAD projects – whether they include new construction, alterations, or existing facilities. Applicable laws include, but are not limited to, the Fair Housing Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Titles II or III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A PHA or Project Owner must comply with each law that applies to its project and with the requirement that provides the most accessibility when two or more laws apply. All three laws include new construction requirements. Substantial alterations, additions, rehabilitation and existing facilities must be in compliance with applicable requirements of Section 504 and the ADA.<sup>106</sup> All three laws may also require reasonable accommodations or modifications.

#### Accessibility Requirements for New Construction

The Fair Housing Act requires all “covered multifamily dwellings” designed and constructed for first occupancy after March 13, 1991, to be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities. In buildings with four or more dwelling units and at least one elevator, all dwelling units and all public and common use areas must meet the Fair Housing Act’s design and construction requirements. In buildings with four or more dwelling units and no elevator, all ground floor units and public and common use areas must meet the Fair Housing Act’s design and construction requirements. The Fair Housing Act requires that all covered multifamily dwellings be designed and constructed so that public and common use areas are readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities; all doors are sufficiently wide to allow passage by persons using wheelchairs; all units contain accessible routes into and through the dwelling unit; light switches, electrical outlets, thermostats, and other environmental controls are in accessible locations; reinforcements are installed in bathroom walls to allow later installation

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<sup>106</sup>See 24 C.F.R. § 100.205 (Fair Housing Act) and 24 C.F.R. §§ 8.22 and 8.23 (Section 504). See also 28 C.F.R. § 35.151(b) and 28 C.F.R. part 36 (ADA Titles II and III regulations, respectively).



of grab bars; and kitchens and bathrooms are usable such that a person in a wheelchair can maneuver about the space.<sup>107</sup> These design and construction requirements apply whether the housing is privately or publicly funded, including housing supported by tax credits.<sup>108</sup>

New construction of a multifamily housing project containing five or more dwelling units is also subject to physical accessibility requirements under Section 504. Under Section 504, a “project” includes all residential and appurtenant structures, equipment, roads, walks, and parking lots which are covered by a single contract or application for Federal financial assistance, or are treated as a whole for processing purposes, whether or not they are located on a single site.<sup>109</sup> The accessibility standards for new construction under Section 504 are the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS).<sup>110</sup> HUD recipients may also use the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design under title II of the ADA, except for certain specific identified provisions, as detailed in HUD’s Notice on “Instructions for use of alternative accessibility standard,” published in the Federal Register on May 23, 2014 (“Deeming Notice”). This option exists until HUD formally revises its Section 504 regulation to adopt an updated accessibility standard. Refer to HUD’s Deeming Notice for more information.

Section 504 also requires that a minimum of 5% of the total dwelling units or at least one unit, whichever is greater, is required to be accessible for persons with mobility impairments. An additional 2% of the total dwelling units or at least one unit, whichever is greater, is required to be accessible for persons with vision and hearing impairments.<sup>111</sup> HUD may prescribe a higher percentage or number of units upon request by any affected recipient or by any State or local government or agency based upon demonstration to the reasonable satisfaction of HUD of a need for a higher percentage or number, based on census data or other available current data, or in response to evidence of a need for a higher percentage or number received in any other manner. In reviewing such request or otherwise assessing the existence of such needs, HUD shall take into account the expected needs of eligible persons with and without disabilities.<sup>112</sup>

Title II of the ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in all services, programs, and activities provided or made available by public entities. Title II of the ADA applies to housing programs, including housing developed or operated by state and local governments, which includes PHAs. Title III of the ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public accommodations, including rental offices, and requires places of public accommodation and commercial facilities to be designed, constructed, and altered in compliance with established accessibility standards. All newly constructed or altered facilities, including facilities altered to

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<sup>107</sup> See 24 C.F.R. § 100.205.

<sup>108</sup> For more information about the design and construction provisions of the Fair Housing Act, see [www.fairhousingfirst.org](http://www.fairhousingfirst.org). See also the Joint Statement of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Justice, Accessibility (Design and Construction) Requirements for Covered Multifamily Dwellings Under the Fair Housing Act (April 30, 2013), available at: [www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/library/hudjointstatement.pdf](http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/library/hudjointstatement.pdf).

<sup>109</sup> See 24 C.F.R. § 8.3.

<sup>110</sup> The UFAS are available at <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-aba-standards/ufas>). See also 24 C.F.R. § 8.32.

<sup>111</sup> See 24 C.F.R. § 8.22.

<sup>112</sup> See HUD regulation at 24 C.F.R. § 8.22(c).

comply with program access and readily achievable barrier removal obligations that exist under Titles II or III of the ADA, must comply with the U.S. Department of Justice's ADA architectural accessibility standards as described in the following U.S. Department of Justice Technical Assistance document ADA Requirements, Effective Date/Compliance Date (Feb. 2011), [http://www.ada.gov/revised\\_effective\\_dates-2010.htm](http://www.ada.gov/revised_effective_dates-2010.htm).

### Accessibility Requirements for Alterations

If a building was constructed for first occupancy after March 13, 1991, the building must be in compliance with, and all alterations must maintain the building's accessible features so that the building continues to meet, the Fair Housing Act's accessibility requirements. In addition, without regard to the date of construction for first occupancy, certain alterations may be required under the Fair Housing Act if requested by a resident as a reasonable accommodation or modification or otherwise required to remediate accessibility deficiencies in the design and construction of the building.

Under HUD's Section 504 regulation, alterations include any structural change in a facility or a change to its permanent fixtures or equipment. If alterations are undertaken to a project that has fifteen or more units and the cost of the alterations is 75% or more of the replacement cost of the completed facility, this qualifies as "substantial alterations," in which the new construction provisions of 24 C.F.R. § 8.22 apply.<sup>113</sup>

When alterations are made that do not qualify as substantial alterations, alterations to dwelling units in a multifamily housing project shall, to the maximum extent feasible, be made to be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.<sup>114</sup> If alterations of single elements or spaces of a dwelling unit, when considered together, amount to an alteration of a dwelling unit, the entire dwelling unit shall be made accessible. Once 5% of the dwelling units in a housing project are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with mobility impairments, no additional elements of dwelling units or entire dwelling units are required to be accessible under this provision. However, alterations to meet ongoing accessibility needs are always required, for example, in response to a reasonable accommodation request. Alterations to common areas or parts of facilities that affect accessibility of existing housing facilities shall, to the maximum extent feasible, be made to be accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. For purposes of this paragraph, the phrase "to the maximum extent feasible" shall not be interpreted as requiring that a recipient (including a PHA) make a dwelling unit, common area, facility or element thereof accessible if doing so would impose undue financial and administrative burdens on the operation of the multifamily housing project.<sup>115</sup>

All altered facilities covered by Titles II or III of the ADA must be altered in accordance with the U.S. Department of Justice's 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and applicable ADA

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<sup>113</sup> See 24 C.F.R. § 8.23(a). The sole exception is that load bearing structural members are not required to be removed or altered.

<sup>114</sup> HUD may require a higher number or percentage of accessible units pursuant to 24 C.F.R. § 8.22(c) and 24 C.F.R. § 8.23(b)(2).

<sup>115</sup> 24 C.F.R. § 8.23(b).

regulations, unless subject to certain safe harbors identified in the 2010 ADA revised regulations for Titles II and III, as applicable.<sup>116</sup>

HUD will consider on a case-by-case basis a PHA's request to undertake limited new construction on the site of a Covered Project undergoing rehabilitation to comply with accessibility requirements on the site.

#### Additional Accessibility Requirements for Both New Construction and Alterations

Accessible units must be distributed throughout projects and sites and be available in a sufficient range of sizes and amenities so that a qualified individual with disabilities' choice of living arrangements is, as a whole, comparable to that of other persons eligible under the same program.<sup>117</sup> This provision shall not be construed to require provision of an elevator in any multifamily housing project solely for the purpose of permitting location of accessible units above or below the accessible grade.

PHAs are encouraged to use universal design principles, visitability principles and active design guidelines in planning new construction or retrofit work, wherever feasible. However, adherence to universal design principles does not replace compliance with the accessibility requirements of Section 504, the ADA and the Fair Housing Act.

#### Program Accessibility Requirements

Under Section 504, recipients must operate each existing housing program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance so that the program or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. Title II of the ADA also includes a program access requirement, while Title III of the ADA requires readily achievable barrier removal.<sup>118</sup> Further, Section 504, the Fair Housing Act, and the ADA require that reasonable accommodations/modifications be granted to address disability-related needs of individuals with disabilities.<sup>119</sup>

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<sup>116</sup> See <http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADASTandards/2010ADASTandards.htm>.

<sup>117</sup> See 24 C.F.R. §§ 8.26 and 8.27.

<sup>118</sup> See 28 C.F.R. § 35.150; 28 C.F.R. § 36.304.

<sup>119</sup> For more information on reasonable accommodations, see the HUD/DOJ Joint Statement on Reasonable Accommodations Under the Fair Housing Act at <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=JOINTSTATEMENT.PDF>. While this joint statement focuses on the Fair Housing Act, the principles discussed in the statement generally apply to requests for reasonable accommodation under Section 504, except, for purposes of Section 504, HUD recipients are required to provide and pay for structural modifications as a reasonable accommodation.

## **APPENDIX II: Recommended Relocation Plan Contents**

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While RAD mandates written relocation plans only for projects which involve permanent relocation (including, without limitation, a move in connection with a transfer of assistance) or temporary relocation anticipated to last longer than one year, HUD strongly encourages PHAs to document their relocation planning process and procedures in a written relocation plan. The following provides suggested content for required and recommended relocation plans. In the case of any discrepancy between this description of the recommended relocation plan contents and the provisions of the Notice to which this Appendix is attached or any applicable laws or regulations with respect to the URA or Section 104(d), the provisions of the Notice or applicable laws and regulations shall govern.

The basic elements of the relocation plan include:

- A general description of the project and project elements that may create relocation needs;
- Information on residents of the project and eligibility for relocation assistance and payments;
- Information regarding how the project will address the RAD right to return requirements and the project's re-occupancy policies;
- A detailed discussion of plans for temporary relocation assistance;
- A detailed discussion of any transfer of assistance;
- A detailed discussion of any offers of alternative housing options and plans for voluntary permanent relocation assistance;
- A detailed discussion of compliance with fair housing and civil rights requirements, including accessibility requirements;
- The relocation budget; and
- The appeals process.

The plan as a whole should discuss the specific steps to be taken to minimize the adverse impacts of relocation on the residents.

### **I. Project Summary**

The Relocation Plan should provide a general description of the property (e.g., year built, location, number of units, configuration, resident population served). The project summary should also identify the nature of the activities to be undertaken, including acquisition, demolition, rehabilitation, and construction activities and additional detail regarding the project scope (e.g., gut rehab, systems replacement, modest in-unit renovations, transfer of assistance). The project summary should also discuss how any construction activities are to be implemented (i.e., vacate the property entirely, vacate specific floors or buildings, rehabilitation with residents in place). The summary should also discuss the overall theory of relocation, for example, whether a few households will be relocated off-site and the vacant units will be used as temporary housing before other households move back to their original units (a "hoteling" approach), or whether the vacant units will be permanently occupied, with the residents vacating other units to be renovated (a "domino" approach).

The relocation plan should also identify the funding sources which may trigger relocation requirements, with particular attention to the potential presence of HOME or CDBG funds which may trigger Section 104(d) requirements.

## **II. Project Occupancy**

The Relocation Plan should provide information on occupancy of the property including the number of residents, their household type (family, elderly), any non-residential (commercial) occupants, and should identify how any routine needs (such as continuation of utilities such as telephone service) and civil rights compliance issues (for example, limited English proficiency, disabilities, reasonable accommodations and unit modifications that have been or may be necessary) shall be identified and addressed. The Relocation Plan may specify the community meetings, interviews and/or other processes that will be undertaken to assess the residents' needs.

The Relocation Plan should also address eligibility for relocation assistance and payments, applying the rules of the Notice to the particularities of the project.

## **III. Resident Return and Re-occupancy Policies**

The Plan should address how the project will honor the RAD right to return requirements and the “no re-screening upon conversion” policy. With respect to residents who will be temporarily relocated, the Plan should include the methodology that will be used to determine the sequence in which residents will re-occupy units at the project after rehabilitation, demolition, and/or construction is completed, and to determine how residents are matched with units if the residents are not able to return to their original unit. For example, if units will come online in stages, the plan should outline how the PHA or Project Owner will determine when each resident will return to the property.

## **IV. Temporary Relocation Assistance**

The plan should detail the temporary housing resources to be used, the anticipated duration of temporary relocations, notices to be provided and the temporary relocation assistance the PHA or Project Owner will provide for residents (Paragraph 2-7 of HUD Handbook 1378). Topics to be addressed in the Plan include:

- Temporary Housing Resources. The Plan should identify the nature and availability of the temporary housing resources the PHA or Project Owner anticipates using. On-site resources are generally preferred. However, in some cases, PHAs or Project Owners may need to use hotel rooms for short-term relocations, or market-rate apartments. If the PHA or Project Owner anticipates using other assisted housing resources (such as HCVs, public housing or other properties with regulatory restrictions), the PHA or Project Owner should take particular care to address regulatory issues.
- Allocation of Temporary Relocation Resources. The Plan should describe a fair and reasonable methodology for allocating temporary relocation housing to residents on a nondiscriminatory basis.
- Duration of Temporary Relocation. In the event that the Plan includes relocation which is anticipated to exceed one year, it should detail the requirements which apply to those

residents (such as the issuance of a *Notice of Relocation* to the resident covering eligibility for URA relocation assistance, the offer of permanent relocation assistance and payments at URA levels and, if conditions warrant, the subsequent issuance of a *Notice of Eligibility*) as distinct from requirements that apply to residents who are not relocated for more than one year.

- Packing and Moving Assistance. The Plan should address how the PHA or Project Owner intends to provide or reimburse for packing and moving services and expenses. Considerations the Plan may want to address include:
  - Instructions and supplies (e.g., boxes, markers, tape) to be provided if residents prefer to pack their own personal possessions and items of value;
  - Assistance in packing to be provided if residents need assistance or prefer not to pack their personal possessions;
  - Guidance on how residents request to pack their own possessions or to receive packing assistance; and
  - How the PHA or Project Owner intends to provide or reimburse for moving services and expenses. The PHA or Project Owner can choose to do one or more of the following:
    - Undertake the moves itself, using employees of the PHA or Project Owner or “force account labor”<sup>120</sup>
    - Use a contractor or moving company
    - Reimburse residents for all actual, reasonable and necessary moving expenses.
- Storage. The Plan should address whether storage of the resident’s personal property is necessary and the arrangements for such storage.
- Damage or Loss. The Plan should address Insurance for the replacement value of the property in connection with the move and necessary storage and/or the replacement value of property lost, stolen, or damaged in the process of moving (not through the fault or negligence of the displaced person, his or her agent, or employee) where insurance covering such loss, theft, or damage is not reasonably available.
- Out-of-Pocket Expenses. The nature of out of pocket expenses vary based on the nature of the temporary relocation moves. For example, hotel stays or in-place renovation may trigger the need for reimbursement of meals while a kitchen is unavailable. The Plan should outline the anticipated out-of-pocket expenses and the PHA’s or Project Owner’s plans and budget with respect to these expenses.
- Leasing Arrangements. The Plan should address whether the resident will have a direct lease or other contractual relationship with the owner of the temporary relocation resource or whether the PHA or Project Owner will hold the lease and the resident will maintain a contractual relationship with the PHA or Project Owner.
- Utility Costs. The Plan should address whether residents will need to disconnect and reconnect necessary utilities and, if so, how the PHA or Project Owner anticipates managing this process and any associated expenses. Necessary utilities may include telephone, cable service, Internet access or other items. The Plan should address payment of utility deposits, if required at the temporary relocation housing (HUD Handbook 1378, paragraph 2-7(A)(3)).

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<sup>120</sup> Defined at 24 C.F.R. 905.108.



- Reasonable Accommodations. The plan should address whether residents with disabilities will require reasonable accommodations during temporary relocation and, if so, how the PHA or Project Owner anticipates ensuring the provision of reasonable accommodations and any associated expenses. Reasonable accommodations may include, among other items, the provision of transportation assistance, relocation to locations which are physically accessible and located near public transportation, and modifications to policies to allow individuals with disabilities to reside with a live-in aide.

## **V. Transfer of Assistance**

Relocation planning in the context of transfer of assistance is particularly complex. The PHA should address how RAD, URA and Section 104(d) requirements each apply, as the same activity may be treated differently under each regulatory framework. The Plan should specifically outline the PHA's procedures to ensure that the applicable requirements are applied to each situation appropriately. The Plan should also address whether relocation is required for any businesses or residents at the destination site. Finally, the Plan should address whether two moves – from the public housing site to an intermediate site and then to the transfer of assistance site – are necessary while the Covered Project is being constructed or rehabilitated.

## **VI. Alternative Housing Options and Voluntary Permanent Relocation Assistance**

If the PHA or Project Owner seeks to offer alternative housing options, the Plan should identify those options and the manner in which they are presented to residents for decision. The plan should also outline the counseling the PHA or Project Owner will provide to assist the residents in determining what options may be available and the financial implications of those options, for example,

1. Discussion of whether units available in the market (either in the affordable market or the unrestricted market) will meet the financial and dwelling requirements of relocated residents;
2. The general area or location of unit(s);
3. Where applicable, the accessibility of such units for individuals with disabilities;
4. Criteria for receiving relocation assistance; and
5. Any other information that might benefit residents in their consideration of housing choices.

The Plan should identify how the PHA or Project Owner will work with any residents who have elected voluntary permanent relocation. The Plan should further include a description of the permanent relocation assistance the PHA or Project Owner will provide to such residents. Topics to be addressed in the Plan include:

- Replacement Housing. The Plan should address the availability of comparable replacement housing, the notices to be provided and the provisions to ensure that appropriate accessibility features are available in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.



- Fair housing considerations. The Plan should address referrals to housing not located in areas of minority concentration and compliance with requirements regarding accessible housing for persons with disabilities. The Plan should address how the PHA or Project Owner will determine if residents have paid for the acquisition and/or installation of accessible features in the housing from which they are being relocated and how the PHA or Project Owner will ensure that the replacement housing contains required and comparable accessible features or that the resident is appropriately compensated for the cost of acquiring and/or installing required and comparable accessible features.
- Packing and Moving Assistance. The Plan should address how the PHA or Project Owner intends to provide or reimburse for packing and moving services and expenses. Considerations the Plan may want to address include:
  - Instructions and supplies (e.g., boxes, markers, tape) to be provided if residents prefer to pack their own personal possessions and items of value;
  - Assistance in packing to be provided if residents need assistance or prefer not to pack their personal possessions;
  - Guidance on how residents request to pack their own possessions or to receive packing assistance; and
  - How the PHA or Project Owner intends to provide or reimburse for moving services and expenses consistent with 49 C.F.R. § 24.301 or, at the resident's option, 49 C.F.R. § 24.302.
- Storage. The Plan should address whether storage of the resident's personal property is necessary and the arrangements for such storage. See 49 C.F.R. § 24.301(g)(4).
- Damage or Loss. The Plan should address Insurance for the replacement value of the property in connection with the move and necessary storage and/or the replacement value of property lost, stolen, or damaged in the process of moving (not through the fault or negligence of the displaced person, his or her agent, or employee) where insurance covering such loss, theft, or damage is not reasonably available.
- Dislocation Allowance. The Plan should address when the resident is entitled to a dislocation allowance and the amount of such dislocation allowance, consistent with the URA Fixed Residential Moving Cost Schedule available at: [www.fhwa.dot.gov/real\\_estate/uniform\\_act/relocation/moving\\_cost\\_schedule.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/real_estate/uniform_act/relocation/moving_cost_schedule.cfm).
- Appliances. The Plan should address disconnecting, dismantling, removing, reassembling, and reinstalling relocated household appliances and other personal property.
- Security Deposits and Utility Costs. The Plan should address how the PHA or Project Owner anticipates managing transfer of utility arrangements, security deposits and any associated expenses. Utilities may include telephone, cable service, Internet access or other items that may have been in place in the resident's original home. See 49 C.F.R. § 24.301(h)(12).
- Replacement Housing Payment. The Plan should address the circumstances in which displaced residents may be entitled to a replacement housing payment (RHP) to cover the

increase, if any, in monthly housing costs for a 42-month period pursuant to URA requirements or a 60-month period pursuant to Section 104(d).<sup>121</sup>

## VII. Relocation Budget

Based on the results of the planning process, the PHA or Project Owner should create a relocation budget that includes the following six components:

- 1) The cost of administering the plan and providing assistance and counseling.
- 2) Reasonable moving expenses for a person with disabilities, which may include the cost of moving assistive equipment that is the personal property of the residents, the furnishings and personal belonging of a live-in aide, and/or other reasonable accommodations (HUD Handbook 1378, Paragraph 3-2).
- 3) The cost of the physical move of the residents' belongings. (It is suggested that the move costs be broken down by average cost per move type multiplied by the number of moves.) This physical move cost total should be based on the move scenarios anticipated or projected by the resident survey. The move costs should consider:

For temporary relocation moves:

- Number and cost of two-way moves (i.e., a move to another unit and then a return move) within the same building/complex.
- Number and cost of two-way moves to a unit not in the same building/complex

For permanent moves:

- Number and cost of one-time moves into another unit in the same building/complex.
  - Number and cost of one permanent move to a unit not within the same building/complex
  - Any required dislocation allowance
- 4) The estimated cost of projected increases in monthly housing costs and other expenses for temporary relocation (if applicable).
  - 5) The estimated cost of projected replacement housing payments (RHP) (42-month period for URA or 60-month period if Section 104(d) applies).
  - 6) Contingency costs estimated for carrying out the relocation process necessary to complete the proposed project.

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<sup>121</sup> See also, CPD Notice 2014-09 "Effective Date of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (MAP-21) Changes to Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended (URA) Payment Limits and Replacement Housing Payment Eligibility Criteria."

### **VIII. Written and Oral Communications with Individuals with Disabilities and LEP Persons and Use of Accessible Meeting Locations**

The Plan should identify how the PHA or Project Owner will take appropriate steps to ensure effective communication with residents and other individuals with disabilities involved in the relocation, such as through the provision of sign language and other interpreters and large print, Braille, accessible electronic, and other alternate format written communications. The Plan should identify the measures to be taken to ensure the most integrated meeting settings appropriate to individuals with disabilities. The Plan should identify how the PHA or Project Owner will ensure meaningful access for LEP persons, such as through written materials and oral communications provided in languages other than English.

### **IX. Appeal Process**

The Plan should specify the procedures to be followed if a resident disagrees with the PHA's or Project Owner's decision as to the resident's eligibility to receive relocation assistance, the amount of a relocation payment, or the adequacy of a comparable replacement dwelling offered to a resident. These procedures should include the process for filing a written appeal to the displacing agency and the specific appeal procedures to be followed consistent with 49 C.F.R. 24.10 (and 24 C.F.R. § 42.390 if Section 104(d) is involved).

### **X. Certification**

The Plan should contain a certification of compliance with this Notice (or H 2014-09/PIH 2014-17, if applicable), the URA, fair housing and civil rights requirements and, if applicable, Section 104(d).

### **Technical Assistance**

For detailed technical assistance regarding the contents or provisions of a written relocation plan, the PHA or Project Owner should direct questions to their RAD Transaction Manager or email [rad@hud.gov](mailto:rad@hud.gov).

## **Attachment I**

### **Goal Progress**

#### **Goal #1: Expand the supply of affordable housing**

- LMHA's total voucher count reached 3,171
- LMHA now has a total of 117 VASH Vouchers and has been allocated 5 additional vouchers effective 3/1/2025; these are not reflected in our total count.
- LMHA has 175 vouchers for persons who are non-elderly disabled (NED)
- LMHA will continue to partner with Lorain County for funding for Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) funds to assist HCVP applicants with security deposits, first month's rent and/or utility deposits in areas outside of Lorain, Elyria, and N. Ridgeville.
- LMHA partnered with the City of Elyria for funding for Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) funds to assist HCVP applicants with security deposits, first month's rent and/or utility deposits in the City of Elyria
- Promoted communities throughout Lorain County to encourage deconcentration of low-income housing from traditional areas of poverty
- Provided 62 project-based vouchers to Bridge Pointe Commons – all units are online
- Provided 16 project-based vouchers to Faith House – all units are online
- Provided 5 project-based vouchers to Family and Community Services – subsidy layering review in progress -units are expected to be online by in 2025/2026
- Provided 8 project-based vouchers to Ridgeville Farms – this project was awarded 9% tax credits in May 2023;
- Provided 50 project-based vouchers to Broadway Commons a supportive housing development – there is no movement on this project – completion date unknown
- Provided 8 project-based vouchers to South Lorain Family Apartments – there is no movement on this project
- Provided 8 project-based vouchers to Foster Senior Lofts – units are expected to be online 2025/2026

#### **Goal #2: Improve the quality of affordable housing**

- LMHA obligated \$ 465,785 in capital improvements for public housing properties;
- LMHA's Building Systems and Capital Needs Manager and Senior Maintenance Manager continue to review LMHA systems to identify critical needs, review past planning and forecast capital needs; information gathered from staff as well as current HQS and REAC inspections informed LMHA's 2025 Annual Plan and Five Year Action Plan
- LMHA completed its Physical Needs Assessment and Energy Audit in July 2023.

#### **Goal #3: Enhance the provision of services to residents, applicants, and the public**

The LMHA Resident Service Coordinators work one-on-one with residents providing needs assessments and facilitating connections with organizations who have the resources to meet the resident's needs. Resident Service Coordinators are trained to reduce resident barriers and offer resources that help with housing retention and improve the resident's quality of life. From our youth to our senior citizens, the Resident Service Coordinator is equipped with the knowledge needed to resolve challenges the resident is experiencing. The Resident Services Department plan events and functions designed to bring communities together while meeting outside agencies who offer resources useful to the residents.

Residents can also participate in programming and educational classes that promote well-being, healthy eating, financial soundness, and other topics that support the resident's overall quality of life.

Resident Councils give all residents the opportunity for their voice to be heard and to contribute to Resident Council initiatives within their property. They may also run for office or serve on committees whose goal is to listen to the residents' ideas and suggestions and work towards creating environments within their community that enhance the living experience for all.

LMHA offers the Family Self-Sufficiency Program to both the Public Housing residents and HCV participants. LMHA is also a HUD certified Housing Counseling agency. Public Housing residents and HCV participants have the opportunity to attend financial literacy and prepurchase education classes that prepare them for the purchase of their own home. Those who are not ready for homeownership can work with our HUD certified housing counselor on topics like budgeting, credit, debt reduction, savings plans, and other areas that move them closer to mortgage readiness. HCV participants who meet the HCV Homeownership program eligibility criteria, also have the opportunity to purchase their own home with their HCV assistance on the HCV Homeownership program.

Further, LMHA has multiple partnerships with community agencies who offer services designed to increase self-sufficiency and decrease need for public assistance. Many partners offer programming and assistance on site at an LMHA Resource Center in post-secondary education, job search assistance, transportation, childcare, fatherhood support and other topics crucial to self-sufficiency. Our network of providers allows us to offer a consistent stream of opportunities available to our residents. We continue to focus on increasing our partnerships and programming offered to our Public Housing residents year after year.

Following are descriptions of services and amenities offered to assisted families by LMHA:

- Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) programming for LMHA public housing and HCVP residents
- HCVP Home Ownership Option Program
- Resident Service Coordinators on staff to connect the residents with social service agencies to address their needs
- Public Housing residents were assisted by the Service Coordinator via referrals, surveys, and hardship rent exemptions.
- The Resident Service Coordinator assisted by LMHA's Resident Services staff worked with Lorain County agencies and non-profits to connect residents and participants with Emergency Rental Assistance Funds
- Resident Service Coordinator assists in mediation between Project Managers and residents to address matters of rent payment delinquency, community service, housekeeping, lease violations & minimum rent exemption applications
- The Resident Services Coordinator assisted by Executive and Resident Services staff review Resident Council organizational documents and procedures and determined that additional review and training for resident engagement and participation is needed; a Resident Council Training Program was implemented in 2023 and continues for new resident council officers with the goal of fully trained and compliant resident councils and RAB operating under updated By-laws and MOUs
- Resident Services Department helps to establish and maintain Resident Councils in LMHA public housing properties and Resident Advisory Board consisting of public housing residents and HCVP participants.

- LMHA's Green Thumb flower and garden program continues to inspire residents to take an interest in the beautification of their homes and gardens and encourage planting of annual and perennial flowers plus urban vegetable gardens. Families also cared for community gardens located at Westview, Wilkes, and Southside.
- Computer labs are available at several LMHA public housing high rises giving residents computer and internet access to look for employment, complete online applications, send/receive emails, etc.
- Resident Assistance Watch (RAW) programs to engage public housing residents in monitoring their properties. Residents can earn community service hours while participating. RAW membership is active at various LMHA high rises.
- Presentations were provided by various speakers to discuss Medicare, Medicaid, and Fraud Awareness at dedicated senior engagement events.
- LMHA is a Certified Credit Counseling agency – LMHA was without a certified housing counselor when the only LMHA Certified Housing Counselor staff member left LMHA on March 27, 2024. LMHA partnered with Urban League, a Certified Credit Counseling Agency, to maintain uninterrupted services to residents and participants. LMHA is now a Certified Counseling Agency.
- LMHA conducts Group Housing Counseling Homebuyer's Education which fulfills the HCV Homeownership program requirements
- Boys and Girls Club site at Westview Terrace provides childcare for children residing with the Housing Authority at Leavitt Homes and Westview Terrace.
- LMHA participates in the Domestic Violence Awareness Task Force in collaboration with the Genesis House Lorain County Safe Harbour
- Referrals were made to a Mary Lee Tucker application center to provide clothing for families
- Lorain County Health and Dentistry operates a medical and dental center in Wilkes Villa for residents and the general public
- Horizon Day Care facility in Wilkes Villa provides day care to residents and employment opportunities. As of December 31, 2024, there were 33 children residing at Wilkes Villa that were served by or enrolled at Horizon.
- In partnership with Horizon Education Center and the Boys and Girls Club of Lorain County, and other Lorain County non-profit providers the USDA Summer Food Program provides children with breakfast and lunch at Wilkes Villa, Leavitt Homes and Westview Terrace.
- Offer Financial Assistance for Education to assist residents to improve work skills and achieve individual and educational goals
- Publishes a quarterly newsletter to keep public housing residents informed on available housing and community programs
- Binders with community resource information are accessible to public housing residents through each development's Management office
- In collaboration with local supportive and faith-based organizations, holiday meals were provided to residents throughout LMHA properties
- LMHA participates in the Lorain County Homeless Task Force
- Coordinates employment assistance with Lorain County Goodwill: Job Club; Ohio Means Jobs:
- Catholic Charities provides resources to LMHA residents upon request
- Lorain County Health and Dentistry is on-site at Wilkes Villa and also located close to Lakeview Plaza, Kennedy Plaza, and John Frederick Oberlin Homes
- As part of the Little Free Library Initiative, 4 LMHA Public Housing properties have Little Free Libraries on site stocked with books to promote literacy and the love of reading

- Second Harvest provided Housing Authority tenants at Riverview (22 families), Kennedy (21 families), International (10 families), and Harr Plazas (23 families) with monthly Senior Food Boxes
- LMHA assisted Wilkes Villa Resident Council distribute backpacks stuffed with school supplies.
- LMHA partnered with Mini-Pioneers football to provide a youth football camp with plans to expand youth programming and opportunities.
- LMHA hosts an annual Senior Resource Fair aimed at connecting our senior population with multiple life-enriching resources.
- LMHA partnered with Catholic Charities to provide tenants at Harr and International Plazas on site assessment behavioral / mental health, counseling (individual, couple, family, and group), substance use counseling, case management, and social hours/engagement.
- LMHA partnered with AXS Performance to provide tenants at Harr and International Plazas with low impact mature exercise routine
- LMHA partnered with Knights beds and delivered 90 beds, linens, and teddy bears to Housing Authority family sites - Wilkes Villa, Southside Garden, Leavitt and Westview Terrace
- LMHA partnered with McGregor PACE to provide Harr and International Plazas tenant with an all-inclusive care coordination that includes nursing, rehab, personal care needs, home support, transportation, meals on wheels, home health care, prescription medication management, group activities (day care) physical and occupational therapy
- LMHA in collaboration with Ohio State University extension Lorain County – OHIO SNAP –ED provide LMHA high rises and family site tenants with workshops that provide recipe samplings, kitchen gadgets and conversation on healthy food topics
- LMHA collaborated with Lorain County Urban League/Serving the streets to provide Wilkes Villa, Leavitt and Westview Terrace family sites awareness on the impact of street violence to families and the community, block party to promote unity and community clean up
- LMHA partnered with Elyria Public Library WorkForce and Outreach Center to provide Harr, Riverview, and Wilkes Villa tenants a mobile van outfitted with laptops, printer, Wi-Fi and small seating for small collaboration and assistance
- LMHA collaborated with Lagrange Pharmacy to offer Housing Authority tenants at JFO a vaccine clinic

#### **Goal #4: Increase the supply of accessible housing**

- Retrofit units with desired accessible features for residents who request accommodations. Common accommodation requests which required retrofitting units are installation of grab bars, installation of walk-in showers, and installation of raised toilets.
- LMHA reviewed 285 requests for reasonable accommodations in 2024

#### **Goal #5: Promote self-sufficiency, asset development, and homeownership**

Through effective implementation of Family Self Sufficiency and Home Ownership programs, utilization of resources in the Resident Services Department, and collaboration with other agencies throughout Lorain County, LMHA aims to empower and equip families to improve their quality of life, achieve economic stability, and reduce their need for government assistance.

LMHA's Public Housing FSS program statistics for January 1, 2024, thru December 31, 2024:

#### **63 current PH FSS participants**

- 31 new participants added



- 12 graduated with final escrow disbursements totaling \$67,285.22
- 33 have positive escrow accounts totaling \$129,311.31
- 12 new escrow accounts established this year
- 18 increased their escrow deposits due to higher earned income
- 43 are employed
- 19 have been employed more than a year
- 1 participant receives Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Cash Assistance
- 7 continue to work on General Education Diploma (GED)
- 9 are enrolled in college or technical school
- 3 have earned a degree or certification
- Highest Disbursement check total \$17361.18

LMHA's Housing Choice Voucher FSS program statistics for January 1, 2024, thru December 31, 2024:

- 72 current HCV FSS participants
- 16 new participants added
- 20 graduated with final escrow disbursements totaling \$132,169.38
- 41 have positive escrow accounts totaling \$155,864.59
- 11 new accounts established this year
- 14 increased their escrow deposits due to higher earned income
- 47 are employed
- 25 have been employed more than a year
- 1 participant receives Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Cash Assistance
- 1 continues to work on their General Education Diploma (GED)
- 10 are enrolled in college
- 7 have associate degrees
- 1 has a bachelor's degree
- Highest Disbursement check total \$25,576.06

### **Homeownership Programs**

A description of any Section 5h, Section 32, Section 8y, or HOPE I public housing or Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) homeownership programs (including project number and unit count) administered by the agency or for which the PHA has applied or will apply for approval. (24 CFR §903.7(k))

LMHA's Housing Choice Voucher Home Ownership Program has 94 active participants and has assisted 221 participants to purchase homes since the program's inception in 2002. Seven (7) participants became new homeowners in 2024. LMHA has a goal of eight (8) new homeowners in 2025.

HUD's Housing Counseling program provides counseling to FSS and Homeownership participants on seeking, financing, maintaining, and owning a home. The program also assists homeownership program homeowners in need of foreclosure assistance. Counseling is provided by HUD-approved housing counseling agencies. Counseling sessions include, but are not limited to, money management and budget development, credit counseling, and analysis of individual financial profiles aimed at bringing clients closer to achieving their dream of homeownership.

In order to maintain our HUD approved status, LMHA must have 30 clients participating in housing counseling and education classes each year.

In 2024, the program had:

- 47 families complete pre-purchase homebuyer / financial literacy education workshop
- 16 families receive one-on-one counseling for pre-purchase/home buying (Through Urban League and El Centro)
- 16 Households improve their financial capacity (e.g., increased discretionary income, decreased debt load, increased savings, increased credit score) after receiving Housing Counseling Services. (Through Urban League and El Centro)
- 7 Households receive pre-purchase /home buying counseling and purchase their own homes after receiving Housing Counseling Service

**Goal #6: Promote and market LMHA's owned and managed affordable housing in Lorain County, not only Public Housing and Multifamily properties but also the HCVP Program**

- LMHA advertised through a variety of diverse daily and monthly publications and media, such as traditional newspapers, radio advertisements, ethnic publications, and coupon programs to ensure residents of Lorain County are aware of the availability of affordable housing without discrimination
- LMHA expanded its of social media outlets (Facebook, text message blasts, email blasts, message boards, website) to better communicate agency news and events to residents and the community
- LMHA printed and emailed newsletters for its residents and participants
- LMHA improved engagement with local government entities and community partners to improve access to all LMHA programs
- LMHA attends local community events to share information on affordable housing throughout Lorain County and Fair Housing resources

**Goal #7: Enhance the safety of the living environment for public housing residents**

- Continue to provide protective services at various properties as funds are available – LMHA's in house Security Services provide greater flexibility in addressing issues as they arise
- Provide above baseline police protection services at public housing properties and multifamily properties as funds are available
- LMHA has contracted to install security cameras at all family and highrise sites
- Continue to encourage residents to report suspicious or criminal activity observed at their properties
- Residents and participants use multiple alternative methods of reporting criminal or suspicious activity, such as text messaging, emailing, voicemail, or online reporting capabilities
- LMHA publicized an "if you SEE something Say something" campaign. A confidential tip line and web link allows people to report issues or suspicious activity

**Goal #8: Explore and Implement Green Initiatives**

- Continued review and implementation of lighting improvements throughout LMHA
- Reduced the amount of paper consumed through transition to Yardi Enterprise Software System, DocuSign, Adobe sign and email of documents
- Applicants now can apply electronically for Public Housing and Section 8 through the Applicant Portal

- Continuing purchase of only Energy Star appliances (refrigerators and air conditioners at several properties)
- Utilized low/no-VOC paints and sealants
- Maintain and facilitate virtual connection to site community rooms to maximize resident engagement for all residents and participants

**Goal #9: Ensure Equal Opportunity and Affirmatively Further Fair Housing**

- Conducted annual Fair Housing Training and Reasonable Accommodation training for all employees, with some being tailored to specific personnel, such as maintenance staff, receptionists, management, inspectors, case workers, etc.

**Goal #10: Promote deconcentration**

- During orientations, promote benefits of living in areas of Lorain County outside of the areas of high poverty by highlighting housing opportunities, services, employment opportunities and amenities.
- Increased affordable housing choices by assessing low poverty areas and increasing voucher payment standards.
- LMHA began using Small Area Payment Standards effective 1/1/2025. This allows the families to choose higher market rent areas that may have otherwise been unaffordable, which encourages the deconcentration of poverty.
- Supported portability by allowing families the opportunity to move outside of areas of poverty
- Encouraged the use of [www.affordablehousing.com](http://www.affordablehousing.com) where families may seek housing via the internet.
- LMHA Executive staff and HCV department held an in person HCV Landlord engagement event in January 2024 and October 2024.
- LMHA was awarded a Housing Mobility Planning Grant and is assembling a plan to help HCV families to find housing in less concentrated areas of poverty and areas of opportunity.