

*F. Section 112 of the HUD Reform Act 1989*

A final rule published in the **Federal Register** on September 7, 1993, amended the definition of "person" to exclude from coverage a State or local government, or the officer or employee of a State or local government or housing finance agency thereof who is engaged in the official business of the State or local government.

Any questions concerning the rule should be directed to the Office of Ethics, Room 2158, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20410. Telephone: (202) 708-3815 (voice/TDD). This is not a toll-free number. Forms necessary for compliance with the rule may be obtained from the local HUD office.

*G. Prohibition Against Advance Information on Funding Decisions*

Section 103 of the HUD Reform Act proscribes the communication of certain information by HUD employees to persons not authorized to receive that information during the selection process for the award of assistance. HUD's regulation implementing section 103 is codified at 24 CFR part 4. That regulation applies to the funding competition announced today. The requirements of the rule continue to apply until the announcement of the selection of successful applicants.

HUD employees involved in the review of applications and in the making of funding decisions are restrained by 24 CFR part 4 from providing advance information to any person (other than an authorized

employee of HUD) concerning funding decisions, or from otherwise giving any applicant an unfair competitive advantage. Persons who apply for assistance in this competition should confine their inquiries to the subject areas permitted by 24 CFR part 4.

Applicants who have questions should contact the HUD Office of Ethics (202) 708-3815 (voice/TDD). (This is not a toll-free number.) The Office of Ethics can provide information of a general nature to HUD employees, as well. However, a HUD employee who has specific program questions, such as whether particular subject matter can be discussed with persons outside the Department, should contact his or her Regional or Field Office Counsel, or Headquarters Counsel for the program to which the question pertains.

*H. Accountability in the Provision of HUD Assistance*

HUD's regulations at 24 CFR part 12 implement section 102 of the HUD Reform Act. Section 102 contains a number of provisions designed to ensure greater accountability and integrity in the provision of certain types of assistance administered by HUD. The following requirements concerning documentation and public access disclosures are applicable to assistance awarded under this NOFA.

1. Documentation and Public Access. HUD will ensure that documentation and other information regarding each application submitted pursuant to this NOFA are sufficient to indicate the basis upon which assistance was provided or denied. This material, including any letters of support, will be made

available for public inspection for a five-year period beginning not less than 30 days after the award of the assistance. Material will be made available in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and HUD's implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 15. In addition, HUD will include the recipients of assistance pursuant to this NOFA in its **Federal Register** notice of all recipients of HUD assistance awarded on a competitive basis. (See 24 CFR 12.14(a) and 12.16(b), and the notice published in the **Federal Register** on January 16, 1992 (57 FR 1942), for further information on these requirements.)

2. Disclosures. HUD will make available to the public for five years all applicant disclosure reports (HUD Form 2880) submitted in connection with this NOFA. Update reports (also Form 2880) will be made available along with the applicant disclosure reports, but in no case for a period of less than three years. All reports—both applicant disclosures and updates—will be made available in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and HUD's implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 15. (See 24 CFR part 12, subpart C, and the notice published in the **Federal Register** on January 16, 1992 (57 FR 1942), for further information on these disclosure requirements.)

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**Joseph Shuldiner,**

*Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.*

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