

FEDERAL REGULATIONS COMPLIANCE PACKET

CITY OF HOUSTON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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- **Federal Labor Standards Provisions**
- **Minority, Women & Small Business Enterprises (MWSBE)**
- **Pay Or Play Program**
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FEDERAL LABOR STANDARDS PROVISIONS (HUD-4010)

Federal Labor Standards Provisions

U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development
Office of Labor Relations

Applicability

The Project or Program to which the construction work covered by this contract pertains is being assisted by the United States of America and the following Federal Labor Standards Provisions are included in this Contract pursuant to the provisions applicable to such Federal assistance.

A. 1. (i) Minimum Wages. All laborers and mechanics employed or working upon the site of the work, will be paid unconditionally and not less often than once a week, and without subsequent deduction or rebate on any account (except such payroll deductions as are permitted by regulations issued by the Secretary of Labor under the Copeland Act (29 CFR Part 3), the full amount of wages and bona fide fringe benefits (or cash equivalents thereof) due at time of payment computed at rates not less than those contained in the wage determination of the Secretary of Labor which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, regardless of any contractual relationship which may be alleged to exist between the contractor and such laborers and mechanics. Contributions made or costs reasonably anticipated for bona fide fringe benefits under Section 1(b)(2) of the Davis-Bacon Act on behalf of laborers or mechanics are considered wages paid to such laborers or mechanics, subject to the provisions of 29 CFR 5.5(a)(1)(iv); also, regular contributions made or costs incurred for more than a weekly period (but not less often than quarterly) under plans, funds, or programs, which cover the particular weekly period, are deemed to be constructively made or incurred during such weekly period.

Such laborers and mechanics shall be paid the appropriate wage rate and fringe benefits on the wage determination for the classification of work actually performed, without regard to skill, except as provided in 29 CFR 5.5(a)(4). Laborers or mechanics performing work in more than one classification may be compensated at the rate specified for each classification for the time actually worked therein: Provided, That the employer's payroll records accurately set forth the time spent in each classification in which work is performed. The wage determination (including any additional classification and wage rates conformed under 29 CFR 5.5(a)(1)(ii) and the Davis-Bacon poster (WH-1321) shall be posted at all times by the contractor and its subcontractors at the site of the work in a prominent and accessible, place where it can be easily seen by the workers.

(ii) (a) Any class of laborers or mechanics which is not listed in the wage determination and which is to be employed under the contract shall be classified in conformance with the wage determination. HUD shall approve an additional classification and wage rate and fringe benefits therefor only when the following criteria have been met:

(1) The work to be performed by the classification requested is not performed by a classification in the wage determination; and

(2) The classification is utilized in the area by the construction industry; and

(3) The proposed wage rate, including any bona fide fringe benefits, bears a reasonable relationship to the wage rates contained in the wage determination.

(b) If the contractor and the laborers and mechanics to be employed in the classification (if known), or their representatives, and HUD or its designee agree on the classification and wage rate (including the amount designated for fringe benefits where appropriate), a report of the action taken shall be sent by HUD or its designee to the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Employment Standards Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D.C. 20210. The Administrator, or an authorized representative, will approve, modify, or disapprove every additional classification action within 30 days of receipt and so advise HUD or its designee or will notify HUD or its designee within the 30-day period that additional time is necessary. (Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under OMB control number 1215-0140.)

(c) In the event the contractor, the laborers or mechanics to be employed in the classification or their representatives, and HUD or its designee do not agree on the proposed classification and wage rate (including the amount designated for fringe benefits, where appropriate), HUD or its designee shall refer the questions, including the views of all interested parties and the recommendation of HUD or its designee, to the Administrator for determination.

The Administrator, or an authorized representative, will issue a determination within 30 days of receipt and so advise HUD or its designee or will notify HUD or its designee within the 30-day period that additional time is necessary. (Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under OMB Control Number 1215-0140.)

(d) The wage rate (including fringe benefits where appropriate) determined pursuant to subparagraphs (1)(ii)(b) or (c) of this paragraph, shall be paid to all workers performing work in the classification under this contract from the first day on which work is performed in the classification.

(iii) Whenever the minimum wage rate prescribed in the contract for a class of laborers or mechanics includes a fringe benefit which is not expressed as an hourly rate, the contractor shall either pay the benefit as stated in the wage determination or shall pay another bona fide fringe benefit or an hourly cash equivalent thereof.

(iv) If the contractor does not make payments to a trustee or other third person, the contractor may consider as part

of the wages of any laborer or mechanic the amount of any costs reasonably anticipated in providing bona fide fringe benefits under a plan or program. Provided, That the Secretary of Labor has found, upon the written request of the contractor, that the applicable standards of the Davis-Bacon Act have been met. The Secretary of Labor may require the contractor to set aside in a separate account assets for the meeting of obligations under the plan or program. (Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under OMB Control Number 1215-0140.)

2. Withholding. HUD or its designee shall upon its own action or upon written request of an authorized representative of the Department of Labor withhold or cause to be withheld from the contractor under this contract or any other Federal contract with the same prime contractor, or any other Federally-assisted contract subject to Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements, which is held by the same prime contractor so much of the accrued payments or advances as may be considered necessary to pay laborers and mechanics, including apprentices, trainees and helpers, employed by the contractor or any subcontractor the full amount of wages required by the contract. In the event of failure to pay any laborer or mechanic, including any apprentice, trainee or helper, employed or working on the site of the work, all or part of the wages required by the contract, HUD or its designee may, after written notice to the contractor, sponsor, applicant, or owner, take such action as may be necessary to cause the suspension of any further payment, advance, or guarantee of funds until such violations have ceased. HUD or its designee may, after written notice to the contractor, disburse such amounts withheld for and on account of the contractor or subcontractor to the respective employees to whom they are due. The Comptroller General shall make such disbursements in the case of direct Davis-Bacon Act contracts.

3. (i) Payrolls and basic records. Payrolls and basic records relating thereto shall be maintained by the contractor during the course of the work preserved for a period of three years thereafter for all laborers and mechanics working at the site of the work. Such records shall contain the name, address, and social security number of each such worker, his or her correct classification, hourly rates of wages paid (including rates of contributions or costs anticipated for bona fide fringe benefits or cash equivalents thereof of the types described in Section I(b)(2)(B) of the Davis-bacon Act), daily and weekly number of hours worked, deductions made and actual wages paid. Whenever the Secretary of Labor has found under 29 CFR 5.5 (a)(1)(iv) that the wages of any laborer or mechanic include the amount of any costs reasonably anticipated in providing benefits under a plan or program described in Section I(b)(2)(B) of the Davis-Bacon Act, the contractor shall maintain records which show that the commitment to provide such benefits is enforceable, that the plan or program is financially responsible, and that the plan or program has been

communicated in writing to the laborers or mechanics affected, and records which show the costs anticipated or the actual cost incurred in providing such benefits. Contractors employing apprentices or trainees under approved programs shall maintain written evidence of the registration of apprenticeship programs and certification of trainee programs, the registration of the apprentices and trainees, and the ratios and wage rates prescribed in the applicable programs. (Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under OMB Control Numbers 1215-0140 and 1215-0017.)

(ii) (a) The contractor shall submit weekly for each week in which any contract work is performed a copy of all payrolls to HUD or its designee if the agency is a party to the contract, but if the agency is not such a party, the contractor will submit the payrolls to the applicant sponsor, or owner, as the case may be, for transmission to HUD or its designee. The payrolls submitted shall set out accurately and completely all of the information required to be maintained under 29 CFR 5.5(a)(3)(i) except that full social security numbers and home addresses shall not be included on weekly transmittals. Instead the payrolls shall only need to include an individually identifying number for each employee (e.g., the last four digits of the employee's social security number). The required weekly payroll information may be submitted in any form desired. Optional Form WH-347 is available for this purpose from the Wage and Hour Division Web site at <http://www.dol.gov/esa/whd/forms/wh347instr.htm> or its successor site. The prime contractor is responsible for the submission of copies of payrolls by all subcontractors. Contractors and subcontractors shall maintain the full social security number and current address of each covered worker, and shall provide them upon request to HUD or its designee if the agency is a party to the contract, but if the agency is not such a party, the contractor will submit the payrolls to the applicant sponsor, or owner, as the case may be, for transmission to HUD or its designee, the contractor, or the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor for purposes of an investigation or audit of compliance with prevailing wage requirements. It is not a violation of this subparagraph for a prime contractor to require a subcontractor to provide addresses and social security numbers to the prime contractor for its own records, without weekly submission

to HUD or its designee. (Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under OMB Control Number 1215-0149.)

(b) Each payroll submitted shall be accompanied by a "Statement of Compliance," signed by the contractor or subcontractor or his or her agent who pays or supervises the payment of the persons employed under the contract and shall certify the following:

(1) That the payroll for the payroll period contains the information required to be provided under 29 CFR 5.5 (a)(3)(ii), the appropriate information is being maintained under 29 CFR 5.5(a)(3)(i), and that such information is correct and complete;

Previous editions are obsolete

(2) That each laborer or mechanic (including each helper, apprentice, and trainee) employed on the contract during the payroll period has been paid the full weekly wages earned, without rebate, either directly or indirectly, and that no deductions have been made either directly or indirectly from the full wages earned, other than permissible deductions as set forth in 29 CFR Part 3;

(3) That each laborer or mechanic has been paid not less than the applicable wage rates and fringe benefits or cash equivalents for the classification of work performed, as specified in the applicable wage determination incorporated into the contract.

(c) The weekly submission of a properly executed certification set forth on the reverse side of Optional Form WH-347 shall satisfy the requirement for submission of the "Statement of Compliance" required by subparagraph A. 3. (ii)(b).

(d) The falsification of any of the above certifications may subject the contractor or subcontractor to civil or criminal prosecution under Section 1001 of Title 18 and Section 231 of Title 31 of the United States Code.

(iii) The contractor or subcontractor shall make the records required under subparagraph A.3.(i) available for inspection, copying, or transcription by authorized representatives of HUD or its designee or the Department of Labor, and shall permit such representatives to interview employees during working hours on the job. If the contractor or subcontractor fails to submit the required records or to make them available, HUD or its designee may, after written notice to the contractor, sponsor, applicant or owner, take such action as may be necessary to cause the suspension of any further payment, advance, or guarantee of funds. Furthermore, failure to submit the required records upon request or to make such records available may be grounds for debarment action pursuant to 29 CFR 5.12.

4. Apprentices and Trainees.

(i) **Apprentices.** Apprentices will be permitted to work at less than the predetermined rate for the work they performed when they are employed pursuant to and individually registered in a bona fide apprenticeship program registered with the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services, or with a State Apprenticeship Agency recognized by the Office, or if a person is employed in his or her first 90 days of probationary employment as an apprentice in such an apprenticeship program, who is not individually registered in the program, but who has been certified by the Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services or a State Apprenticeship Agency (where appropriate) to be eligible for probationary employment as an apprentice.

The allowable ratio of apprentices to journeymen on the job site in any craft classification shall not be greater than the ratio permitted to the contractor as to the entire work force under the registered program. Any worker listed on a payroll at an apprentice wage rate, who

is not registered or otherwise employed as stated above, shall be paid not less than the applicable wage rate on the wage determination for the classification of work actually performed. In addition, any apprentice performing work on the job site in excess of the ratio permitted under the registered program shall be paid not less than the applicable wage rate on the wage determination for the work actually performed. Where a contractor is performing construction on a project in a locality other than that in which its program is registered, the ratios and wage rates (expressed in percentages of the journeyman's hourly rate) specified in the contractor's or subcontractor's registered program shall be observed. Every apprentice must be paid at not less than the rate specified in the registered program for the apprentice's level of progress, expressed as a percentage of the journeymen hourly rate specified in the applicable wage determination. Apprentices shall be paid fringe benefits in accordance with the provisions of the apprenticeship program. If the apprenticeship program does not specify fringe benefits, apprentices must be paid the full amount of fringe benefits listed on the wage determination for the applicable

classification. If the Administrator determines that a different practice prevails for the applicable apprentice classification, fringes shall be paid in accordance with that determination. In the event the Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services, or a State Apprenticeship Agency recognized by the Office, withdraws approval of an apprenticeship program, the contractor will no longer be permitted to utilize apprentices at less than the applicable predetermined rate for the work performed until an acceptable program is approved.

(ii) **Trainees.** Except as provided in 29 CFR 5.16, trainees will not be permitted to work at less than the predetermined rate for the work performed unless they are employed pursuant to and individually registered in a program which has received prior approval, evidenced by formal certification by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. The ratio of trainees to journeymen on the job site shall not be greater than permitted under the plan approved by the Employment and Training Administration. Every trainee must be paid at not less than the rate specified in the approved program for the trainee's level of progress, expressed as a percentage of the journeyman hourly rate specified in the applicable wage determination. Trainees shall be paid fringe benefits in accordance with the provisions of the trainee program. If the trainee program does not mention fringe benefits, trainees shall be paid the full amount of fringe benefits listed on the wage determination unless the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division determines that there is an apprenticeship program associated with the corresponding journeyman wage rate on the wage determination which provides for less than full fringe benefits for apprentices. Any employee listed on the payroll at a trainee rate who is not registered and participating in a training plan approved by

the Employment and Training Administration shall be paid not less than the applicable wage rate on the wage determination for the work actually performed. In addition, any trainee performing work on the job site in excess of the ratio permitted under the registered program shall be paid not less than the applicable wage rate on the wage determination for the work actually performed.

In the event the Employment and Training Administration withdraws approval of a training program, the contractor will no longer be permitted to utilize trainees at less than the applicable predetermined rate for the work performed until an acceptable program is approved.

(iii) **Equal employment opportunity.** The utilization of apprentices, trainees and journeymen under 29 CFR Part 5 shall be in conformity with the equal employment opportunity requirements of Executive Order 11246, as amended, and 29 CFR Part 30.

5. Compliance with Copeland Act requirements. The contractor shall comply with the requirements of 29 CFR Part 3 which are incorporated by reference in this contract

6. Subcontracts. The contractor or subcontractor will insert in any subcontracts the clauses contained in subparagraphs 1 through 11 in this paragraph A and such other clauses as HUD or its designee may by appropriate instructions require, and a copy of the applicable prevailing wage decision, and also a clause requiring the subcontractors to include these clauses in any lower tier subcontracts. The prime contractor shall be responsible for the compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with all the contract clauses in this paragraph.

7. Contract termination; debarment. A breach of the contract clauses in 29 CFR 5.5 may be grounds for termination of the contract and for debarment as a contractor and a subcontractor as provided in 29 CFR 5.12.

8. Compliance with Davis-Bacon and Related Act Requirements. All rulings and interpretations of the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts contained in 29 CFR Parts 1, 3, and 5 are herein incorporated by reference in this contract

9. Disputes concerning labor standards. Disputes arising out of the labor standards provisions of this contract shall not be subject to the general disputes clause of this contract. Such disputes shall be resolved in accordance with the procedures of the Department of Labor set forth in 29 CFR Parts 5, 6, and 7. Disputes within the meaning of this clause include disputes between the contractor (or any of its subcontractors) and HUD or its designee, the U.S. Department of Labor, or the employees or their representatives.

10. (i) Certification of Eligibility. By entering into this contract the contractor certifies that neither it (nor he or she) nor any person or firm who has an interest in the contractor's firm is a person or firm ineligible to be awarded Government contracts by virtue of Section 3(a) of the Davis-Bacon Act or 29 CFR 5.12(a)(1) or to be

awarded HUD contracts or participate in HUD programs pursuant to 24 CFR Part 24.

(ii) No part of this contract shall be subcontracted to any person or firm ineligible for award of a Government contract by virtue of Section 3(a) of the Davis-Bacon Act or 29 CFR 5.12(a)(1) or to be awarded HUD contracts or participate in HUD programs pursuant to 24 CFR Part 24.

(iii) The penalty for making false statements is prescribed in the U.S. Criminal Code, 18 U.S.C. 1001. Additionally, U.S. Criminal Code, Section 1 01 0, Title 18, U.S.C., "Federal Housing Administration transactions", provides in part: "Whoever, for the purpose of . . . influencing in any way the action of such Administration . . . makes, utters or publishes any statement knowing the same to be false . . . shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than two years, or both."

11. Complaints, Proceedings, or Testimony by Employees. No laborer or mechanic to whom the wage, salary, or other labor standards provisions of this Contract are applicable shall be discharged or in any other manner discriminated against by the Contractor or any subcontractor because such employee has filed any complaint or instituted or caused to be instituted any proceeding or has testified or is about to testify in any proceeding under or relating to the labor standards applicable under this Contract to his employer.

B. Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act. The provisions of this paragraph B are applicable where the amount of the prime contract exceeds \$100,000. As used in this paragraph, the terms "laborers" and "mechanics" include watchmen and guards.

(1) Overtime requirements. No contractor or subcontractor contracting for any part of the contract work which may require or involve the employment of laborers or mechanics shall require or permit any such laborer or mechanic in any workweek in which the individual is employed on such work to work in excess of 40 hours in such workweek unless such laborer or mechanic receives compensation at a rate not less than one and one-half times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours in such workweek.

(2) Violation; liability for unpaid wages; liquidated damages. In the event of any violation of the clause set forth in subparagraph (1) of this paragraph, the contractor and any subcontractor responsible therefor shall be liable for the unpaid wages. In addition, such contractor and subcontractor shall be liable to the United States (in the case of work done under contract for the District of Columbia or a territory, to such District or to such territory), for liquidated damages. Such liquidated damages shall be computed with respect to each individual laborer or mechanic, including watchmen and guards, employed in violation of the clause set forth in subparagraph (1) of this paragraph, in the sum of \$25 for each calendar day on which such individual was required or permitted to work in excess of the standard workweek of 40 hours without payment of the overtime wages required by the clause set forth in sub paragraph (1) of this paragraph.

(3) **Withholding for unpaid wages and liquidated damages.** HUD or its designee shall upon its own action or upon written request of an authorized representative of the Department of Labor withhold or cause to be withheld, from any moneys payable on account of work performed by the contractor or subcontractor under any such contract or any other Federal contract with the same prime contract, or any other Federally-assisted contract subject to the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act which is held by the same prime contractor such sums as may be determined to be necessary to satisfy any liabilities of such contractor or subcontractor for unpaid wages and liquidated damages as provided in the clause set forth in subparagraph (2) of this paragraph.

(4) **Subcontracts.** The contractor or subcontractor shall insert in any subcontracts the clauses set forth in subparagraph (1) through (4) of this paragraph and also a clause requiring the subcontractors to include these clauses in any lower tier subcontracts. The prime contractor shall be responsible for compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with the clauses set forth in subparagraphs (1) through (4) of this paragraph.

C. Health and Safety. The provisions of this paragraph C are applicable where the amount of the prime contract exceeds \$100,000.

(1) No laborer or mechanic shall be required to work in surroundings or under working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to his health and safety as determined under construction safety and health standards promulgated by the Secretary of Labor by regulation.

(2) The Contractor shall comply with all regulations issued by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to Title 29 Part 1926 and failure to comply may result in imposition of sanctions pursuant to the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, (Public Law 91-54, 83 Stat 96). 40 USC 3701 et seq.

(3) The contractor shall include the provisions of this paragraph in every subcontract so that such provisions will be binding on each subcontractor. The contractor shall take such action with respect to any subcontractor as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development or the Secretary of Labor shall direct as a means of enforcing such provisions.

CITY OF HOUSTON'S CODE OF ORDINANCE ARTICLE V. MINORITY, WOMEN, AND SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

Sec. 15-81. - Declaration of policy.

- (a) It is the policy of the city to stimulate the growth of local minority, women and small business enterprises by encouraging the full participation of these business enterprises in various phases of city contracting, as set forth in this article. The purposes and objectives of this article are:
 - (1) To promote equal opportunity for participation amongst local minority, women and small business enterprises in all phases of city contracting;
 - (2) To increase the utilization of such local firms in providing certain goods and services;
 - (3) To provide opportunities to broaden and enhance local firms' ranges of capacities; and
 - (4) To increase opportunities for such local firms to serve as contractors, in addition to acting as subcontractors to others, where applicable, in an effort to remedy discriminatory practices and eliminate statistical disparities in city contracting.
- (b) This article is intended to be remedial in nature and to continue only until its purposes and objectives are achieved. At least every five years the city shall make its best efforts to initiate a review of its minority and women business enterprise program, the results of which shall be provided to city council, who shall determine, upon its receipt of recommendations and the consideration of other relevant information from the OBO director, whether there is strong statistical and anecdotal evidence of discrimination against minority and women business enterprises in city contracting warranting the continuation of a race and gender conscious minority and women business enterprise program.

(Ord. No. 2013-428, § 10(Exh. A), 5-8-2013, eff. 7-1-2013)

Sec. 15-82. - Definitions.

The following words and phrases, when used in this article and in article VI of this chapter, shall have the meanings provided in this section, unless the context clearly indicates another meaning. For the purpose of these definitions, the singular shall also include the plural, and the plural shall also include the singular.

Bidder means any person or legal entity which submits a bid or proposal to provide labor, goods or services to the city by contract for profit.

Commercially useful function means a discrete task or group of tasks, the responsibility for performance of which shall be discharged by the MWSBE by using its own forces or by actively supervising on-site the execution of the tasks by another entity for whose work the MWSBE is responsible. In determining whether a MWSBE is performing a commercially useful function, factors including but not limited to the following shall be considered: (1) whether it has the skill and expertise to perform the work for which it is being utilized and possesses all the necessary licenses; (2) whether it is in the business of performing, managing or supervising the work for which it has been certified and is being utilized; and (3) whether it is performing a real and actual service that is a distinct and verifiable element of the work called for in a contract. MWSBEs shall be responsible for performing more than fifty percent of the task or group of tasks being counted toward the applicable participation goal unless subcontracting such task or group of tasks in excess of fifty percent has been expressly authorized via a waiver by the OBO director.

Contractor means any person or legal entity providing goods, labor, or services to the city by contract for profit.

Established business enterprise means a MWSBE or any business applying for certification as a MWSBE that, by virtue of its size meets or exceeds the standards promulgated by the U.S. Small Business

Administration for that category of business, as determined by the procedures described in section 15-87(a) of this Code.

Goal-oriented contract means any contract, agreement or other undertaking anticipated for construction work in excess of \$1,000,000.00 and for the supply of goods or nonpersonal or nonprofessional services in excess of \$100,000.00:

- a. For which competitive bids are required by law;
- b. Which is not within the scope of the disadvantaged business enterprise programs of the United States Environmental Protection Agency or the United States Department of Transportation or any other federal or state agency having jurisdiction; and
- c. That the initiating city department, in consultation with the OBO director, determines has significant subcontracting potential in fields in which there are adequate numbers of known MWSBEs to compete for and perform the subcontract service(s).

Good faith efforts shall refer to steps taken to achieve a MWSBE goal or other requirements which, by their scope, intensity and usefulness demonstrate a bidder's responsiveness to fulfill the business opportunity objective prior to the award of a contract and a contractor's responsibility to put forth measures to meet or exceed a MWSBE goal throughout the duration of the contract.

Joint venture means an association of a MWSBE and one or more other firms to carry out a single, for-profit business enterprise, for which the parties combine their property, capital, efforts, skills and knowledge, and in which the MWSBE is responsible for a distinct, clearly defined portion of the work of the contract and whose share in the capital contribution, control, management, risks, and profits of the joint venture are commensurate with its ownership interest.

Local firm, local MWSBE, or locally based when describing a firm or entity seeking certification means a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation or any other business entity with a significant business presence in the Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown metropolitan statistical area, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget within the Executive Office of the President of the United States. A significant business presence includes the requirement that a MWSBE have an established place of business in the Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown metropolitan statistical area at which one or more of its employees is regularly based and that such place of business has a substantial role in the MWSBE's performance of a commercially useful function.

MWSBE means, collectively, MBEs, WBEs, and SBEs.

Minority business enterprise or *MBE* means a business which is:

- a. A sole proprietorship in which the owner is a minority person who owns, controls and manages the business; or
- b. A corporation in which at least 51 percent of the stock or of the assets of such corporation is owned, controlled and managed by one or more minority persons; or
- c. A partnership in which at least 51 percent of the assets of such partnership is owned, controlled and managed by one or more minority persons; or
- d. Any other business or professional entity in which at least 51 percent of the assets in such business or professional entity is owned, controlled and managed by one or more minority persons; or
- e. Any entity in which at least 51 percent of the assets of such entity is owned, controlled and managed by one or more minority persons and one or more women and such minority person; or
- f. A business which has been certified as an MBE by the office of business opportunity under any other recognized MBE program.

Minority person means a citizen or legal resident alien of the United States who is:

- a. Black American, which includes persons having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa;
- b. Hispanic American, which includes persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish or Portuguese culture or origin, regardless of race;

- c. Asian-Pacific American, which includes persons having origins from Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea, Burma (Myanmar), Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia (Kampuchea), Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brunei, Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands (Republic of Palau), the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Macao, Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, Juvalu, Nauru, the Federated States of Micronesia, or Hong Kong, or the region generally known as the Far East;
- d. Native American, which includes persons having origins in any of the original peoples of North America, American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut, Native Hawaiian; or
- e. Subcontinent Asian American, which includes persons whose origins are from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives Islands, Nepal, or Sri Lanka.

Origin or descent can be regarded as the ancestry, nationality group, lineage or country in which the person or persons' parents or ancestors were born before their arrival in the United States.

Owned, controlled and managed means that the one or more minority persons or women who own the requisite interests in or assets of a business applying for minority or women business enterprise certification possesses equivalent incidents of such ownership, including an equivalent interest in profit and loss, and has contributed an equivalent percentage of capital and equipment to the business. Contributions of capital and equipment must be real and substantial. In instances where expertise is relied upon to demonstrate ownership, control, and management, it must be shown that the expertise is: (1) in a specialized field; (2) in an area critical to the firm's operation and performance of a commercially useful function; (3) critical to the firm's continued success; and (4) documented in the records of the firm, including but not limited to documentation showing the particular expertise and its value to the firm. Additionally, the individual whose expertise is relied upon must have a significant financial investment in the business. Ownership shall be measured as though not subject to the community property interest of a spouse, if both spouses certify in writing that the nonparticipating spouse relinquishes control over his or her community property interest in the subject business (but by doing so is not required to transfer to his or her spouse his or her community property ownership interest or to characterize the property as the separate property of the spouse). The one or more minority person or woman owners shall have recognized, ultimate control over all day-to-day business decisions affecting the MBE or WBE and shall hold a title commensurate with such control. Such ultimate control shall be known to and at least tacitly acknowledged in day-to-day operations by employees of the business.

Regulated contract means any contract, agreement or other undertaking:

- a. For which competitive bids are not required by law;
- b. That is not covered by the MBE/WBE programs of the United States Environmental Protection Agency or the United States Department of Transportation or any other federal or state agency having jurisdiction; and
- c. That the recommending city department has determined, in consultation with the director of the office of business opportunity either:
 - 1. Has significant subcontracting potential in fields in which there are sufficient known MWSBEs to perform the particular subcontract service(s); or
 - 2. Is of a type for which there are sufficient known MWSBEs which have represented their ability to perform the prime contract service to afford effective competition for the prime contract.

Small business enterprise or *SBE* means a firm whose gross revenues or number of employees, averaged over the past three years, inclusive of any affiliates as defined by 13 CFR Section 121.103, does not exceed the size standards defined in Section 3 of the Federal Small Business Act and applicable Small Business Administration regulations related to the size standards found in 13 CFR Part 121. The term shall also include a certified minority/women business enterprise defined in this Code.

Subcontractor means any business providing goods, labor or services to a contractor if such goods, labor or services are procured or used in fulfillment of the contractor's obligations arising from a contract with the City of Houston.

Woman means a person who is a citizen or legal resident alien of the United States and who is of the female gender.

Women business enterprise or *WBE* means a business which is:

- a. A sole proprietorship in which the owner is a woman who owns, controls and manages the business; or
- b. A corporation in which at least 51 percent of the stock or assets of such corporation is owned, controlled and managed by one or more women; or
- c. A partnership in which at least 51 percent of the assets of such partnership is owned, controlled and managed by one or more women; or
- d. Any other business or professional entity in which at least 51 percent of the assets in such business or professional entity is owned, controlled and managed by one or more women; or
- e. Any entity in which at least 51 percent of the assets of such entity is owned, controlled and managed by one or more minority persons and one or more women; or
- f. A business which has been certified as a WBE by the office of business opportunity under any other recognized WBE program.

(Ord. No. 2013-428, § 10(Exh. A), 5-8-2013, eff. 7-1-2013)

Sec. 15-83. - Program elements.

- (a) Based upon a review of annual awards and purchases by affected city departments, the office of business opportunity shall each year submit a progress report to the city council. The report shall include two percentage figures that are intended to as closely as possible represent the ratio of the prior year's measured utilization and availability of local MWSBEs to do business in:
 - (1) The supply of goods and nonpersonal or nonprofessional services; and
 - (2) The performance of personal or professional services;

to the prior year's total local business community utilization and availability to do business in each of the two named fields of city contracting.

In addition, the report shall include percentage figures that are intended to as closely as possible represent the ratio of the prior year's measured utilization and availability of local MWSBEs to do business in construction to the prior year's total local business community utilization and availability to do business in city construction contracting. The report may also include figures and other evidence of factors prescribed in Part 26, Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations in the year the report is made that may affect the aforementioned ratio of utilization and availability.

- (b) Based upon the measured utilization and availability and any other relevant factors prescribed in Part 26, Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations and identified in the report submitted pursuant to subsection (a) above, city council shall from time to time set annual city-wide percentage goals for city contracting with MWSBEs in each of the two named categories described in subsection (a)(1) and (2) above and for contracting with MWSBEs in the construction category. The adjustment, if any, in the percentage goals shall be made during the first quarter of the fiscal year.
- (c) It is the responsibility of each city department to determine which contracts initiated by it are goal-oriented contracts and which are regulated contracts. If the determination is made that a contract is a goal-oriented contract or a regulated contract, the initiating department shall review the contract and shall determine, by reference to the MWSBE register, the number of certified MWSBEs in each of the two named categories described in subsection (a)(1) and (2), above, and for construction, the number of certified MWSBEs in the construction category. The initiating department director or his or her designee shall determine whether the contract is one to which MWSBE provisions should be applied.
 - (1) These provisions are not required to be applied in the following circumstances:

- a. A public or administrative emergency exists which requires the goods or services to be provided with unusual immediacy;
- b. The service or goods requested are of such a specialized, technical or unique nature as to require the city department to be able to select its contractor without application of MWSBE provisions (such as contracts for expert witnesses, certain financial advisors or technical consultants);
- c. If application of MWSBE provisions would impose an unwarranted economic burden or risk on the city or unduly delay acquisition of the goods or services, or would otherwise not be in the best interest of the city; or
- d. If the possible MWSBE participation level based on MWSBE availability would produce negligible MWSBE participation.

If one of the above-listed conditions is determined to exist, the department director shall certify that determination in writing prior to the award of the contract, specifying the conditions which lead to the determination, and submit the determination to the OBO director for review and approval.

- (2) If the contract does not fall within one of the above-listed exceptions, based upon its overall review, the initiating department shall assign an appropriate MWSBE participation level, if any, for the contract (whether goal-oriented or regulated) considering the local availability of certified MWSBEs in the contract field.

The intention of this article is to provide administrative flexibility in the application of MWSBE provisions of this Code and in the percentage participation level on a contract-by-contract basis so as not to limit access to city contracting by nonminority-owned, nonwomen-owned or established business enterprises to a greater degree than necessary to meet the city-wide annual goal and the policies and objectives of this article.

- (d) The bidding documents and the contract documents for goal-oriented contracts for which a MWSBE participation level has been established shall contain a provision detailing the purposes and objectives of the city's MWSBE ordinance and shall incorporate by reference this article and the then-current motion or ordinance establishing MWSBE annual goals. Regulated contracts which are determined to have significant subcontracting potential for which a MWSBE participation level has been established shall contain contractual provisions (and proposal provisions if submitted for proposals or for bids) requiring the contractor to meet or exceed the determined MWSBE participation level for that contract, or to establish that it has made good-faith efforts to do so, and that notwithstanding such efforts, was unable to meet or exceed the determined participation levels. The OBO director shall establish procedures defining good-faith efforts. These procedures will be reviewed and approved by the mayor and the city attorney.

(Ord. No. 2013-428, § 10(Exh. A), 5-8-2013, eff. 7-1-2013)

Sec. 15-84. - Office of business opportunity.

- (a) Applications for certification as a MWSBE and any addenda thereto shall be made on a form promulgated by the OBO director, and the requirements for certification shall be consistent with the applicable requirements set forth in subsection (b) below.
- (b) The office of business opportunity has responsibility for:
 - (1) Establishing procedures for the implementation of this article, and reviewing and approving procedures established by city departments, such procedures to be narrowly designed to attain the purposes and objectives specified herein without unduly limiting nonminority-owned or nonwoman-owned or established business enterprises. Such procedures shall be reviewed and approved by the mayor and by the city attorney prior to implementation;
 - (2) Certifying businesses as minority, small or women business enterprises and maintaining and distributing to affected city departments a current register, updated monthly, of such business (including a separate listing of such businesses whose applications for certification are pending) specifying the categories of city contracting represented by the certified MWSBEs;

- (3) Developing educational programs for and otherwise assisting (without offering favoritism in relation to the competitive bidding system) MWSBEs to compete effectively for city contracts;
- (4) Making recommendations to the mayor, city council and city departments to further the policies and objectives of this article, including but not limited to assisting city departments in setting contract-specific MWSBE goals;
- (5) Reviewing documentation from potential contractors and from contractors concerning good-faith efforts made to meet or exceed the participation level for contracts. The final recommendation to city council for award or for acceptance of work shall be the city department's, although the office of business opportunity may take exception;
- (6) Compiling a report of the progress of city departments, by department, in attaining the city-wide goals set by city council. This report shall be based upon MWSBE contractor and subcontractor information, to be specified by the office of business opportunity. Upon completion, the report is to be submitted quarterly to city council members, the mayor and all affected city department directors for their information;
- (7) Receiving and reviewing complaints and suggestions concerning the MWSBE program from contractors, MWSBEs and city departments; and
- (8) Without limiting the authority of the office of business opportunity to establish procedures that are consistent with the terms of this article, the office of business opportunity is specifically directed to promulgate and implement procedures as follows:
 - a. Grievance procedures for any person aggrieved by any decision of the office of business opportunity under this article. The procedures shall include notice and a hearing before an impartial hearing officer who shall be appointed by the mayor;
 - b. Mediation procedures for the resolution of disputes between contractors or bidders and MWSBE participants or potential participants with respect to any aspect of compliance with this article, including, without limitation, any assertion that a contractor, subcontractor, or MWSBE has failed to make good faith efforts to comply with this article;
 - c. Procedures to implement and enforce any sanctions provided under this article;
 - d. Procedures to ensure performance of work by MWSBEs, which procedures shall include: (i) a requirement that no more than 50 percent of their work may be subcontracted, without a specific waiver from the office of business opportunity for cause; (ii) a requirement that the minority person, small business or woman owner of a MWSBE have the necessary experience, expertise, credentials and regulatory authority to conduct the type of business for which the business is certified; (iii) a requirement that bidders and contractors make good faith efforts to meet or exceed contract MWSBE goals; and (iv) a requirement that MWSBEs accurately represent all material information required for certification and truly perform a commercially useful function;
 - e. Procedures for counting participation by MWSBEs as prime contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and joint venturers on city contracts, which procedures shall ensure that all work performed by MWSBEs is included in the computation of the progress made toward meeting the annual city-wide goals;
 - f. Procedures to ensure that this article is limited in its application to the certification of locally based MWSBEs;
 - g. Procedures to coordinate the operation of this article with other local MWSBE programs, which may include reliance upon certification procedures of other entities that are determined to be reliable and equivalent to this article;
 - h. Procedures to ensure access to necessary records of prime contractors and subcontractors on city contracts; and
 - i. Procedures for handling theft of services (wage theft) complaints of employees of city contractors and subcontractors.

- (c) MWSBE certification shall be valid for a period of three years from the date of certification; provided, however, all applicants certified as MWSBEs shall be subject to review on an annual basis pursuant to procedures established by the OBO director to ensure compliance with all applicable provisions of this article.
- (d) Applications for renewal of MWSBE certification shall be evaluated under the same criteria and subject to the same manner of review as original applications.
- (e) All procedures established under this section shall be reviewed and approved by the city attorney prior to implementation. A copy of all procedures hereunder shall be maintained in the office of business opportunity for inspection, and copies may be purchased at the fees prescribed by law.

(Ord. No. 2013-428, § 10(Exh. A), 5-8-2013, eff. 7-1-2013)

Sec. 15-84.1. - Responsibilities of city departments; department utilization plan.

- (a) Each department director shall be accountable for the oversight and implementation of the following activities:
 - (1) Informing MWSBE organizations or associations of the department's procurement procedures and future procurement opportunities;
 - (2) Ensuring that department bid solicitations and requests for proposals are sent to MWSBEs in a timely manner;
 - (3) Referring MWSBEs to technical assistance services available from the office of business opportunity and other organizations that provide such services;
 - (4) Reviewing each request for waiver or modification of participation goals prior to its submission to the office of business opportunity for approval;
 - (5) Monitoring the department's procurement activities to ensure compliance with and progress towards the city-wide participation goals; and
 - (6) Providing the OBO director with the departmental utilization plan prescribed in subsection (b) of this section and any other documentation requested by the office of business opportunity necessary in evaluating a department's progress in achieving city-wide participation goals.
- (b) Each department that has procured goods and services in excess of three million dollars during the fiscal year ending on June 30th of the preceding calendar year shall be required to submit a departmental utilization plan for the following fiscal year commencing on July 1st. Departmental utilization plans shall be submitted on or before June 15, 2014, and not later than June 15th of each calendar year thereafter.
- (c) Each department director shall be responsible for creating, submitting, and implementing an annual departmental utilization plan that shall include, at a minimum, the following:
 - (1) The department's forecast of anticipated projects and contract specific goals for the upcoming fiscal year;
 - (2) A detailed, written explanation for any departmental goal that is not consistent with the overall city-wide goals for MWSBE participation;
 - (3) A list of the names and titles of department personnel responsible for the implementation of the departmental utilization plan;
 - (4) The methods and relevant activities proposed for achieving the department's participation goals; and
 - (5) Any other information the department director deems relevant or necessary.
- (d) Upon review by the OBO director, all departmental utilization plans shall be submitted to the mayor and city council for final approval.
- (e) A departmental utilization plan may be amended to reflect changes in the department's projected procurements, expenditures, or other relevant circumstances and resulting changes in the department's participation goals. Such amendments shall be submitted to the OBO director for review and shall be submitted to city council for final approval not less than 30 days prior to the proposed date of implementation.

- (f) Each department director shall be accountable for setting and making reasonable efforts to meet the participation goals stated its departmental utilization plan. Departments shall, at minimum, engage in outreach activities that encourage eligible businesses to apply for certification as MWSBEs and encourage MWSBEs to participate in all facets of the procurement process and compete for city contracts, including contracts awarded by negotiated acquisition and emergency and sole source contracts.

(Ord. No. 2013-428, § 10(Exh. A), 5-8-2013, eff. 7-1-2013)

Sec. 15-85. - Filing of plan.

Before execution of any contract or issuance of any purchase order for which a MWSBE goal has been established, a bidder or potential contractor shall submit a plan setting forth how it intends to meet the contract MWSBE goal or documentation demonstrating its proof of good faith efforts to meet the contract MWSBE goal. After execution of a contract or receipt of a purchase order, the contractor shall comply with the submitted plan, unless it has received approval from the OBO director for a deviation therefrom. Approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. While it is not a requirement that a contractor meet its goal, it is required that the contractor objectively demonstrate to the office of business opportunity that it has made good faith efforts to meet the goal. To this end, the contractor shall maintain records as prescribed by the office of business opportunity demonstrating its efforts at compliance. The contractor shall be required to submit to the office of business opportunity reports of its efforts under this article in such form or manner as shall be prescribed by the OBO director.

(Ord. No. 2013-428, § 10(Exh. A), 5-8-2013, eff. 7-1-2013)

Sec. 15-86. - Sanctions.

- (a) The OBO director is authorized to suspend any contractor who has failed to make good faith efforts to meet any goal established under this article from engaging in any contract with the city for a period up to, but not to exceed, five years. The OBO director is also authorized to suspend any MWSBE who has failed to make good faith efforts to meet all requirements necessary for participation as a MWSBE from engaging in any contract affected by this article for a period up to, but not to exceed, five years.
- (b) In accordance with section 15-84 of this Code, the office of business opportunity shall establish procedures for the imposition of sanctions and shall ensure that no sanction is imposed without notice of the grounds being given and an opportunity for a hearing consistent with the procedures set forth in sections 15-22, 15-23, and 15-24 of this Code. Any procedure established shall be consistent with state law.

(Ord. No. 2013-428, § 10(Exh. A), 5-8-2013, eff. 7-1-2013)

Sec. 15-87. - Determination of established business enterprise status.

- (a) Based upon a review of data submitted by MWSBEs or MWSBE applicants and any other information available from its files or the files of any other governmental entity, the office of business opportunity shall determine the size of each MWSBE or MWSBE applicant by determining the average of the gross receipts for the prior three years and the average number of employees for the 12 calendar months immediately preceding the review, as applicable. The calculation of size shall be based solely upon the size standards and methods of calculation identified by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) including, without limitation those set forth in 13 C.F.R. part 121, subpart A, secs. 121.101 through 121.107, and sec. 121.201, any amendment or successor thereto, or any other document defining such size standards or the calculation thereof that has been fully and finally adopted by the SBA. The review shall be applicable to business entities applying for initial certification as a MWSBE or to certified MWSBEs, provided that such review may not be initiated until the applicant or certified MWSBE has established a business history of sufficient length to allow calculation of size based on the three year financial or 12 month employee data, as applicable.
- (b) Following the review described in this section, each certified MWSBE or MWSBE applicant shall be re-evaluated under this section on an annual basis based upon the size standards and methods of calculation

identified by the SBA and procedures established by the OBO director to ensure compliance with all applicable provisions of this article.

- (c) All MWSBEs and MWSBE applicants shall, upon written request of the OBO director, provide to the office of business opportunity copies of any and all documents, including without limitation financial statements and tax records, requested by the director in connection with the review authorized in subsection (a) of this section, not later than 20 business days following the date of mailing of the request. Failure to timely and completely comply with any such request will authorize the imposition of sanctions under section 15-86 of this Code, or denial of certification in the case of a MWSBE applicant.
- (d) Following the review authorized by subsection (a) of this section, the office of business opportunity shall classify each MWSBE or MWSBE applicant whose size meets or exceeds the size standard identified by the SBA for that class of enterprise as an established business enterprise. The classification shall be effective as of the date of mailing of the notice provided in section 15-88 of this Code.

(Ord. No. 2013-428, § 10(Exh. A), 5-8-2013, eff. 7-1-2013)

Sec. 15-88. - Notice, appeal and waiver.

- (a) Immediately upon classification of a certified MWSBE or MWSBE applicant as an established business enterprise pursuant to section 15-87 of this Code, the office of business opportunity shall notify the business so classified of the action by United States certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the last known address of the business and deemed given when placed in a United States mail depository.
- (b) Each notice shall inform the affected MWSBE or MWSBE applicant of the following matters: (1)
That the MWSBE or MWSBE applicant has been classified as an established business enterprise;
- (2) That the classification is effective as of the date of mailing of the notice;
- (3) That the MWSBE or MWSBE applicant may appeal the classification or seek a waiver of the classification pursuant to the procedures established under this section;
- (4) That the provisions of section 15-89 of this chapter shall become enforceable with respect to any certified MWSBE one year following the notice of classification, unless the decision is reversed or a waiver is granted and the classification is withdrawn prior to the expiration of the one-year period; and
- (5) That any MWSBE applicant deemed ineligible for certification based upon its classification as an established business enterprise shall remain ineligible for certification unless and until any withdrawal of the classification as an established business enterprise is granted pursuant to an appeal or a request for waiver conducted under this section.
- (c) In order to appeal a classification as an established business enterprise, a MWSBE or MWSBE applicant must submit to the OBO director a written notice of appeal no later than 60 days following the date of mailing of the notice of classification. The sole basis for an appeal shall be that the office of business opportunity has incorrectly calculated the size of the business according to SBA standards based upon incorrect information or error in computation. The notice of appeal shall be accompanied by any documentation necessary to demonstrate the asserted error. If the OBO director finds that an error or errors were made in calculating the size of the business and that any such error resulted in an incorrect classification as an established business enterprise, the classification shall be withdrawn and the business promptly notified of the withdrawal. If the OBO director finds that no error was made, or that any error would not materially alter the classification, he shall notify the business that the classification is not altered, by certified mail, return receipt requested. The business may within ten days of the date of mailing of the notice submit to the OBO director a written request for a hearing, which hearing shall be conducted under the procedures set forth in subsections (e) through (g) of this section.
- (d) In order to seek a waiver of a classification as an established business enterprise, a MWSBE or MWSBE applicant must submit to the OBO director a written request for a hearing no later than 60 days following the date of mailing of the notice of classification. The written request shall include documentary evidence, including but not limited to financial statements and tax records, relevant to the following criteria:

- (1) Profitability of the enterprise;
 - (2) Sales of the enterprise, including a demonstration that 55 percent or more of the enterprise's sales, within the period utilized by the office of business opportunity in its classification determination, are not related to city contracts;
 - (3) Ability of the MWSBE or MWSBE applicant to obtain bonding, if the enterprise acts as a prime contractor or in a category in which obtaining bonding is required; and
 - (4) Positive comparison of the enterprise's business and financial profile with those of non-MWSBE firms in the same business category based on an objective industry standard.
- (e) The OBO director shall notify the affected MWSBE or MWSBE applicant of the place and time of a hearing before the OBO director or his designee to consider an appeal requested under subsection (c) of this section, or a request for waiver of the classification under subsection (d) of this section, or both, as applicable, by United States certified mail, return receipt requested. The hearing shall be set not later than 30 days following receipt of the request, provided that the OBO director or his designee may in his discretion extend such date by a reasonable period for good and sufficient cause shown. Hearings for businesses that have both appealed under subsection (c) of this section and requested a waiver under subsection (d) of this section may be consolidated in a single hearing at the discretion of the OBO director or his designee.
 - (f) The OBO director shall promulgate written procedures for the conduct of hearings. The OBO director or his designee shall hear each appeal or request for waiver and shall consider only the criteria set forth under subsections (c) and (d)(1) through (d)(4) of this section, as applicable, in determining whether to withdraw the classification of the affected business as an established business enterprise. The OBO director shall develop objective standards for evaluating each factor set forth under subsections (d)(1) through (d)(4) based upon recognized industry or governmental practices or standards. The burden shall be on the business to demonstrate by clear, convincing and cogent evidence either that a material error in classification was made or that the granting of a waiver is justified by at least two of the criteria set forth in subsections (d)(1) through (d)(4) of this section.
 - (g) Notwithstanding any provision of this Code or of the rules or regulations of the office of business opportunity to the contrary, including any provision for mediation of a decision of the OBO director, the decision of the OBO director or his designee regarding appeal or waiver shall be final.

(Ord. No. 2013-428, § 10(Exh. A), 5-8-2013, eff. 7-1-2013)

Sec. 15-89. - Effect of classification; re-application.

- (a) Upon the expiration of one year following the notice of classification as an established business enterprise referenced in section 15-88(a) of this Code, and in the absence of any withdrawal of such classification by the OBO director, each certified MWSBE so classified shall be ineligible for future participation in any city contract as a MWSBE and its certification shall be withdrawn. No application for re-certification shall be granted absent the prior determination of the OBO director that the applicant does not meet or exceed the SBA size standards referenced in section 15-87(a) of this Code. Certified businesses whose evaluation results in classification as an established business enterprise shall timely file any re-certification application due prior to expiration of the one year extension of program eligibility referenced in this section, but the application shall not be granted unless and until the classification is withdrawn or waived.
- (b) Notwithstanding any provision of this Code or the rules or regulations of the office of business opportunity to the contrary, including any provision for mediation of a decision of the OBO director, any initial applicant for MWSBE certification who meets the criteria for an established business enterprise at the time of its application and is so classified shall be denied certification on that basis alone and shall have no recourse for the denial except through challenging the classification in the manner set forth in section 15-88 of this chapter. Any and all other matters pertaining to the eligibility of the applicant shall be abated and shall only be reinstated if the classification as an established business enterprise is withdrawn.
- (c) The office of business opportunity may continue to assist established business enterprises following ineligibility as follows:

- (1) Such businesses, if formerly certified by the city, may continue to be listed in any listing of MWSBE firms in a separate category of established MWSBE firms for the information of other private or public entities; and
 - (2) Such businesses, if formerly certified by the city, may receive information, counseling and referrals to other agencies supporting business enterprises from the office of business opportunity after their classification as established business enterprises.
- (d) No sooner than one year following the date of program ineligibility provided in subsection (a) of this section or the denial of certification provided in subsection (b) of this section, any established business enterprise may apply for reinstatement as a fully eligible, certified MWSBE or reinstatement of an application for certification abated under subsection (b) of this section, as applicable, upon demonstrating the existence of one or more of the following conditions:
- (1) That the subsequent history from the date of initial classification as an established business enterprise demonstrates that a size calculation as of the date of application for reinstatement would place the business below the SBA size standards for that category of business;
 - (2) That the established business enterprise has successfully obtained an SBA size determination from a federal agency authorized to make such a determination, or has prevailed in an SBA size protest under 13 CFR § 121.1001, et seq., as amended, including any judicial review thereof, establishing that the business does not meet or exceed the applicable SBA size standard;
 - (3) That the SBA size standards have been revised in such a manner that the subject business no longer meets or exceeds the size standard for its category based upon the most recent three-year average for receipts or 12 month average for employees, as applicable; or
 - (4) That the criteria listed in section 15-88(d) of this Code demonstrate the need to grant a waiver and withdraw the classification of the business as an established business enterprise.
- (e) Applications for reinstatement shall be on a form prescribed by the OBO director and shall be accompanied by relevant documentary evidence supporting the ground or grounds for reinstatement asserted, as requested by the OBO director.
- (f) Within 30 days following receipt of a completed application for reinstatement, the OBO director shall grant the application or deny the application and set the matter for hearing within 30 days of the date of mailing notice of such denial.
- (g) The burden on the business applying for reinstatement shall be to demonstrate the existence of one or more of the conditions set forth in subsections d(1) through d(4) of this section by clear, convincing and cogent evidence, to be evaluated by the director under hearing procedures consistent with the nature of the application and, to the extent applicable, with the provisions of subsections (c), (d), (e) and (f) of section 15-88 of this Code. In addition, a business seeking reinstatement under subsection (b)(4) of this section that has previously sought a waiver of classification as an established business enterprise pursuant to section 15-88(d) of this chapter must present evidence of a material and substantial change in circumstances not shown at the preceding hearing, and the OBO director or his designee shall disregard evidence that is repetitious or cumulative of the prior hearing on the matter.
- (h) The decision of the OBO director or his designee following a hearing on reinstatement shall be final, and any applicant denied reinstatement is to be notified in writing of the decision within ten days following the hearing. No business denied reinstatement may subsequently apply for reinstatement until the expiration of one year from the date of the denial.

(Ord. No. 2013-428, § 10 (Exh. A), 5-8-2013, eff. 7-1-2013)

SECTION 3 REGULATION

§ 135.1

APPENDIX TO PART 135

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1701u; 42 U.S.C. 3535(d).

SOURCE: 59 FR 33880, June 30, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 59 FR 33880, June 30, 1994, part 135 was revised effective August 1, 1994 through June 30, 1995. At 60 FR 28325, May 31, 1995, the effective period was extended until the final rule implementing changes made to section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 is published and becomes effective.

Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 135.1 Purpose.

- (a) *Section 3.* The purpose of section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u) (section 3) is to ensure that employment and other economic opportunities generated by certain HUD financial assistance shall, to the greatest extent feasible, and consistent with existing Federal, State and local laws and regulations, be directed to low- and very low- income persons, particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing, and to business concerns which provide economic opportunities to low- and very low-income persons.
- (b) *Part 135.* The purpose of this part is to establish the standards and procedures to be followed to ensure that the objectives of section 3 are met.

§ 135.2 Effective date of regulation.

The regulations of this part will remain in effect until the date the final rule adopting the regulations of this part with or without changes is published and becomes effective, at which point the final rule will remain in effect.

[60 FR 28326, May 31, 1995]

§ 135.3 Applicability.

- (a) *Section 3 covered assistance.* Section 3 applies to the following HUD assistance (section 3 covered assistance):
 - (1) *Public and Indian housing assistance.* Section 3 applies to training, employment, contracting and other economic opportunities arising from the

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expenditure of the following public and Indian housing assistance:

(i) Development assistance provided pursuant to section 5 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (1937 Act);

(ii) Operating assistance provided pursuant to section 9 of the 1937 Act; and

(iii) Modernization assistance provided pursuant to section 14 of the 1937 Act;

(2) *Housing and community development assistance.* Section 3 applies to training, employment, contracting and other economic opportunities arising in connection with the expenditure of housing assistance (including section 8 assistance, and including other housing assistance not administered by the Assistant Secretary of Housing) and community development assistance that is used for the following projects;

(i) Housing rehabilitation (including reduction and abatement of lead-based paint hazards, but excluding routine maintenance, repair and replacement);

(ii) Housing construction; and

(iii) Other public construction.

(3) *Thresholds*—(i) *No thresholds for section 3 covered public and Indian housing assistance.* The requirements of this part apply to section 3 covered assistance provided to recipients, notwithstanding the amount of the assistance provided to the recipient. The requirements of this part apply to all contractors and subcontractors performing work in connection with projects and activities funded by public and Indian housing assistance covered by section 3, regardless of the amount of the contractor subcontract.

(ii) *Thresholds for section 3 covered housing and community development assistance*—(A) *Recipient thresholds.* The requirements of this part apply to recipients of other housing and community development program assistance for a section 3 covered project(s) for which the amount of the assistance exceeds \$200,000.

(B) *Contractor and subcontractor thresholds.* The requirements of this part apply to contractors and subcontractors performing work on section 3 covered project(s) for which the amount of the assistance exceeds \$200,000; and the contract or subcontract exceeds \$100,000.

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(C) *Threshold met for recipients, but not contractors or subcontractors.* If a recipient receives section 3 covered housing or community development assistance in excess of \$200,000, but no contract exceeds \$100,000, the section 3 preference requirements only apply to the recipient.

(b) *Applicability of section 3 to entire project or activity funded with section 3 assistance.* The requirements of this part apply to the entire project or activity that is funded with section 3 covered assistance, regardless of whether the section 3 activity is fully or partially funded with section 3 covered assistance.

(c) *Applicability to Indian housing authorities and Indian tribes.* Indian housing authorities and tribes that receive HUD assistance described in paragraph

(a) of this section shall comply with the procedures and requirements of this part to the maximum extent consistent with, but not in derogation of, compliance with section 7(b) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450e(b)). (See 24 CFR part 905.)

(d) *Other HUD assistance and other Federal assistance.* Recipients, contractors and subcontractors that receive HUD assistance, not listed in paragraph (a) of this section, or other Federal assistance, are encouraged to provide, to the greatest extent feasible, training, employment, and contracting opportunities generated by the expenditure of this assistance to low- and very low-income persons, and business concerns owned by low- and very low-income persons, or which employ low- and very low-income persons.

§ 135.5 Definitions.

The terms *Department*, *HUD*, *Indian housing authority (IHA)*, *Public housing agency (PHA)*, and *Secretary* are defined in 24 CFR part 5.

Annual Contributions Contract (ACC) means the contract under the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (1937 Act) between HUD and the PHA, or between HUD and the IHA, that contains the terms and conditions under which HUD assists the PHA or the IHA in providing decent, safe, and sanitary housing for low income families. The ACC must be in a form prescribed by HUD under

which HUD agrees to provide assistance in the development, modernization and/or operation of a low income housing project under the 1937 Act, and the PHA or IHA agrees to develop, modernize and operate the project in compliance with all provisions of the ACC and the 1937 Act, and all HUD regulations and implementing requirements and procedures. (The ACC is not a form of procurement contract.)

Applicant means any entity which makes an application for section 3 covered assistance, and includes, but is not limited to, any State, unit of local government, public housing agency, Indian housing authority, Indian tribe, or other public body, public or private nonprofit organization, private agency or institution, mortgagor, developer, limited dividend sponsor, builder, property manager, community housing development organization (CHDO), resident management corporation, resident council, or cooperative association.

Assistant Secretary means the Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

Business concern means a business entity formed in accordance with State law, and which is licensed under State, county or municipal law to engage in the type of business activity for which it was formed.

Business concern that provides economic opportunities for low- and very low-income persons. See definition of “section 3 business concern” in this section.

Contract. See the definition of “section 3 covered contract” in this section.

Contractor means any entity which contracts to perform work generated by the expenditure of section 3 covered assistance, or for work in connection with a section 3 covered project.

Employment opportunities generated by section 3 covered assistance means all employment opportunities generated by the expenditure of section 3 covered public and Indian housing assistance (i.e., operating assistance, development assistance and modernization assistance, as described in § 135.3(a)(1)). With respect to section 3 covered housing and community development assistance, this term means all employment opportunities arising in connection.

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with section 3 covered projects (as described in § 135.3(a)(2)), including management and administrative jobs connected with the section 3 covered project. Management and administrative jobs include architectural, engineering or related professional services required to prepare plans, drawings, specifications, or work write-ups; and jobs directly related to administrative support of these activities, e.g., construction manager, relocation specialist, payroll clerk, etc.

Housing authority (HA) means, collectively, public housing agency and Indian housing authority.

Housing and community development assistance means any financial assistance provided or otherwise made available through a HUD housing or community development program through any grant, loan, loan guarantee, cooperative agreement, or contract, and includes community development funds in the form of community development block grants, and loans guaranteed under section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. Housing and community development assistance does not include financial assistance provided through a contract of insurance or guaranty.

Housing development means low-income housing owned, developed, or operated by public housing agencies or Indian housing authorities in accordance with HUD's public and Indian housing program regulations codified in 24 CFR Chapter IX.

HUD Youthbuild programs mean programs that receive assistance under subtitle D of Title IV of the National Affordable Housing Act, as amended by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 12899), and provide disadvantaged youth with opportunities for employment, education, leadership development, and training in the construction or rehabilitation of housing for homeless individuals and members of low- and very low-income families.

Indian tribes shall have the meaning given this term in 24 CFR part 571.

JTPA means the Job Training Partnership Act (29 U.S.C. 1579(a)).

Low-income person. See the definition of "section 3 resident" in this section.

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Metropolitan area means a metropolitan statistical area (MSA), as established by the Office of Management and Budget.

Neighborhood area means:

(1) For HUD housing programs, a geographical location within the jurisdiction of a unit of general local government (but not the entire jurisdiction) designated in ordinances, or other local documents as a neighborhood, village, or similar geographical designation.

(2) For HUD community development programs, see the definition, if provided, in the regulations for the applicable community development program, or the definition for this term in 24 CFR 570.204(c)(1).

New hires mean full-time employees for permanent, temporary or seasonal employment opportunities.

Nonmetropolitan county means any county outside of a metropolitan area. *Other HUD programs* means HUD programs, other than HUD public and Indian housing programs, that provide housing and community development assistance for "section 3 covered projects," as defined in this section.

Public housing resident has the meaning given this term in 24 CFR part 963. *Recipient* means any entity which receives section 3 covered assistance, directly from HUD or from another recipient and includes, but is not limited to, any State, unit of local government, PHA, IHA, Indian tribe, or other public body, public or private nonprofit organization, private agency or institution, mortgagor, developer, limited dividend sponsor, builder, property manager, community housing development organization, resident management corporation, resident council, or cooperative association. Recipient also includes any successor, assignee or transferee of any such entity, but does not include any ultimate beneficiary under the HUD program to which section 3 applies and does not include contractors.

Section 3 means section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701u).

Section 3 business concern means a business concern, as defined in this section—

- (1) That is 51 percent or more owned by section 3 residents; or

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- (2) Whose permanent, full-time employees include persons, at least 30 per- cent of whom are currently section 3 residents, or within three years of the date of first employment with the business concern were section 3 residents; or
- (3) That provides evidence of a commitment to subcontract in excess of 25 percent of the dollar award of all sub- contracts to be awarded to business concerns that meet the qualifications set forth in paragraphs (1) or (2) in this definition of “section 3 business concern.”

Section 3 clause means the contract provisions set forth in § 135.38.

Section 3 covered activity means any activity which is funded by section 3 covered assistance public and Indian housing assistance.

Section 3 covered assistance means:

- (1) Public and Indian housing development assistance provided pursuant to section 5 of the 1937 Act;
- (2) Public and Indian housing operating assistance provided pursuant to section 9 of the 1937 Act;
- (3) Public and Indian housing modernization assistance provided pursuant to section 14 of the 1937 Act;
- (4) Assistance provided under any HUD housing or community development program that is expended for work arising in connection with:
 - (i) Housing rehabilitation (including reduction and abatement of lead-based paint hazards, but excluding routine maintenance, repair and replacement);
 - (ii) Housing construction; or
 - (iii) Other public construction project (which includes other buildings or improvements, regardless of owner- ship).

Section 3 covered contract means a contract or subcontract (including a professional service contract) awarded by a recipient or contractor for work generated by the expenditure of section 3 covered assistance, or for work arising in connection with a section 3 covered project. “Section 3 covered con- tracts” do not include contracts awarded under HUD’s procurement program, which are governed by the Federal Acquisition Regulation System (see 48 CFR, Chapter 1). “Section 3 covered contracts” also do not include con- tracts for the purchase of supplies and

materials. However, whenever a contract for materials includes the installation of the materials, the contract constitutes a section 3 covered con- tract. For example, a contract for the purchase and installation of a furnace would be a section 3 covered contract because the contract is for work (i.e., the installation of the furnace) and thus is covered by section 3.

Section 3 covered project means the construction, reconstruction, conversion or rehabilitation of housing (including reduction and abatement of lead-based paint hazards), other public construction which includes buildings or improvements (regardless of owner- ship) assisted with housing or community development assistance.

Section 3 joint venture. See § 135.40.
Section 3 resident means: (1) A public housing resident; or

(2) An individual who resides in the metropolitan area or nonmetropolitan county in which the section 3 covered assistance is expended, and who is:

(i) A *low-income person*, as this term is defined in section 3(b)(2) of the 1937 Act (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(2)). Section 3(b)(2) of the 1937 Act defines this term to mean families (including single per- sons) whose incomes do not exceed 80 per centum of the median income for the area, as determined by the Secretary, with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that the Secretary may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 80 per centum of the median for the area on the basis of the Secretary’s findings that such variations are necessary because of prevailing levels of construction costs or unusually high or low-income families; or

(ii) A *very low-income person*, as this term is defined in section 3(b)(2) of the 1937 Act (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(2)). Section 3(b)(2) of the 1937 Act (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(2)) defines this term to mean families (including single persons) whose incomes do not exceed 50 per centum of the median family income for the area, as determined by the Secretary with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that the Secretary may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 50 per centum of the median for the area on the basis of the Secretary’s findings that

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such variations are necessary because of unusually high or low family incomes.

- (3) A person seeking the training and employment preference provided by section 3 bears the responsibility of providing evidence (if requested) that the person is eligible for the preference.

Section 8 assistance means assistance provided under section 8 of the 1937 Act (42 U.S.C. 1437f) pursuant to 24 CFR part 882, subpart G.

Service area means the geographical area in which the persons benefitting from the section 3 covered project reside. The service area shall not extend beyond the unit of general local government in which the section 3 covered assistance is expended. In HUD's Indian housing programs, the service area, for IHAs established by an Indian tribe as a result of the exercise of the tribe's sovereign power, is limited to the area of tribal jurisdiction.

Subcontractor means any entity (other than a person who is an employee of the contractor) which has a contract with a contractor to undertake a portion of the contractor's obligation for the performance of work generated by the expenditure of section 3 covered assistance, or arising in connection with a section 3 covered project.

Very low-income person. See the definition of "section 3 resident" in this section.

Youthbuild programs. See the definition of "HUD Youthbuild programs" in this section.

[59 FR 33880, June 30, 1994, as amended at 61 FR 5206, Feb. 9, 1996]

§ 135.7 Delegation of authority.

Except as may be otherwise provided in this part, the functions and responsibilities of the Secretary under section 3, and described in this part, are delegated to the Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. The Assistant Secretary is further authorized to redelegate functions and responsibilities to other employees of HUD; *provided however*, that the authority to issue rules and regulations under this part, which authority is delegated to the Assistant Secretary, may

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not be redelegated by the Assistant Secretary.

§ 135.9 Requirements applicable to HUD NOFAs for section 3 covered programs.

(a) *Certification of compliance with part 135.* All notices of funding availability (NOFAs) issued by HUD that announce the availability of funding covered by section 3 shall include a provision in the NOFA that notifies applicants that section 3 and the regulations in part

135 are applicable to funding awards made under the NOFA. Additionally the NOFA shall require as an application submission requirement (which may be specified in the NOFA or application kit) a certification by the applicant that the applicant will comply with the regulations in part 135. (For PHAs, this requirement will be met where a PHA Resolution in Support of the Application is submitted.) With respect to application evaluation, HUD will accept an applicant's certification unless there is evidence substantially challenging the certification.

(b) *Statement of purpose in NOFAs.*

(1) For competitively awarded assistance in which the grants are for activities administered by an HA, and those activities are anticipated to generate significant training, employment or contracting opportunities, the NOFA must include a statement that one of the purposes of the assistance is to give to the greatest extent feasible, and consistent with existing Federal, State and local laws and regulations, job training, employment, contracting and other economic opportunities to section 3 residents and section 3 business concerns.

(2) For competitively awarded assistance involving housing rehabilitation, construction or other public construction, where the amount awarded to the applicant may exceed \$200,000, the NOFA must include a statement that one of the purposes of the assistance is to give, to the greatest extent feasible, and consistent with existing Federal, State and local laws and regulations, job training, employment, contracting and other economic opportunities to section 3 residents and section 3 business concerns.

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(c) *Section 3 as NOFA evaluation criteria.*

Where not otherwise precluded by statute, in the evaluation of applications for the award of assistance, consideration shall be given to the extent to which an applicant has demonstrated that it will train and employ section 3 residents and contract with section 3 business concerns for economic opportunities generated in connection with the assisted project or activity. The evaluation criteria to be utilized, and the rating points to be assigned, will be specified in the NOFA.

§ 135.11 Other laws governing training, employment, and contracting.

Other laws and requirements that are applicable or may be applicable to the economic opportunities generated from the expenditure of section 3 covered assistance include, but are not necessarily limited to those listed in this section.

(a) *Procurement standards for States and local governments (24 CFR 85.36)*—(1) *General.* Nothing in this part prescribes specific methods of procurement. However, neither section 3 nor the requirements of this part supersede the general requirement of 24 CFR 85.36(c) that all procurement transactions be conducted in a competitive manner. Consistent with 24 CFR 85.36(c)(2), section 3 is a Federal statute that expressly encourages, to the maximum extent feasible, a geographic preference in the evaluation of bids or proposals.

(2) *Flexible Subsidy Program.* Multi-family project mortgagors in the Flexible Subsidy Program are not required to utilize the methods of procurement in 24 CFR 85.36(d), and are not permitted to utilize methods of procurement that would result in their award of a contract to a business concern that submits a bid higher than the lowest responsive bid. A multifamily project mortgagor, however, must ensure that, to the greatest extent feasible, the procurement practices it selects provide preference to section 3 business concerns.

(b) *Procurement standards for other recipients (OMB Circular No. A-110).* Nothing in this part prescribes specific methods of procurement for grants and other agreements with institutions of

higher education, hospitals, and other nonprofit organizations. Consistent with the requirements set forth in OMB Circular No. A-110, section 3 is a Federal statute that expressly encourages a geographic preference in the evaluation of bids or proposals.

(a) *Federal labor standards provisions.* Certain construction contracts are subject to compliance with the requirement to pay prevailing wages determined under Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. 276a—276a-7) and implementing U.S. Department of Labor regulations in 29 CFR part 5. Additionally, certain HUD-assisted rehabilitation and maintenance activities on public and Indian housing developments are subject to compliance with the requirement to pay prevailing wage rates, as determined or adopted by HUD, to laborers and mechanics employed in this work. Apprentices and trainees may be utilized on this work only to the extent permitted under either Department of Labor regulations at 29 CFR part 5 or for work subject to HUD-determined prevailing wage rates, HUD policies and guidelines. These requirements include adherence to the wage rates and ratios of apprentices or trainees to journeymen set out in “approved apprenticeship and training programs,” as described in paragraph (d) of this section.

(b) *Approved apprenticeship and trainee programs.* Certain apprenticeship and trainee programs have been approved by various Federal agencies. Approved apprenticeship and trainee programs include: an apprenticeship program approved by the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training of the Department of Labor, or a State Apprenticeship Agency, or an on-the-job training program approved by the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, in accordance with the regulations at 29 CFR part 5; or a training program approved by HUD in accordance with HUD policies and guidelines, as applicable. Participation in an approved apprenticeship program does not, in and of itself, demonstrate compliance with the regulations of this part.

(c) *Compliance with Executive Order 11246.* Certain contractors covered by this part are subject to compliance with Executive Order 11246, as amended

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by Executive Order 12086, and the Department of Labor regulations issued pursuant thereto (41 CFR chapter 60) which provide that no person shall be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin in all phases of employment during the performance of Federal or Federally assisted construction contracts.

Subpart B—Economic Opportunities for Section 3 Residents and Section 3 Business Concerns

§ 135.30 Numerical goals for meeting the greatest extent feasible requirement.

(a) *General.* (1) Recipients and covered contractor may demonstrate compliance with the “greatest extent feasible” requirement of section 3 by meeting the numerical goals set forth in this section for providing training, employment, and contracting opportunities to section 3 residents and section 3 business concerns.

(2) The goals established in this section apply to the entire amount of section 3 covered assistance awarded to a recipient in any Federal Fiscal Year (FY), commencing with the first FY following the effective date of this rule.

(3) For recipients that do not engage in training, or hiring, but award contracts to contractors that will engage in training, hiring, and subcontracting, recipients must ensure that, to the greatest extent feasible, contractors will provide training, employment, and contracting opportunities to section 3 residents and section 3 business concerns.

(4) The numerical goals established in this section represent minimum numerical targets.

b. *Training and employment.* The numerical goals set forth in paragraph (b) of this section apply to new hires. The numerical goals reflect the aggregate hires. Efforts to employ section 3 residents, to the greatest extent feasible, should be made at all job levels.

(1) *Numerical goals for section 3 covered public and Indian housing programs.* Recipients of section 3 covered public and Indian housing assistance (as described in § 135.5) and their contractors and

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subcontractors may demonstrate compliance with this part by committing to employ section 3 residents as:

(i) 10 percent of the aggregate number of new hires for the one year period beginning in FY 1995;

(ii) 20 percent of the aggregate number of new hires for the one period beginning in FY 1996;

(iii) 30 percent of the aggregate number of new hires for one year period beginning in FY 1997 and continuing thereafter.

(2) *Numerical goals for other HUD programs*

covered by section 3. (i) Recipients of section 3 covered housing assistance provided under other HUD programs, and their contractors and subcontractors (unless the contract or sub-contract awards do not meet the threshold specified in § 135.3(a)(3)) may demonstrate compliance with this part by committing to employ section 3 residents as 10 percent of the aggregate number of new hires for each year over the duration of the section 3 project;

(ii) Where a managing general partner or management agent is affiliated, in a given metropolitan area, with recipients of section 3 covered housing assistance, for an aggregate of 500 or more units in any fiscal year, the managing partner or management agent may demonstrate compliance with this part by committing to employ section 3 residents as:

(A) 10 percent of the aggregate number of new hires for the one year period beginning in FY 1995;

(B) 20 percent of the aggregate number of new hires for the one year period beginning in FY 1996;

(C) 30 percent of the aggregate number of new hires for the one year period beginning in FY 1997, and continuing thereafter.

(3) Recipients of section 3 covered community development assistance, and their contractors and subcontractors (unless the contract or sub-contract awards do not meet the threshold specified in § 135.3(a)(3)) may demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this part by committing to employ section 3 residents as:

(i) 10 percent of the aggregate number of new hires for the one year period beginning in FY 1995;

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(ii) 20 percent of the aggregate number of new hires for the one year period beginning in FY 1996; and
 (iii) 30 percent of the aggregate number of new hires for the one year period beginning in FY 1997 and continuing thereafter.

(c) *Contracts.* Numerical goals set forth in paragraph (c) of this section apply to contracts awarded in connection with all section 3 covered projects and section 3 covered activities. Each recipient and contractor and subcontractor (unless the contract or sub-contract awards do not meet the threshold specified in § 135.3(a)(3)) may demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this part by committing to award to section 3 business concerns:

(1) At least 10 percent of the total dollar amount of all section 3 covered contracts for building trades work for maintenance, repair, modernization or development of public or Indian housing, or for building trades work arising in connection with housing rehabilitation, housing construction and other public construction; and

(2) At least three (3) percent of the total dollar amount of all other section 3 covered contracts.

(d) *Safe harbor and compliance determinations.*

(1) In the absence of evidence to the contrary, a recipient that meets the minimum numerical goals set forth in this section will be considered to have complied with the section 3 preference requirements.

(2) In evaluating compliance under subpart D of this part, a recipient that has not met the numerical goals set forth in this section has the burden of demonstrating why it was not feasible to meet the numerical goals set forth in this section. Such justification may include impediments encountered despite actions taken. A recipient or contractor also can indicate other economic opportunities, such as those listed in § 135.40, which were provided in its efforts to comply with section 3 and the requirements of this part.

§ 135.32 Responsibilities of the recipient.

Each recipient has the responsibility to comply with section 3 in its own operations, and ensure compliance in the

operations of its contractors and sub-contractors. This responsibility includes but may not be necessarily limited to:

(a) Implementing procedures designed to notify section 3 residents about training and employment opportunities generated by section 3 covered assistance and section 3 business concerns about contracting opportunities generated by section 3 covered assistance;

(b) Notifying potential contractors for section 3 covered projects of the requirements of this part, and incorporating the section 3 clause set forth in § 135.38 in all solicitations and contracts.

(c) Facilitating the training and employment of section 3 residents and the award of contracts to section 3 business concerns by undertaking activities such as described in the Appendix to this part, as appropriate, to reach the goals set forth in § 135.30. Recipients, at their own discretion, may establish reasonable numerical goals for the training and employment of section 3 residents and contract award to section 3 business concerns that exceed those specified in § 135.30;

(d) Assisting and actively cooperating with the Assistant Secretary in obtaining the compliance of contractors and subcontractors with the requirements of this part, and refraining from entering into any contract with any contractor where the recipient has notice or knowledge that the contractor has been found in violation of the regulations in 24 CFR part 135.

(e) Documenting actions taken to comply with the requirements of this part, the results of actions taken and impediments, if any.

(f) A State or county which distributes funds for section 3 covered assistance to units of local governments, to the greatest extent feasible, must attempt to reach the numerical goals set forth in § 135.30 regardless of the number of local governments receiving funds from the section 3 covered assistance which meet the thresholds for applicability set forth at § 135.3. The State or county must inform units of local government to whom funds are distributed of the requirements of this part; assist

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local governments and their contractors in meeting the requirements and objectives of this part; and monitor the performance of local governments with respect to the objectives and requirements of this part.

§ 135.34 Preference for section 3 residents in training and employment opportunities.

(a) *Order of providing preference.* Recipients, contractors and subcontractors shall direct their efforts to provide, to the greatest extent feasible, training and employment opportunities generated from the expenditure of section 3 covered assistance to section 3 residents in the order of priority provided in paragraph (a) of this section.

(1) *Public and Indian housing programs.* In public and Indian housing programs, efforts shall be directed to provide training and employment opportunities to section 3 residents in the following order of priority:

(i) Residents of the housing development or developments for which the section 3 covered assistance is expended (category 1 residents);

(ii) Residents of other housing developments managed by the HA that is expending the section 3 covered housing assistance (category 2 residents);

(iii) Participants in HUD Youthbuild programs being carried out in the metropolitan area (or nonmetropolitan county) in which the section 3 covered assistance is expended (category 3 residents);

(iv) Other section 3 residents.

(2) *Housing and community development programs.* In housing and community development programs, priority consideration shall be given, where feasible, to:

(i) Section 3 residents residing in the service area or neighborhood in which the section 3 covered project is located (collectively, referred to as category 1 residents); and

(ii) Participants in HUD Youthbuild programs (category 2 residents).

(iii) Where the section 3 project is assisted under the Stewart

B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11301 *et seq.*), homeless persons residing in the service area or neighborhood in which the section 3 covered project is

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located shall be given the highest priority;

(iv) Other section 3 residents.

(3) Recipients of housing assistance programs administered by the Assistant Secretary for Housing may, at their own discretion, provide preference to residents of the housing development receiving the section 3 covered assistance within the service area or neighborhood where the section 3 covered project is located.

(4) Recipients of community development programs may, at their own discretion, provide priority to recipients of government assistance for housing, including recipients of certificates or vouchers under the Section 8 housing assistance program, within the service area or neighborhood where the section 3 covered project is located.

(b) *Eligibility for preference.* A section 3 resident seeking the preference in training and employment provided by this part shall certify, or submit evidence to the recipient contractor or subcontractor, if requested, that the person is a section 3 resident, as defined in § 135.5. (An example of evidence of eligibility for the preference is evidence of receipt of public assistance, or evidence of participation in a public assistance program.)

(c) *Eligibility for employment.* Nothing in this part shall be construed to require the employment of a section 3 resident who does not meet the qualifications of the position to be filled.

§ 135.36 Preference for section 3 business concerns in contracting opportunities.

(a) *Order of providing preference.* Recipients, contractors and subcontractors shall direct their efforts to award section 3 covered contracts, to the greatest extent feasible, to section 3 business concerns in the order of priority provided in paragraph (a) of this section.

(1) *Public and Indian housing programs.* In public and Indian housing programs, efforts shall be directed to award contracts to section 3 business concerns in the following order of priority:

(i) Business concerns that are 51 percent or more owned by residents of the housing development or developments

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for which the section 3 covered assistance is expended, or whose full-time, permanent workforce includes 30 percent of these persons as employees (category 1 businesses); (ii) Business concerns that are 51 percent or more owned by residents of other housing developments or developments managed by the HA that is expending the section 3 covered assistance, or whose full-time, permanent workforce includes 30 percent of these persons as employees (category 2 businesses); or

(iii) HUD Youthbuild programs being carried out in the metropolitan area (or nonmetropolitan county) in which the section 3 covered assistance is expended (category 3 businesses).

(iv) Business concerns that are 51 percent or more owned by section 3 residents, or whose permanent, full-time workforce includes no less than 30 percent section 3 residents (category 4 businesses), or that subcontract in excess of 25 percent of the total amount of subcontracts to business concerns identified in paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) of this section.

(2) *Housing and community development programs.* In housing and community development programs, priority consideration shall be given, where feasible, to:

(i) Section 3 business concerns that provide economic opportunities for section 3 residents in the service area or neighborhood in which the section 3 covered project is located (category 1 businesses); and

(ii) Applicants (as this term is defined in 42 U.S.C. 12899) selected to carry out HUD Youthbuild programs (category 2 businesses);

(iii) Other section 3 business concerns.

(b) *Eligibility for preference.* A business concern seeking to qualify for a section 3 contracting preference shall certify or submit evidence, if requested, that the business concern is a section 3 business concern as defined in §135.5.

(c) *Ability to complete contract.* A section 3 business concern seeking a contract or a subcontract shall submit evidence to the recipient, contractor, or subcontractor (as applicable), if requested, sufficient to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the party awarding

the contract that the business concern is responsible and has the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of the proposed contract. (The ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of the proposed contract is required of all contractors and subcontractors subject to the procurement standards of 24 CFR 85.36 (see 24 CFR 85.36(b)(8)).) This

regulation requires consideration of, among other factors, the potential contractor's record in complying with public policy requirements. Section 3 compliance is a matter properly considered as part of this determination.

§ 135.38 Section 3 clause.

All section 3 covered contracts shall include the following clause (referred to as the section 3 clause):

A. The work to be performed under this contract is subject to the requirements of section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, 12 U.S.C. 1701u (section 3). The purpose of section 3 is to ensure that employment and other economic opportunities generated by HUD assistance or HUD-assisted projects covered by section 3, shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be directed to low- and very low-income persons, particularly persons who are recipients of HUD assistance for housing.

B. The parties to this contract agree to comply with HUD's regulations in 24 CFR part 135, which implement section 3. As evidenced by their execution of this contract, the parties to this contract certify that they are under no contractual or other impediment that would prevent them from complying with the part 135 regulations.

C. The contractor agrees to send to each labor organization or representative of workers with which the contractor has a collective bargaining agreement or other understanding, if any, a notice advising the labor organization or workers' representative of the contractor's commitments under this section 3 clause, and will post copies of the notice in conspicuous places at the work site where both employees and applicants for training and employment positions can see the notice. The notice shall describe the section 3 preference, shall set forth minimum number and job titles subject to hire, availability of apprenticeship and training positions, the qualifications for each; and the name and location of the person(s) taking applications for each of the positions; and the anticipated date the work shall begin.

D. The contractor agrees to include this section 3 clause in every subcontract subject to compliance with regulations in 24 CFR

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part 135, and agrees to take appropriate action, as provided in an applicable provision of the subcontract or in this section 3 clause, upon a finding that the subcontractor is in violation of the regulations in 24 CFR part 135. The contractor will not subcontract with any subcontractor where the contractor has notice or knowledge that the subcontractor has been found in violation of the regulations in 24 CFR part 135.

E. The contractor will certify that any vacant employment positions, including training positions, that are filled (1) after the contractor is selected but before the contract is executed, and (2) with persons other than those to whom the regulations of 24 CFR part 135 require employment opportunities to be directed, were not filled to circumvent the contractor's obligations under 24 CFR part 135.

F. Noncompliance with HUD's regulations in 24 CFR part 135 may result in sanctions, termination of this contract for default, and debarment or suspension from future HUD assisted contracts.

G. With respect to work performed in connection with section 3 covered Indian housing assistance, section 7(b) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450e) also applies to the work to be performed under this contract. Section 7(b) requires that to the greatest extent feasible (i) preference and opportunities for training and employment shall be given to Indians, and (ii) preference in the award of contracts and subcontracts shall be given to Indian organizations and Indian-owned Economic Enterprises. Parties to this contract that are subject to the provisions of section 3 and section 7(b) agree to comply with section 3 to the maximum extent feasible, but not in derogation of compliance with section 7(b).

§ 135.40 Providing other economic opportunities.

(a) *General.* In accordance with the findings of the Congress, as stated in section 3, that other economic opportunities offer an effective means of empowering low-income persons, a recipient is encouraged to undertake efforts to provide to low-income persons economic opportunities other than training, employment, and contract awards, in connection with section 3 covered assistance.

(b) *Other training and employment related opportunities.* Other economic opportunities to train and employ section 3 residents include, but need not be limited to, use of "upward mobility", "bridge" and trainee positions to fill vacancies; hiring section 3 residents in

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management and maintenance positions within other housing developments; and hiring section 3 residents in part-time positions.

(c) *Other business related economic opportunities.* (l) A recipient or contractor may provide economic opportunities to establish, stabilize or expand section 3 business concerns, including microenterprises. Such opportunities include, but are not limited to the formation of section 3 joint ventures, financial support for affiliating with franchise development, use of labor only contracts for building trades, purchase of supplies and materials from housing authority resident-owned businesses, purchase of materials and supplies from PHA resident-owned businesses and use of procedures under 24 CFR part 963 regarding HA contracts to HA resident-owned businesses. A recipient or contractor may employ these methods directly or may provide incentives to non-section 3 businesses to utilize such methods to provide other economic opportunities to low-income persons.

(2) A *section 3 joint venture* means an association of business concerns, one of which qualifies as a section 3 business concern, formed by written joint venture agreement to engage in and carry out a specific business venture for which purpose the business concerns combine their efforts, resources, and skills for joint profit, but not necessarily on a continuing or permanent basis for conducting business generally, and for which the section 3 business concern:

(i) Is responsible for a clearly defined portion of the work to be performed and holds management responsibilities in the joint venture; and

(ii) Performs at least 25 percent of the work and is contractually entitled to compensation proportionate to its work.

Subpart C [Reserved]**Subpart D—Complaint and Compliance Review****§ 135.70 General.**

(a) *Purpose.* The purpose of this subpart is to establish the procedures for handling complaints alleging non-compliance with the regulations of this

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part, and the procedures governing the Assistant Secretary's review of a recipient's or contractor's compliance with the regulations in this part.

(b) *Definitions.* For purposes of this subpart:

(1) *Complaint* means an allegation of noncompliance with regulations of this part made in the form described in § 135.76(d).

(2) *Complainant* means the party which files a complaint with the Assistant Secretary alleging that a recipient or contractor has failed or refused to comply with the regulations in this part.

(3) *Noncompliance with section 3* means failure by a recipient or contractor to comply with the requirements of this part.

(4) *Respondent* means the recipient or contractor against which a complaint of noncompliance has been filed. The term "recipient" shall have the meaning set forth in § 135.7, which includes PHA and IHA.

§ 135.72 Cooperation in achieving compliance.

(a) The Assistant Secretary recognizes that the success of ensuring that section 3 residents and section 3 business concerns have the opportunity to apply for jobs and to bid for contracts generated by covered HUD financial assistance depends upon the cooperation and assistance of HUD recipients and their contractors and subcontractors. All recipients shall cooperate fully and promptly with the Assistant Secretary in section 3 compliance reviews, in investigations of allegations of noncompliance made under § 135.76, and with the distribution and collection of data and information that the Assistant Secretary may require in connection with achieving the economic objectives of section 3.

- (b) The recipient shall refrain from entering into a contract with any contractor after notification to the recipient by HUD that the contractor has been found in violation of the regulations in this part. The provisions of 24 CFR part 24 apply to the employment, engagement of services, awarding of contracts or funding of any contractors or subcontractors during any period of debarment, suspension or otherwise ineligible status.

§ 135.74 Section 3 compliance review procedures.

(a) *Compliance reviews by Assistant Secretary.* The Assistant Secretary shall periodically conduct section 3 compliance reviews of selected recipients and contractors to determine whether these recipients are in compliance with the regulations in this part.

(b) *Form of compliance review.* A section 3 compliance review shall consist of a comprehensive analysis and evaluation of the recipient's or contractor's compliance with the requirements and obligations imposed by the regulations of this part, including an analysis of the extent to which section 3 residents have been hired and section 3 business concerns have been awarded contracts as a result of the methods undertaken by the recipient to achieve the employment, contracting and other economic objectives of section 3.

(c) *Where compliance review reveals noncompliance with section 3 by recipient or contractor.* Where the section 3 compliance review reveals that a recipient or contractor has not complied with section 3, the Assistant Secretary shall notify the recipient or contractor of its specific deficiencies in compliance with the regulations of this part, and shall advise the recipient or contractor of the means by which these deficiencies may be corrected. HUD shall conduct a follow-up review with the recipient or contractor to ensure that action is being taken to correct the deficiencies.

(d) *Continuing noncompliance by recipient or contractor.* A continuing failure or refusal by the recipient or contractor to comply with the regulations in this part may result in the application of sanctions specified in the contract through which HUD assistance is provided, or the application of sanctions specified in the regulations governing the HUD program under which HUD financial assistance is provided. HUD will notify the recipient of any continuing failure or refusal by the contractor to comply with the regulations in this part for possible action under any procurement contract between the recipient and the contractor.

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Debarment, suspension and limited denial of participation pursuant to HUD's regulations in 24 CFR part 24, where appropriate, may be applied to the recipient or the contractor.

(e) *Conducting compliance review before the award of assistance.* Section 3 compliance reviews may be conducted before the award of contracts, and especially where the Assistant Secretary has reasonable grounds to believe that the recipient or contractor will be unable or unwilling to comply with the regulations in this part.

(f) *Consideration of complaints during compliance review.* Complaints alleging noncompliance with section 3, as provided in § 135.76, may also be considered during any compliance review conducted to determine the recipient's conformance with regulations in this part.

§ 135.76 Filing and processing complaints.

(a) *Who may file a complaint.* The following individuals and business concerns may, personally or through an authorized representative, file with the Assistant Secretary a complaint alleging noncompliance with section 3:

(1) Any section 3 resident on behalf of himself or herself, or as a representative of persons similarly situated, seeking employment, training or other economic opportunities generated from the expenditure of section 3 covered assistance with a recipient or contractor, or by a representative who is not a section 3 resident but who represents one or more section 3 residents;

(2) Any section 3 business concern on behalf of itself, or as a representative of other section 3 business concerns similarly situated, seeking contract opportunities generated from the expenditure of section 3 covered assistance from a recipient or contractor, or by an individual representative of section 3 business concerns.

(b) *Where to file a complaint.* A complaint must be filed with the Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC, 20410.

(c) *Time of filing.* (1) A complaint must be received not later than 180 days from the date of the action or

omission upon which the complaint is based, unless the time for filing is extended by the Assistant Secretary for good cause shown.

(2) Where a complaint alleges noncompliance with section 3 and the regulations of this part that is continuing, as manifested in a number of incidents of noncompliance, the complaint will be timely if filed within 180 days of the last alleged occurrence of noncompliance.

(3) Where a complaint contains incomplete information, the Assistant Secretary shall request the needed information from the complainant. In the event this information is not furnished to the Assistant Secretary within sixty (60) days of the date of the request, the complaint may be closed.

(d) *Contents of complaint*—(1) *Written complaints.* Each complaint must be in writing, signed by the complainant, and include:

(i) The complainant's name and address;

(ii) The name and address of the respondent;

(iii) A description of the acts or omissions by the respondent that is sufficient to inform the Assistant Secretary of the nature and date of the alleged noncompliance.

(iv) A complainant may provide information to be contained in a complaint by telephone to HUD or any HUD Field Office, and HUD will reduce the information provided by telephone to writing on the prescribed complaint form and send the form to the complainant for signature.

(2) *Amendment of complaint.* Complaints may be reasonably and fairly amended at any time. Such amendments may include, but are not limited to, amendments to cure, technical defects or omissions, including failure to sign or affirm a complaint, to clarify or amplify the allegations in a complaint, or to join additional or substitute respondents. Except for the purposes of notifying respondents, amended complaints will be considered as having been made as of the original filing date.

(e) *Resolution of complaint by recipient.*

(1) Within ten (10) days of timely filing of a complaint that contains complete

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information (in accordance with paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section), the Assistant Secretary shall determine whether the complainant alleges an action or omission by a recipient or the recipient's contractor that if proven qualifies as noncompliance with section 3. If a determination is made that there is an allegation of noncompliance with section 3, the complaint shall be sent to the recipient for resolution.

(2) If the recipient believes that the complaint lacks merit, the recipient must notify the Assistant Secretary in writing of this recommendation with supporting reasons, within 30 days of the date of receipt of the complaint. The determination that a complaint lacks merit is reserved to the Assistant Secretary.

(3) If the recipient determines that there is merit to the complaint, the recipient will have sixty (60) days from the date of receipt of the complaint to resolve the matter with the complainant. At the expiration of the 60-day period, the recipient must notify the Assistant Secretary in writing whether a resolution of the complaint has been reached. If resolution has been reached, the notification must be signed by both the recipient and the complainant, and must summarize the terms of the resolution reached between the two parties.

(4) Any request for an extension of the 60-day period by the recipient must be submitted in writing to the Assistant Secretary, and must include a statement explaining the need for the extension.

(5) If the recipient is unable to resolve the complaint within the 60-day period (or more if extended by the Assistant Secretary), the complaint shall be referred to the Assistant Secretary for handling.

(f) *Informal resolution of complaint by Assistant Secretary*—(1) *Dismissal of complaint*. Upon receipt of the recipient's written recommendation that there is no merit to the complaint, or upon failure of the recipient and complainant to reach resolution, the Assistant Secretary shall review the complaint to determine whether it presents a valid allegation of noncompliance with section 3. The Assistant Secretary may conduct further investigation if deemed necessary. Where the com-

plaint fails to present a valid allegation of noncompliance with section 3, the Assistant Secretary will dismiss the complaint without further action. The Assistant Secretary shall notify the complainant of the dismissal of the complaint and the reasons for the dismissal.

(2) *Informal resolution*. Where the allegations in a complaint on their face, or as amplified by the statements of the complainant, present a valid allegation of noncompliance with section 3, the Assistant Secretary will attempt, through informal methods, to obtain a voluntary and just resolution of the complaint. Where attempts to resolve the complaint informally fail, the Assistant Secretary will impose a resolution on the recipient and complainant. Any resolution imposed by the Assistant Secretary will be in accordance with requirements and procedures concerning the imposition of sanctions or resolutions as set forth in the regulations governing the HUD program under which the section 3 covered assistance was provided.

(3) *Effective date of informal resolution*. The imposed resolution will become effective and binding at the expiration of 15 days following notification to recipient and complainant by certified mail of the imposed resolution, unless either party appeals the resolution before the expiration of the 15 days. Any appeal shall be in writing to the Secretary and shall include the basis for the appeal.

(g) *Sanctions*. Sanctions that may be imposed on recipients that fail to comply with the regulations of this part include debarment, suspension and limited denial of participation in HUD programs.

(h) *Investigation of complaint*. The Assistant Secretary reserves the right to investigate a complaint directly when, in the Assistant Secretary's discretion, the investigation would further the purposes of section 3 and this part.

(i) *Intimidatory or retaliatory acts prohibited*. No recipient or other person shall intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any person or business because the person or business has made a complaint, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part. The identity of

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complainants shall be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of this part, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing or judicial proceeding arising thereunder.

(j) *Judicial relief.* Nothing in this sub-part D precludes a section 3 resident or section 3 business concerning from exercising the right, which may otherwise be available, to seek redress directly through judicial procedures.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 2529-0043)

Subpart E—Reporting and Recordkeeping**§ 135.90 Reporting.**

Each recipient which receives directly from HUD financial assistance that is subject to the requirements of this part shall submit to the Assistant Secretary an annual report in such form and with such information as the Assistant Secretary may request, for the purpose of determining the effectiveness of section 3. Where the program providing the section 3 covered assistance requires submission of an annual performance report, the section

3 report will be submitted with that annual performance report. If the program providing the section 3 covered assistance does not require an annual performance report, the section 3 report is to be submitted by January 10 of each year or within 10 days of project completion, whichever is earlier. All reports submitted to HUD in accordance with the requirements of this part will be made available to the public.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 2529-0043)

§ 135.92 Recordkeeping and access to records.

HUD shall have access to all records, reports, and other documents or items of the recipient that are maintained to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this part, or that are maintained in accordance with the regulations governing the specific HUD program under which section 3 covered assistance is provided or otherwise made available to the recipient or contractor.

**APPENDIX TO
PART 135*****I. Examples of Efforts To Offer Training and Employment Opportunities to Section 3 Residents***

(1) Entering into “first source” hiring agreements with organizations representing Section 3 residents.

(2) Sponsoring a HUD-certified “Step-Up” employment and training program for section 3 residents.

(3) Establishing training programs, which are consistent with the requirements of the Department of Labor, for public and Indian housing residents and other section 3 residents in the building trades.

(4) Advertising the training and employment positions by distributing flyers (which identify the positions to be filled, the qualifications required, and where to obtain additional information about the application process) to every occupied dwelling unit in the housing development or developments where category 1 or category 2 persons (as these terms are defined in § 135.34) reside.

(5) Advertising the training and employment positions by posting flyers (which identify the positions to be filled, the qualifications required, and where to obtain additional information about the application process) in the common areas or other prominent areas of the housing development or developments. For HAs, post such advertising in the housing development or developments where category 1 or category 2 persons reside; for all other recipients, post such advertising in the housing development or developments and transitional housing in the neighborhood or service area of the section 3 covered project.

(6) Contacting resident councils, resident management corporations, or other resident organizations, where they exist, in the housing development or developments where category 1 or category 2 persons reside, and community organizations in HUD-assisted neighborhoods, to request the assistance of these organizations in notifying residents of the training and employment positions to be filled.

(7) Sponsoring (scheduling, advertising, financing or providing in-kind services) a job informational meeting to be conducted by an HA or contractor representative or representatives at a location in the housing development or developments where category 1 or category 2 persons reside or in the neighborhood or service area of the section 3 covered project.

(8) Arranging assistance in conducting job interviews and completing job applications for residents of the housing development or developments where category 1 or category 2

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persons reside and in the neighborhood or service area in which a section 3 project is located.

(9) Arranging for a location in the housing development or developments where category 1 persons reside, or the neighborhood or service area of the project, where job applications may be delivered to and collected by a recipient or contractor representative or representatives.

(10) Conducting job interviews at the housing development or developments where category 1 or category 2 persons reside, or at a location within the neighborhood or service area of the section 3 covered project.

(11) Contacting agencies administering HUD Youthbuild programs, and requesting their assistance in recruiting HUD Youthbuild program participants for the HA's or contractor's training and employment positions.

(12) Consulting with State and local agencies administering training programs funded through JTPA or JOBS, probation and parole agencies, unemployment compensation programs, community organizations and other officials or organizations to assist with recruiting Section 3 residents for the HA's or contractor's training and employment positions.

(13) Advertising the jobs to be filled through the local media, such as community television networks, newspapers of general circulation, and radio advertising.

(14) Employing a job coordinator, or contracting with a business concern that is licensed in the field of job placement (preferably one of the section 3 business concerns identified in part 135), that will undertake, on behalf of the HA, other recipient or contractor, the efforts to match eligible and qualified section 3 residents with the training and employment positions that the HA or contractor intends to fill.

(15) For an HA, employing section 3 residents directly on either a permanent or a temporary basis to perform work generated by section 3 assistance. (This type of employment is referred to as "force account labor" in HUD's Indian housing regulations. See 24 CFR 905.102, and §905.201(a)(6).)

(16) Where there are more qualified section 3 residents than there are positions to be filled, maintaining a file of eligible qualified section 3 residents for future employment positions.

(17) Undertaking job counseling, education and related programs in association with local educational institutions.

(18) Undertaking such continued job training efforts as may be necessary to ensure the continued employment of section 3 residents previously hired for employment opportunities.

(19) After selection of bidders but prior to execution of contracts, incorporating into the contract a negotiated provision for a spe

cific number of public housing or other section 3 residents to be trained or employed on the section 3 covered assistance.

(20) Coordinating plans and implementation of economic development (e.g., job training and preparation, business development assistance for residents) with the planning for housing and community development.

II. Examples of Efforts To Award Contracts to Section 3 Business Concerns

(1) Utilizing procurement procedures for section 3 business concerns similar to those provided in 24 CFR part 905 for business concerns owned by Native Americans (see section III of this Appendix).

(2) In determining the responsibility of potential contractors, consider their record of section 3 compliance as evidenced by past actions and their current plans for the pending contract.

(3) Contacting business assistance agencies, minority contractors associations and community organizations to inform them of contracting opportunities and requesting their assistance in identifying section 3 businesses which may solicit bids or proposals for contracts for work in connection with section 3 covered assistance.

(4) Advertising contracting opportunities by posting notices, which provide general information about the work to be contracted and where to obtain additional information, in the common areas or other prominent areas of the housing development or developments owned and managed by the HA.

(5) For HAs, contacting resident councils, resident management corporations, or other resident organizations, where they exist, and requesting their assistance in identifying category 1 and category 2 business concerns.

(6) Providing written notice to all known section 3 business concerns of the contracting opportunities. This notice should be in sufficient time to allow the section 3 business concerns to respond to the bid invitations or request for proposals.

(7) Following up with section 3 business concerns that have expressed interest in the contracting opportunities by contacting them to provide additional information on the contracting opportunities.

(8) Coordinating pre-bid meetings at which section 3 business concerns could be informed of upcoming contracting and subcontracting opportunities.

(9) Carrying out workshops on contracting procedures and specific contract opportunities in a timely manner so that section 3 business concerns can take advantage of upcoming contracting opportunities, with such information being made available in languages other than English where appropriate.

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(10) Advising section 3 business concerns as to where they may seek assistance to overcome limitations such as inability to obtain bonding, lines of credit, financing, or insurance.

(11) Arranging solicitations, times for the presentation of bids, quantities, specifications, and delivery schedules in ways to facilitate the participation of section 3 business concerns.

(12) Where appropriate, breaking out contract work items into economically feasible units to facilitate participation by section 3 business concerns.

(13) Contacting agencies administering HUD Youthbuild programs, and notifying these agencies of the contracting opportunities.

(14) Advertising the contracting opportunities through trade association papers and newsletters, and through the local media, such as community television networks, newspapers of general circulation, and radio advertising.

(15) Developing a list of eligible section 3 business concerns.

(16) For HAs, participating in the "Contracting with Resident-Owned Businesses" program provided under 24 CFR part 963.

(17) Establishing or sponsoring programs designed to assist residents of public or Indian housing in the creation and development of resident-owned businesses.

(18) Establishing numerical goals (number of awards and dollar amount of contracts) for award of contracts to section 3 business concerns.

(19) Supporting businesses which provide economic opportunities to low income persons by linking them to the support services available through the Small Business Administration (SBA), the Department of Commerce and comparable agencies at the State and local levels.

(20) Encouraging financial institutions, in carrying out their responsibilities under the Community Reinvestment Act, to provide no or low interest loans for providing working capital and other financial business needs.

(21) Actively supporting joint ventures with section 3 business concerns.

(22) Actively supporting the development or maintenance of business incubators which assist Section 3 business concerns.

III. Examples of Procurement Procedures That Provide for Preference for Section 3 Business Concerns

This Section III provides specific procedures that may be followed by recipients and contractors (collectively, referred to as the "contracting party") for implementing the section 3 contracting preference for each of the competitive procurement methods authorized in 24 CFR 85.36(d).

(1) *Small Purchase Procedures.* For section 3 covered contracts aggregating no more than \$25,000, the methods set forth in this paragraph

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(1) or the more formal procedures set forth in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this Section III may be utilized.

(i) *Solicitation.* (A) Quotations may be solicited by telephone, letter or other informal procedure provided that the manner of solicitation provides for participation by a reasonable number of competitive sources. At the time of solicitation, the parties must be informed of:

- the section 3 covered contract to be awarded with sufficient specificity;
- the time within which quotations must be submitted; and
- the information that must be submitted with each quotation.

(B) If the method described in paragraph (i)(A) is utilized, there must be an attempt to obtain quotations from a minimum of three qualified sources in order to promote competition. Fewer than three quotations are acceptable when the contracting party has attempted, but has been unable, to obtain a sufficient number of competitive quotations. In unusual circumstances, the contracting party may accept the sole quotation received in response to a solicitation provided the price is reasonable. In all cases, the contracting party shall document the circumstances when it has been unable to obtain at least three quotations.

(ii) *Award.* (A) Where the section 3 covered contract is to be awarded based upon the lowest price, the contract shall be awarded to the qualified section 3 business concern with the lowest responsive quotation, if it is reasonable and no more than 10 percent higher than the quotation of the lowest responsive quotation from any qualified source. If no responsive quotation by a qualified section 3 business concern is within 10 percent of the lowest responsive quotation from any qualified source, the award shall be made to the source with the lowest quotation.

(B) Where the section 3 covered contract is to be awarded based on factors other than price, a request for quotations shall be issued by developing the particulars of the solicitation, including a rating system for the assignment of points to evaluate the merits of each quotation. The solicitation shall identify all factors to be considered, including price or cost. The rating system shall provide for a range of 15 to 25 percent of the total number of available rating points to be set aside for the provision of preference for section 3 business concerns. The purchase order shall be awarded to the responsible firm whose quotation is the most advantageous, considering price and all other factors specified in the rating system.

(2) *Procurement by sealed bids (Invitations for Bids).* Preference in the award of section 3 covered contracts that are awarded under a sealed bid (IFB) process may be provided as follows:

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(i) Bids shall be solicited from all businesses (section 3 business concerns, and non-section 3 business concerns). An award shall be made to the qualified section 3 business concern with the highest priority ranking and with the lowest responsive bid if that bid—

(A) is within the maximum total contract price established in the contracting party's budget for the specific project for which bids are being taken, and

(B) is not more than "X" higher than the total bid price of the lowest responsive bid from any responsible bidder. "X" is determined as follows:

	x=lesser
When the lowest responsive bid is less than \$100,000	10% of that bid or \$9,000.
When the lowest responsive bid is:	
At least \$100,000, but less than \$200,000	9% of that bid, or \$16,000.
At least \$200,000, but less than \$300,000	8% of that bid, or \$21,000.
At least \$300,000, but less than \$400,000	7% of that bid, or \$24,000.
At least \$400,000, but less than \$500,000	6% of that bid, or \$25,000.
At least \$500,000, but less than \$1 million	5% of that bid, or \$40,000.
At least \$1 million, but less than \$2 million	4% of that bid, or \$60,000.
At least \$2 million, but less than \$4 million	3% of that bid, or \$80,000.
At least \$4 million, but less than \$7 million	2% of that bid, or \$105,000.
\$7 million or more	1 1/2% of the lowest responsive bid, with no dollar limit.

(ii) If no responsive bid by a section 3 business concern meets the requirements of paragraph (2)(i) of this section, the contract shall be awarded to a responsible bidder with the lowest responsive bid.

(3) *Procurement under the competitive proposals method of procurement (Request for Proposals (RFP)).* (i) For contracts and sub- contracts awarded under the competitive proposals method of procurement (24 CFR 85.36(d)(3)), a Request for Proposals (RFP) shall identify all evaluation factors (and their relative importance) to be used to rate proposals.

(ii) One of the evaluation factors shall address both the preference for section 3 business concerns and the acceptability of the strategy for meeting the greatest extent feasible requirement (section 3 strategy), as disclosed in proposals submitted by all business concerns (section 3 and non-section 3 business concerns). This factor shall provide for a range of 15 to 25 percent of the total number of available points to be set aside for the evaluation of these two components.

(iii) The component of this evaluation factor designed to address the preference for section 3 business concerns must establish a preference for these business concerns in the order of priority ranking as described in 24 CFR 135.36.

(iv) With respect to the second component (the acceptability of the section 3 strategy), the RFP shall require the disclosure of the contractor's section 3 strategy to comply with the section 3 training and employment preference, or contracting preference, or both, if applicable. A determination of the contractor's responsibility will include the submission of an acceptable section 3 strategy. The contract award shall be made to the responsible firm (either section 3 or non-section 3 business concern) whose proposal is determined most advantageous, considering

price and all other factors specified in the RFP.

PART 146—NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF AGE IN HUD PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES RECEIVING FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Subpart A—General

Sec.

146.1 Purpose of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975.

146.3 Purpose of HUD's age discrimination regulation.

146.5 Applicability of part.

146.7 Definitions.

Subpart B—Standards for Determining Age Discrimination

146.11 Scope of subpart.

146.13 Rules against age discrimination.

Subpart C—Duties of HUD Recipients

146.21 General responsibilities.

146.23 Notice of subrecipients.

146.25 Assurance of compliance and recipient assessment of age distinctions.

146.27 Information requirements.

Subpart D—Investigation, Settlement, and Enforcement Procedures

146.31 Compliance reviews.

146.33 Complaints.

146.35 Mediation.

146.37 Investigation.

146.39 Enforcement procedures.

146.41 Prohibition against intimidation or retaliation.



City of Houston Pay or Play Program Requirements



I. Pay or Play Program Overview

A. Purpose

The Pay or Play Program was established with Ordinance 2007-534 on July 1, 2007 and is governed by Executive Order 1-7. The Pay or Play Program (POP Program) creates a more level playing field and enhances fairness in the bid process between competing contractors that choose to offer health benefits to their workforce and those who do not. The program also recognizes and accounts for the fact that there are cost associated with health care of the uninsured citizens of the Houston and Harris County area.

B. Program Elements

1. Covered contracts:

- I.) Advertised after July 1, 2007 or which is executed on or after the effective date of this Executive Order.
- II.) Contracts valued at or above \$100,000.00 (contract) and \$200,000.00 (sub-contract) including contingencies, amendments, supplemental terms and/or change orders.
- III.) Professional Service, Construction, and Service type contracts.

2. Contracts not covered:

- I.) Any contract in which the primary purpose is procurement of property, goods, supplies, and or equipment.
- II.) An inter-governmental contract, inter-governmental agreement or purchasing cooperative.

3. Covered employees: This program applies to employees of a covered contractor or subcontractor, including contract labor, who are over age 18, work at least 30 hours per week and work any amount of time under a covered city contract or subcontract.

4. Pay or Play Option:

- I.) "Pays" by contributing \$1.00 per covered employee per regular hour for work performed under the contract with the City; or
- II.) "Plays" by providing health benefits to covered employees. Health benefits must meet or exceed the following standards:
 - The **employer will contribute no less than \$150 per covered employee per month** toward the total premium cost.
 - The **employee contribution, if any amount, will be no greater than 50% of the monthly premium cost and no more than \$150 per month.**

****Note: (1)A contractor is deemed to have complied with section 5.4 of E.O. 1-7 with respect to a covered employee who is not provided health benefits if the employee refuses the benefits and the employee's contribution to the premium is no more than \$40 per month. (2) If applicable the contractor has the option to both Pay and Play.***



City of Houston Pay or Play Program Requirements



5. **Exemptions/Waivers:** The City of Houston will award a contract to a contractor that neither Pays nor Plays only if the contractor has received an approved waiver (Form POP-4 requested by City departments only).
6. **Administration:** Contractor performance in meeting Pay or Play program requirements will be managed by the contracting department. The Office of Business Opportunity (OBO) has administrative oversight of the program, including audit responsibilities (department compliance). Questions about the program should be referred to the Department POP Liaison an updated contact list is available on <http://www.houstontx.gov/obo/popforms.html> or call Gracie Orr with the Office of Business Opportunity at 832-393-0633.

II. Documentation and Reporting Requirements

A. **Document that must be signed and returned to administering department with the bid/proposal.**

- 1.) City of Houston Pay or Play Program Acknowledgment Form (Form POP-1) acknowledges bidder/proposers' knowledge of the program and its requirements, and the intention to comply.

B. **Documents that must be signed and returned to administering department within a period designated by the department's Contract Administrator, upon notification of low bidder or successful proposer status:**

- 1.) Certification of Compliance with Pay or Play Program (Form POP-2)

****Note - Contractors that opt to "play" must provide proof of coverage, including document from insurance provider, and names of covered employees.***

- 2.) List of Subcontractors (Form POP-3)

****Note- Review the affidavit statement at the bottom of this form for further important POP Compliance information.***

C. **Contractors reporting requirements:**

- 1.) **Contractors that opt to Pay**
Provide monthly reports to administering department, detailing names of employees, hours worked, exemptions (if any) and amount owed. (Form POP-5)
- 2.) **Contractors that opt to Play**
Provide periodic reports to the contract administrator showing proof of coverage (insurance premium invoice or insurance card) reporting schedule will be determined by administering department based on length of contract. (Form POP-7)



City of Houston Pay or Play Program Requirements



3.) Employee Waiver Request

Contractor may request POP program waiver by submitting the request on POP-8 if the employee is less than 18 years old, employee has other health coverage such as through spouse or parents, or Medicare/Medicaid.

****Note proof of coverage must be provided in the form of a copy of the employee's insurance card. (Remove social security numbers if applicable)***

- 4.) Contractors shall submit an initial report with the second invoice to the department. Payments based on monthly reports are due to the contracting department with submission of the following month's invoice. Payments may be made out to the City of Houston preferably via cashier check or business check.

III. Compliance and Enforcement

The Office of Business Opportunity will audit program compliance. Contractors willfully violating or misrepresenting POP program compliance will be subject to corrective and/or punitive action, including but not limited to the assessment of fines and penalties and/or debarment. The Pay or Play Program Requirements Form and all other POP Forms are available for downloading from the City of Houston's Website at <http://www.houstontx.gov/obo/popforms.html>