

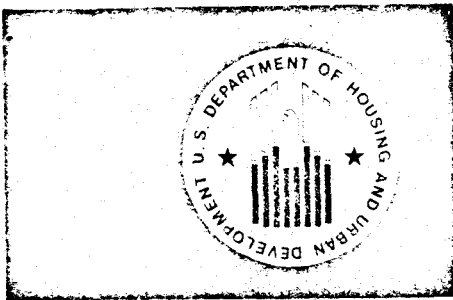
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HUD NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
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WASHINGTON D.C. 20410

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FOR RELEASE:
Wednesday
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Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Carla A. Hills has announced that HUD intends to allocate \$20 million in supplemental Section 8 funds to communities participating in "Areawide Housing Opportunity Plans."

The HUD initiative, authorized under the Housing Assistance Payments program, is intended to stimulate federally-assisted housing opportunities for lower income families.

The areawide planning organizations must submit plans that meet minimum eligibility requirements to be considered for supplemental funding.

The plan must address areawide housing assistance needs and goals, increase housing opportunities for lower income families outside the community where they currently live, and it must be endorsed by at least 80 percent of the local government units served by the planning organization.

The organization must demonstrate that the plan can be implemented and that additional units actually will be built with the supplemental funds. (A list of proposed eligibility requirements accompanies this release.)

HUD requires the planning organizations to prepare regional housing allocation plans as a condition for continued planning assistance funds under Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954.

The program and anticipated eligibility requirements are being announced in advance of publication in the Federal Register to allow interested areawide planning organizations and their member jurisdictions to begin considering participation. The proposed regulations will be published later this month.

The funds announced today are in addition to those already allocated by HUD under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The Act requires a proportional allocation on the basis of the relative needs as to population, housing overcrowding, housing vacancies, amount of substandard housing, and other objectively measurable conditions.

The supplemental allocations will be equivalent to at least 20 percent, but not more than 50 percent, of the total FY 76 Section 8 allocations to areas and communities served by the areawide planning organization.

(To Accompany HUD-No. 76-66)

PROPOSED MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARD
OF SUPPLEMENTAL SECTION 8 FUNDING TO COMMUNITIES
PARTICIPATING IN "AREAWIDE HOUSING OPPORTUNITY PLANS"

To receive consideration for supplemental Section 8 units, an "Areawide Housing Opportunity Plan" must contain each of the minimum requirements below. In the event that qualifying plans exceed the available Section 8 units, special preference factors will be applied. These will be announced in the Federal Register as part of the program regulations.

1. An assessment, on an areawide basis, of the housing assistance needs of lower income households.
2. An assessment of the housing assistance needs of lower income persons (including households expected to reside in the community as a result of existing or planned employment opportunities) by household type and present form of housing tenure, including households displaced or to be displaced; or an estimate of households acceptable to HUD, with a specific timetable for completion.
3. Goals for the distribution of lower income housing on an annual basis which reflect the needs identified above.
4. Provision for encouraging greater housing opportunities for lower income households outside their current jurisdictions.
5. Individual agreements between the areawide planning organization and each participating jurisdiction within the area served by the organization (or an equivalent provision acceptable to HUD) on the goals for the number of lower income housing units to be provided each year. To qualify for these supplemental allocations, the goals and needs in the Housing Assistance Plans (HAPS) of participating jurisdictions must be consistent with the goals and needs contained in these agreements.

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6. The Plan must be endorsed by the various levels of government involved.
7. The Plan must have been endorsed by 80 percent of the units of local government in the area served by the areawide review agency, which represent at least 75 percent of the population of the area. There must be adequate enabling legislation for lower income housing within all participating jurisdictions.
8. The planning organization must demonstrate that the Plan can be implemented and that an additional allocation of Section 8 units can be used. HUD will consider the status of current allocations in awarding supplemental allocations.