

U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development
Public Housing and HCV NEWSLETTER

Honolulu Field Office
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www.hud.gov

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

THE HONOLULU OFFICE OF PUBLIC HOUSING IS STARTING THIS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER AS ONE WAY TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A DIGEST OF INFORMATION TO KEEP YOU UP TO DATE WITH CHANGES IN THE HUD PUBLIC HOUSING AND HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAMS. WE INVITE YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON HOW WE CAN MAKE THIS NEWSLETTER BENEFICIAL TO YOU. PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK TO marie.miguel-cortez@hud.gov. ALSO, PLEASE PROVIDE THE E-MAIL ADDRESSES OF YOUR STAFF IF YOU WANT THEM TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER DIRECTLY.

FEATURED SPOTLIGHT
VETERANS AFFAIRS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-161) provided new funding for the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Program. Begun in 1992, the HUD-VASH program is a partnership between HUD and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to serve veterans who are homeless and mentally ill or with substance abuse disorders by closely linking two interventions:

1. Permanent affordable housing through the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program (Section 8)
2. Community-oriented outreach, clinical care and case management services through VA

Through 2002, HUD funded three rounds of almost 600 vouchers each (a total of 1,753) for this special needs Section 8 program. At the same time, VA medical centers formed clinical case management teams at 34 sites, usually social workers or nurses to provide outreach, clinical care and case management services to the veterans housed through the program. VA identifies the homeless veterans with severe psychiatric and/or substance abuse disorders through outreach efforts. The participating veterans receive treatment and become medically stabilized prior to being referred to the Public Housing Agency (PHA) for issuance of the HCV voucher. For the FY 2008 funding, the allocation of VASH vouchers to a HUD Field Office was based on the location of the VA medical center and the number of VA case managers. For the VA medical center located on Oahu, we received an allocation of 70 VASH vouchers (35 per VA counselor). The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) has been selected as the agency to work with the local VA and administer the vouchers. We did not receive any separate allocation of VASH vouchers for the neighbor islands, Guam, or the Northern Mariana Islands.

Contact Jun Chung at jun.chung@hud.gov (808-522-8175 x260) if you have questions regarding the HUD-VASH program.

PUBLIC HOUSING NEWS

Operating Subsidy

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-161) provided \$4.194 billion in operating subsidies for CY 2008. HUD estimates total eligibility for CY 2008 to be about \$5.0 billion, which would result in a pro-ration of 84%. The last PHA subsidy submissions were due by February 13, 2008. A revised estimate of pro-ration will be available on/around May 2008. For the initial obligation of subsidy, each PHA's amount was based on the CY 2007 eligibility adjusted by applying the 2008 non-utility inflation factor to the Project Expense Level and the 2008 utility inflation factor to the Utilities Expense Level. The total CY 2007 eligibility was then multiplied by 84% pro-ration. Funding was allocated to projects based on each project's prorated share of the total PHA units. Please note that a number of factors may influence a project's final CY 2008 subsidy eligibility, including changes in the project's unit inventory.

SAGIS (Subsidy and Grants Information System)

The SAGIS system link will be restored and available to users starting at 7:00 a.m. Eastern time on Monday March 3, 2008. PHAs will have from 7:00 a.m. Eastern time on Monday March 3, 2008 to 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on Friday April 25, 2008, to submit their applications for operating subsidy. By March 1, 2008, PHAs will receive the second interim obligation of Operating Subsidy from HUD. This second interim obligation will provide funding for March through June 2008. The amount of the obligated funds will be available to PHAs, by March 1, 2008, through eLOCCS. The funding will be calculated by the same methodology used in the determination of funding for January and February 2008.

Contact Mei Tong at mei.tong@hud.gov (808- 522-8175 x230) if you have questions regarding operating subsidy and enhanced SAGIS.

Asset Management

Beginning July 1, 2008 for HPHA and October 1, 2008 for the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority (GHURA), operating subsidy funding will be provided by project or what has been referred to as the Asset Management Project (AMP).

On February 8, 2008, HUD published for public comment in the Federal Register its proposed "Management Review for Public Housing Projects," form HUD-5834 (FR-5194-N-02). Because of the importance of the management review to HUD's new system of oversight under asset management, we have dedicated a special edition of the e-Newsletter to the subject of on-site management reviews. This issue is intended to help public housing agencies (PHAs) understand how these reviews will be conducted, the information to be collected, and the relationship of these reviews to scoring under the new Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS). Go to the link below for the latest e-Newsletter.

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

SECTION 8 VOUCHER NEWS

On February 21, 2008, the HUD Financial Management Center disbursed a message to inform all HCV Program PHAs that, pursuant to the provision included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, the previously announced deadline for issuance of the 2008 funding allocations has been extended to March 14, 2008.

All agencies are also advised that, upon completion of the allocations, an additional HAP disbursement will be made in the month of March to all agencies that will have been under-disbursed for the first three months of the year.

HOMEOWNERSHIP REPORT

This section is currently in the planning stages. The goal is to show a running total of homeownership benchmarks accomplished or in progress. Requests for data will be forthcoming.

PIC AND OTHER SYSTEM NEWS

Good news! PHA Security Coordinators can now authorize staff that needs to view the full name, SSN and date of birth of tenants under the HUD-50058 module in PIC. The Department masked the data a few years ago due to the Privacy Act of 1975. The masking of the participants' information made it difficult for staff at the PHA and HUD Field Office to verify and confirm data that are critical to one of the Department's requirements in ensuring that data submitted to PIC is accurate and complete.

Below are the instructions for the PHA Security Coordinator to authorize appropriate staff to view the unmasked tenant information. Note that this privilege is **not intended for all users**; only users with a need to know should be granted authority to see the unmasked data. The procedures for the PHA Security Coordinator to authorize users are as follows:

- Navigate in Security Administration to the account of the user to be given “special system privileges”.
- Click “Modify Special Privileges”.
- Put a check in the “View Unmasked Privacy Data” box and click “Save Special Privileges”.
- The user will immediately be able to see the full name, full date of birth and full SSN in all screens and reports in IMS-PIC.

To remove special system privileges:

If a user no longer requires access to all of the personal data due to reassignment or promotion, navigate to the user’s account, remove the checkmark and click “Save Special Privileges” to re-mask privacy data

You may click on the following link to view the IMS-PIC Headline on the unmasking of data.

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/systems/pic/news/picheadlines2008.cfm#6>

Contact Darlene Kaholokula at darlene.l.kaholokula@hud.gov (808-522-8175 x240) regarding questions on the unmasking of data.

HUDCLIPS

The latest Notices for the Public Housing and HCV programs can be found at

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/publications/notices>

and are also available though HUDClips at

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/hudclips/notices/pih/>

The HUDCLIPS website provides direct access to HUD forms, notices, handbooks, regulations and other information about the HUD programs.

HUDClips is located at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/hudclips>

TRAINING

Webcasts (Webcasts are archived at <http://www.hud.gov/webcasts/index.cfm>)

- January 16, 2008 – Enterprise Income Verification (EIV)
- December 12, 2007 – SAGIS