

of the "chief executive officer of a unit of general local government" are: the elected mayor of a municipality; the elected county executive of a county; the chairperson of a county commission or board in a county that has no elected county executive; and the official designated pursuant to law by the governing body of a unit of general local government.

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4. Section 970.4 is amended by:

- a. Removing paragraphs (b) and (c);
- b. Redesignating paragraphs (d) and (e) as paragraphs (b) and (c), respectively;
- c. Revising newly redesignated paragraph (c); and
- d. Adding new paragraphs (d), (e), (f), and (g), to read as follows:

§ 970.4 General requirements for HUD approval of applications for demolition or disposition.

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(c) Demolition or disposition (including any related replacement housing plan) will meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321), the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 469), and related laws, as stated in the Department's regulations at part 50 of this title. Where the site of the replacement housing is unknown at the time of submission of the application for demolition or disposition, the application shall contain a certification that the applicant agrees to assist HUD to comply with part 50 of this title and that the applicant shall:

(1) Supply HUD with all available, relevant information necessary for HUD to perform for each property any environmental review required by part 50 of this title;

(2) Carry out mitigating measures required by HUD or select alternate eligible property; and

(3) Not acquire, rehabilitate, convert, lease, repair or construct property, or commit HUD or local funds to such program activities with respect to any eligible property, until HUD approval is received.

(d) The public housing agency has developed a replacement housing plan, in accordance with § 970.11, and has obtained a commitment for the funds necessary to carry out the plan over the approved schedule of the plan. To the extent such funding is not provided from other sources (e.g., State or local programs or proceeds of disposition), HUD approval of the application for demolition or disposition is conditioned on HUD's agreement to commit the

necessary funds (subject to availability of future appropriations).

(e) The PHA has complied with the offering to resident organizations, as required under § 970.13.

(f) The PHA has prepared a certification regarding relocation of residents, in accordance with § 970.5(h)(1). If relocation is required, the PHA must submit a relocation plan in accordance with § 970.5.

(g) The PHA has made the appropriate certifications regarding site and neighborhood standards, in accordance with § 970.11(h)(2) and (4).

5. Section 970.5 is revised to read as follows:

§ 970.5 Displacement and relocation.

(a) *Relocation of displaced tenants on a nondiscriminatory basis.* Tenants who are to be displaced as a result of demolition or disposition must be offered opportunities to relocate to other comparable/suitable (see HUD Handbook 1378, Tenant Assistance, Relocation and Real Property Acquisition) decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing (at rents no higher than permitted under the Act.) which is, to the maximum extent practicable, housing of their choice, on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, religion (creed), national origin, handicap, age, familial status, or sex, in compliance with applicable Federal and State laws.

(b) *Relocation resources.* Relocation may be to other publicly assisted housing. Housing assisted under Section 8 of the Act, including housing available for lease under the Section 8 Housing Voucher Program, may also be used for relocation, provided the PHA ensures that displaced tenants are provided referrals to comparable/suitable relocation dwelling units where the family's share of the rent to owner following relocation will not exceed the total tenant payment, as calculated in accordance with § 813.107 of this title. If the PHA provides referrals to suitable/comparable relocation housing (comparable housing if the displacement is subject to the URA) and a tenant with a rental voucher elects to lease a housing unit where the family's share of rent to owner exceeds the amount calculated in accordance with § 813.107 of this title, the tenant will be responsible for the difference between the voucher payment standard and the rent to owner. If there are no units with rents at or below the voucher payment standard to which the PHA may refer families, then the PHA cannot use vouchers as a relocation housing source.

(c) *Applicability of URA rules.* (1) The displacement of any person (household,

business or nonprofit organization) as a direct result of acquisition, rehabilitation, or demolition for a Federal or federally assisted project (defined in paragraph (j) of this section) is subject to the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, (URA) (42 U.S.C. 4601-4655) and implementing regulations at 49 CFR part 24. Therefore, if the PHA demolishes the property, or disposes of it to a Federal agency or to a person or entity that is acquiring the property for a federally assisted project, the demolition or acquisition is subject to the URA, and any person displaced (as described in paragraph (i) of this section) as a result of such action is eligible for relocation assistance at the levels described in, and in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR part 24.

(2) As described in § 970.11, public housing units that are demolished must be replaced. Any person displaced (see paragraph (i) of this section) as a direct result of acquisition, demolition or rehabilitation for a project receiving Federal financial assistance (e.g., ACC) that provides the required replacement housing, must be provided relocation assistance at the levels described in, and in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR part 24.

(d) *Applicability of antidisplacement plan.* If CDBG funds (part 570 of this title), or HOME funds (part 91 of this title) are used to pay any part of the cost of the demolition or the cost of a project (defined in paragraph (j) of this section) for which the property is acquired, the transaction is subject to the Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan, as described in the cited regulations.

(e) *Relocation assistance for other displaced persons.* Whenever the displacement of a residential tenant (family, individual or other household) occurs in connection with the disposition of the real property, but the conveyance is not for a Federal or federally assisted project (and is, therefore, not covered by the URA), the displaced tenant shall be eligible for the following relocation assistance:

(1) *Advance written notice of the expected displacement.* The notice shall be provided as soon as feasible, describe the assistance to be provided and the procedures for obtaining the assistance; and contain the name, address and phone number of an official responsible for providing the assistance;

(2) Other advisory services, as appropriate, including counseling and referrals to suitable, decent, safe, and sanitary replacement housing. Minority