

to allow providers to receive funds electronically in their bank accounts; *Frequency*: On occasion; *Affected Public*: Business or other for-profit, not-for-profit institutions; *Number of Respondents*: 10,000; *Total Annual Responses*: 10,000; *Total Annual Hours*: 1,250.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access HCFA's Web Site address at <http://www.hcfa.gov/regs/prdact95.htm>, or E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and HCFA document identifier, to Paperwork@hcfa.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be mailed within 60 days of this notice directly to the HCFA Paperwork Clearance Officer designated at the following address: HCFA, Office of Information Services, Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards, Attention: Julie Brown, Room N2-14-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

Dated: December 13, 1999.

John Parmigiani,

Manager, HCFA Office of Information Services, Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards.

[FR Doc. 99-33185 Filed 12-21-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4442-N-15]

Notice of Proposed Information Collection for Public Comment: Assessment of the American Housing Survey Metropolitan Sample

AGENCY: Office of Policy Development and Research, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

DATES: *Comments Due Date:* February 22, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to:

Reports Liaison Officer, Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW, Rm. 8226, Washington, DC 20410.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David A. Vandenbroucke, Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Room 8218, Washington, DC 20410, telephone (202) 708-1060 (Ext. 5890 (this is not a toll-free number)). A copy of the proposed forms and other available documents to be submitted to OMB may be obtained from Mr. Vandenbroucke.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department will submit the proposed information collection to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended).

This Notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) Enhance the quality, utility; and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This Notice also lists the following information:

Title of Proposal: Assessment of the American Housing Survey Metropolitan Sample.

Description of the need for the information and proposed use: HUD is seeking to better understand how the American Housing Survey Metropolitan Sample (AHS-MS) data is used, and by whom. The information collected will enable the Office of Policy Development and Research to balance geographic coverage, timeliness, and cost considerations in designing the surveys, in order to develop an optimal data set for use by HUD, public agencies, education institutions, nonprofits, planners, and other interested organizations. The information collection intends to address these questions: (1) What is the current usefulness of the AHS-MS? (2) What potential additional uses does the AHS-MS have? (3) What steps can we take to achieve the survey's potential? (4) What

changes in the AHS-MS would make it more useful?

Agency Form Numbers, if Applicable: None.

Members of the affected public: Users and potential users of the AHS-MS, including academic researchers, local government workers, and private sector research workers.

Estimation of the total number of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response: The estimated number of respondents is 200. The frequency of response is 1 per respondent. The time per respondent is 10 minutes. The total hours to respond is 33.

Status of proposed information collection: Pending OMB approval.

Authority: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: December 3, 1999.

Lawrence L. Thompson,
Deputy Assistant, Secretary for Policy Development.

[FR Doc. 99-33109 Filed 12-21-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-62-M

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4434-N-06]

Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998; PIH Policy for Dealing With FY 1997 and Prior FY Unobligated Modernization Funds

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing (PIH), HUD.

ACTION: Notice of PIH Policy for dealing with FY 1997 and prior unobligated funds.

SUMMARY: This notice provides the public with information on how HUD will deal with public housing agencies (PHAs) with FY 1997 and prior unobligated modernization funds in violation of the Public Housing Reform Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William Flood, Director, Office of Capital Improvements, Public and Indian Housing, Room 4134, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20410-0500; telephone (202) 708-1640 ext. 4185 (this telephone number is not toll-free). Hearing or speech-impaired individuals may access this number via TTY by calling the toll-free federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339. Program specialists

for more specific HUD program areas are listed on the HUD web page at <http://hudweb.hud.gov/offices.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

On October 21, 1998, President Clinton signed into law the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 (Pub.L. 105–276, 112 Stat. 2461) (the “Public Housing Reform Act”) as part of the fiscal year (FY) 1999 HUD appropriations act. The Public Housing Reform Act makes extensive amendments to the United States Housing Act of 1937 (the “1937 Act”), which generally governs HUD’s public housing and tenant-based Section 8 housing assistance programs.

This notice announces what action HUD will take with respect to section 9(j)(4)(B) of the 1937 Act, established under section 519(a) of the Public Housing Reform Act, which states that:

Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), any funds appropriated to a public housing agency for fiscal year 1997 or prior fiscal year shall be fully obligated by the public housing agency not later than September 30, 1999.

There was no language in this paragraph that allowed HUD to grant exceptions to the provision. Based on the sanctions statement in a letter dated July 23, 1999 that provided notice to all PHAs affected by 9(j)(4)(B), after October 1, 1999, all PHAs with FY 1997 and prior unobligated public housing modernization funds will be subject to the following sanctions:

1. HUD will not release any FY 2000 funds for modernization activities to a PHA that has unobligated FY 1997 and prior FY modernization funds until all such unobligated funds are obligated by the PHA and HUD has reviewed and confirmed the obligation documents.

2. If these unobligated FY 1997 and prior FY funds are not fully obligated by March 30, 2000, an additional final sanction of the loss of all unobligated FY 1997 and prior FY public housing modernization funds, through notification of annual contributions contract (ACC) default and recapture of outstanding unobligated funds, shall be implemented.

PHAs are advised that they may use unobligated FY 1997 and prior FY public modernization funds for any eligible activity under section 9(d) of the 1937 Act, and are encouraged to do so to avoid the recapture of these funds.

This policy for dealing with section 9(j)(4)(B) provides PHAs a generous opportunity for compliance, given the strict language of the Congressional mandate. The Public Housing Reform Act, which enacted this provision, was

passed more than a year ago; more than nine months have passed since an initial communication on this subject in a February **Federal Register** Notice; and more than four months have passed since HUD’s letter of July 23, 1999, explaining there will be sanctions if funding were not obligated by September 30, 1999, as required.

Dated: December 15, 1999.

Harold Lucas,

Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.

[FR Doc. 99–33107 Filed 12–21–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210–33–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–4434–N–05]

Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998; Status of Implementation; Guidance

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: On October 21, 1998, President Clinton signed into law the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 (the “Public Housing Reform Act”). This statute embodies many of the reforms of the HUD 2020 Management Reform Plan that are directed at revitalizing and improving HUD’s public housing and Section 8 assistance programs. This notice updates the public on HUD’s overall implementation of the Public Housing Reform Act and identifies where existing implementation guidance may be found, with respect to the provisions regarding public housing and tenant-based assistance. This notice also provides further implementation guidance on those provisions of the Public Housing Reform Act that are effective on October 1, 1999 or on October 21, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information regarding public housing and the Section 8 certificate, voucher and moderate rehabilitation programs contact Stephen I. Holmquist, Office of Policy, Program and Legislative Initiatives, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Room 4116, Washington, DC, 20410; telephone (202) 708–0713 (this is not a toll-free number).

Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access that number via TTY by calling the Federal

Information Relay Service at (800) 877–8339. Program specialists for more specific HUD program areas are listed on the HUD web page at <http://hudweb.hud.gov/offices.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

On October 21, 1998, President Clinton signed into law the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–276, 112 Stat. 2461) (the “Public Housing Reform Act”) as part of the fiscal year 1999 HUD appropriations act. The Public Housing Reform Act makes extensive amendments to the United States Housing Act of 1937 (the “1937 Act”), which generally governs HUD’s public housing and tenant-based Section 8 housing assistance programs. Certain provisions of the Public Housing Reform Act became effective immediately on enactment (October 21, 1998). Most provisions, however, became effective on October 1, 1999, although some provisions become effective on October 21, 1999 (one year from enactment) or on other specified dates.

On February 18, 1999 (64 FR 8192), HUD published a Notice of Initial Guidance on the Public Housing Reform Act to advise the public of those provisions that were effective immediately and of action that may or should be taken at that point. The Notice also provided guidance on certain other provisions in the fiscal year 1999 HUD appropriations act that affect the public housing and Section 8 programs. Since publication of the February 18, 1999 notice, HUD has published numerous other notices and proposed, interim, and final rules to implement the Public Housing Reform Act.

This notice updates the public on HUD’s overall implementation of the Public Housing Reform Act and identifies where existing implementation guidance may be found, with respect to the provisions regarding public housing and tenant-based assistance. The notice also provides further implementation guidance on those provisions of the Public Housing Reform Act that became effective on October 1, 1999, or on October 21, 1999.

Some of the Public Housing Reform Act provisions do not require HUD rulemaking, while others are the subject of rulemaking that is still in progress. For rulemaking that is still in progress, this notice provides guidance that Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) should follow until HUD completes rulemaking. Unless provided otherwise in this Notice published today, PHAs that follow HUD’s guidance will not be