(3) Counseling Subcontractor

The HA must submit a letter from the NPO with which it intends to subcontract with its application that describes the services, unless the HA decides to undertake the counseling services itself. The letter from the NPO must explain in detail the services to be performed on behalf of the HA and the experience or qualifications of the subcontractor to perform the services. The NPO letter will explain the timing and method of payment from the HA. In order for HUD to evaluate the cost of the proposed services, the HA and the NPO subcontractor must include information on the indirect cost arrangement to be established between the HA and the NPO. The NPO must submit documentation as a part of the application that verifies the 501(c)(3) (IRS Code) status of the NPO and its legal authority to operate throughout the metropolitan area. If the HA intends to perform the counseling services itself, the HA must provide the details of its capability to undertake the proposed counseling as required by section V.(D)(2) of this NOFA.

(4) Eligible Families

The application must describe the order of priorities for families to receive counseling services. Section V.(B)(4) of this NOFA establishes the first order of priorities of families to receive counseling. HAs have the discretion to establish preferences within the order of priorities and add priorities to the end of the list identified by HUD. The application must also include the number of Section 8 rental voucher and certificate holders as well as current Section 8 participants that are anticipated to be eligible for housing counseling under this set-aside and the subprograms of this NOFA for Persons with HIV/AIDS, Mainstream Housing, and Homeless Families.

(5) Management and Staffing Plans and Budget

The HA must submit a management plan, staffing plan and complete a five-year budget for the housing counseling program that, at a minimum meets the requirements of Section V.(B)(3) of this NOFA. The staffing plan should include a brief resume of each principal of the NPO and a list of its Board of Directors or other governing body.

If the HA proposes services beyond those required in Section V.(B)(3) of this NOFA, the application must include a separate and comprehensive, five-year budget that reflects all minimum and extra services to be provided. This budget is not in lieu of, but is in

addition to, the budget for the minimum services.

(6) Application Revisions After Submission to HUD

HUD will provide the applicant an opportunity to revise its application after submission to HUD in response to specific written comments from HUD. The HA will have a thirty calendar day period from the date of HUD's letter to satisfy all issues with HUD. Applicants will be allowed to respond to HUD comments more than once during the thirty day correction period so long as the negotiations are completed by the thirty calendar day deadline.

- (E) Corrections to Deficient Applications for Section 8 Counseling
- (1) Acceptable Applications

See Section V.(D)(6) of this NOFA for the applicable provisions.

(2) Unacceptable Applications

The 14 calendar day technical correction period does not apply to this NOFA. See Section VIII.(D)(6) of this NOFA for the applicable provisions.

(F) Application Selection Process for Section 8 Counseling

(1) General

The funds available under this NOFA are being awarded on a formula basis as listed in Attachment 5 of the NOFA. An HA must submit an application to receive the Section 8 counseling funds. Applications will be reviewed by HUD Headquarters to determine whether or not they are technically adequate and responsive to the application submission criteria based on the NOFA requirements. An application must receive a minimum score of 40 points under the threshold criteria shown below in order to be approvable for funding. To expedite the review of applications and the award of funds under this subprogram, HUD Headquarters may initiate its review of any application received prior to the deadline established for submission.

HUD will allocate the available funding to the HAs identified in technically adequate and responsive applications. If HUD receives applications for funding less than the amount made available for an area under this NOFA, due to failure of an applicant to apply or due to technically inadequate applications, HUD will make these funds available to other applicants.

- (2) Application Threshold Criteria
- (a) Threshold Criterion 1: Proposed Methodology for Housing Counseling Services (40 points).

HUD Headquarters will assign up to 40 points for the proposed methodologies for conducting the housing counseling program, landlord outreach and program evaluation. The highest assessment of points is limited to those applications where the applicant provides an excellent understanding of the services to be performed and proposed innovative techniques to achieve the goals of the set-aside.

(b) Threshold Criterion 2: Experience and Capability of NPO/HA (35 points).

HUD Headquarters will assign up to 35 points for an application where the NPO/HA providing the housing counseling services has the capability and experience to successfully undertake the housing counseling services. No points will be awarded for an application that shows the service provider has minimal experience or experience only in the normal Section 8 Equal Opportunity Housing Plan activities.

VI. NOFA for Mainstream Housing Opportunities for Persons With Disabilities (Mainstream Program)

(A) Mainstream Program Application Deadline Date

The deadline date for Mainstream Program applications is listed in Section I.(B) of the NOFA.

(B) Purpose and Substantive Description of Mainstream Program

(1) Purpose

The Secretary has established a Mainstream Housing Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Program (Mainstream Program) to provide rental vouchers and certificates to enable persons with disabilities to rent affordable private housing of their choice, in a nonsegregated environment.

Federal housing assistance for persons with disabilities has generally been provided under project-based programs targeted for groups with special needs (i.e., housing exclusively for persons with disabilities or housing exclusively for the elderly and disabled populations). This approach partly reflects the disparity between the needs of persons with disabilities and the availability of decent, affordable and accessible housing in an integrated setting. In addition, persons with disabilities often face difficulties in locating suitable and accessible housing on the private market and linking their