Philadelphia Housing Authority
Fiscal Years 2016/2017 Moving to Work Annual Plan
Rental Assistance Demonstration Significant Amendment

The Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) is issuing an amendment to its Moving to Work (MTW) Annual Plan as required by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide information on PHA's planned activities under the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program. The amendment will be incorporated in its entirety into PHA's most recent HUD-approved MTW Annual Plan - either the FY 2016 Annual MTW Plan, which has already been approved, or the FY 2017 MTW Annual Plan, which is pending HUD approval as of the date of publication of the public notice of proposed amendment. Pursuant to this amendment, PHA will convert 147 public housing units at Norris Apartments and 53 units at Plymouth Hall Apartments to project-based assistance under RAD. At Norris Apartments, PHA will transfer the project-based assistance to 147 newly constructed housing units developed at on and off-site locations as part of PHA's Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) Implementation grant for Norris Apartments and the broader North Central Philadelphia neighborhood. At Plymouth Hall, PHA will convert the existing 53 public housing units on-site to project-based assistance.

Background

In December 2013, the PHA Board of Commissioners authorized the submission of several applications to HUD under the RAD program. The Board's approval came after a series of public meetings were held to inform existing residents about the RAD program and their rights under a proposed RAD conversion.

In March 2015, HUD issued RAD award letters to PHA that approved the applications for RAD conversion for multiple housing developments, subject to PHA meeting all of the conditions and requirements of the RAD program. The award letters serve as HUD's Commitment to Enter into a Housing Assistance Payments Contract (CHAP) for the subject public housing developments. PHA intends to proceed with RAD conversion at Plymouth Hall Apartments, and with RAD conversion and transfer of assistance for Norris Apartments pursuant to the guidelines of PIH Notice 2012-32, REV-2 dated June 15, 2015 ("HUD RAD Notice") and any other successor Notices issued by HUD.

One of the conditions of the CHAP is that PHA submit a Significant Amendment to the MTW Annual Plan that incorporates required information on PHA's RAD conversion plans. This document provides the required information and serves as PHA's RAD Significant Amendment to the most recent HUD-approved approved MTW Annual Plan for the subject units. PHA intends to propose further Significant Amendment(s) for additional HUD-approved RAD conversions at future dates. PHA is providing a thirty-day public comment period and will conduct a Public Hearing to allow residents and the general public an opportunity to review and comment on the RAD Significant Amendment. Following this period, the PHA Board of Commissioners will conduct a vote on the RAD Significant Amendment at a public meeting.

RAD Conversion Plan

This Significant Amendment provides information on PHA's plans to convert public housing units to project-based assistance under RAD as follows:

- A total of 147 public housing units at the Norris Apartments development owned by PHA. The public housing assistance for these units will be converted to Project Based Voucher (PBV) assistance and transferred to 147 newly constructed units to be owned by PHA or a PHA subsidiary and situated at on and off-site locations under the transfer of assistance provisions of the HUD RAD Notice.

- A total of 53 public housing units at the Plymouth Hall Apartments development owned by PHA. The public housing assistance for these units will be converted to Project Based Voucher (PBV) assistance at the existing housing development to be owned by PHA or a PHA subsidiary under the applicable provisions of the HUD RAD Notice.

Attachment 1 includes current information on each development or Asset Management Project (AMP) proposed for RAD conversion. Attachment 1 includes the following information:

Current Units:	Total number of units, bedroom size distribution and unit type.
Post-Conversion Units:	If applicable, any changes proposed to the current number of units, the bedroom size distribution or the unit type including de minimis reductions. No unit reductions are proposed under this Significant Amendment.
Transfer of Assistance:	Whether PHA intends to transfer assistance to another development as part of the RAD conversion and, if so, the location, number of units, bedroom size distribution, and unit type where known.
PBV or PBRA:	Whether PHA intends to convert the development to the Project Based Voucher (PBV) program or to the Project Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) program, along with information on resident rights, resident participation, waiting list and grievance procedures applicable to each program. PHA intends to convert assistance to the PBV program.
Capital Fund Impact:	The current amount of Capital Fund dollars received prior to RAD conversion. Developments converted through the RAD program are not eligible for Public Housing Capital Funds after conversion.
Transfer of Waiting List:	How existing waiting lists will be addressed as part of the conversion.

Conversion to Project Based Vouchers or Project Based Rental Assistance

Public housing developments that are converted to project-based assistance will no longer be subject to HUD rules and regulations pertaining to the public housing program. Upon conversion to RAD, the former public housing units will be subject to the rules and regulations pertaining to either the PBV or PBRA programs, depending on which program option is selected by PHA. HUD has modified the PBV and PBRA program rules and regulations to incorporate additional provisions that apply solely to units converted under RAD. These additional provisions provide important protections to current residents of public housing that are impacted by a RAD conversion.

PHA intends to convert the RAD units listed in Attachment 1 to the PBV program. As part of the conversion initiative, PHA will adopt all required RAD PBV rules except where MTW or other waivers are approved by HUD, and will modify its existing Housing Choice Voucher Program Administrative Plan as needed to incorporate those rules related to resident rights, resident participation, waiting list, lease, waiting list, grievance processes and other areas.

Attachment 2 provides information on the RAD PBV program as required by the HUD RAD Notice and the HUD Joint Housing PIH Notice H-2014-9/PIH-2014-7 related to resident rights and participation, waiting list and grievance procedures.

Capital Fund Budget

Conversion of existing public housing developments under the RAD program will enable PHA to leverage existing funds to secure additional private and other funding. This new funding will be used to undertake long-deferred capital improvements and, in instances where transfer of assistance is involved, to construct or rehabilitate new or existing affordable housing units.

PHA currently receives HUD Capital Funds on an annual basis, subject to Congressional appropriations for the majority of its public housing units. Attachment 1 includes the most recent Capital Fund allocation for each RAD conversion site. Upon conversion to RAD, PHA will no longer receive a Capital Fund allocation for units that have been converted and the annual Capital Fund grant will be decreased.

The total estimated reduction in PHA Capital Funds on an annual basis for the subject units covered under this Significant Amendment is $550,940 based on FY2016 funding levels. Over a five year period, the estimated Capital Fund reduction is $2,754,700 based on FY2016 funding levels. The actual amount of reduction may vary depending on Congressional appropriations. As RAD conversions are completed, PHA will modify its existing capital plans to reflect the reduction in funding and change in work scopes.

The RAD conversions will not impact PHA's existing Capital Fund Financing Program (CFFP) obligations. PHA currently projects that the Norris Apartments redevelopment of 147 units will utilize $55 million in funding from various sources including CNI Implementation grant, MTW Block Grant, Low Income Housing Tax Credit and other funds. At Plymouth Hall, PHA currently projects that it will utilize MTW Block Grant funds including an estimated $55,000 to make capital improvements and $1.5 million to establish a RAD reserve. Actual figures may vary based on the final financing plan.

Site and Neighborhood Standards

PHA has analyzed the replacement sites for the RAD conversions covered under this Significant Amendment that involve transfer of assistance. All proposed sites comply with the HUD Site and Neighborhood Standards as defined in 24 CFR 983 and the current MTW Site and Neighborhood Standards as defined in PHA's MTW Agreement.

Relocation Plan

Any necessary resident relocation related to RAD conversions will be performed in accordance with the HUD RAD Notice, HUD Joint Housing Notice H-2014-09/PIH-2014-17 and any other successor Notices issued by HUD; however, no resident relocation is anticipated under this Significant Amendment.

Compliance

PHA is not presently subject to a voluntary compliance agreement, consent order, consent decree, final judicial ruling or administrative ruling that has any relation to or impact on the planned RAD conversion.

Moving To Work

PHA may utilize MTW Block Grant fungibility and programmatic flexibility to support the RAD conversion effort subject to any necessary Board and HUD approvals. PHA certifies that regardless of any funding changes that may occur as a result of conversion under RAD, PHA will continue to administer and maintain service levels for its remaining portfolio of public housing units. PHA will do this by utilizing available funding including Public Housing Operating Fund, Capital Fund, and Tenant Rental Income.

Significant Amendment Definition

As part of the RAD conversion initiative, a Significant Amendment to the MTW Plan will <u>not</u> be required for the following RAD-specific actions:

- Changes to the Capital Fund budget produced as a result of each approved RAD conversion regardless of whether the proposed conversion will include use of additional Capital Funds;

- Decisions to apply MTW funding or programmatic flexibility to post-conversion RAD developments;

- Decisions or changes related to the ownership and/or financing structures for each approved RAD conversion including decisions to allocate PHA financial resources as a source of funds to support the RAD conversion initiatives;

- Changes to the construction and rehabilitation plans and scheduled for each approved RAD conversion;

- Changes to the project names or sponsor entity names;
- Changes in the post-conversion bedroom size distribution and/or the number of de minimis unit reductions up to the 5% permitted under RAD program rules;
- Changes to the pre-conversion bedroom size distribution and/or the project or AMP from which transfer of assistance units will be converted; and,
- Decisions to convert to either Project Based Vouchers or Project Based Rental Assistance.

Philadelphia Housing Authority
Moving to Work Annual Plan Amendment
Rental Assistance Demonstration Significant Amendment
Attachment 1 – Information on Public Housing Developments to be Converted

The following pages provide required information on each development and/or Asset Management Project (AMP) to be converted from public housing assistance to Project Based Voucher (PBV) assistance under the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program.

RAD Significant Amendment Attachment 1

Pre-Conversion Development Name	Norris Apartments II
PIC Development ID #	PA002000014
Conversion Type (PBV or PBRA)	PBV
Capital Fund Grant (FY15)	421,359

Pre-Conversion Total Units	147
Pre-Conversion Unit Type	Family
Pre-Conversion Bedroom Size	

	# of Units
0 BR	0
1 BR	0
2 BR	42
3 BR	74
4 BR	26
5 BR	5
6 BR	0

Post-Conversion Total Units	147
Post-Conversion Unit Type	Family
Post-Conversion Bedroom Size	

	# of Units
0 BR	0
1 BR	30
2 BR	49
3 BR	47
4 BR	18
5 BR	3
6 BR	0

Transfer of Assistance	Yes
De Minimis Reduction	N/A
Transfer of Waiting List	Following conversion to PBV under RAD, applicants on the existing Norris Apartments site-based waiting list will be transferred to a PBV site-based waiting list. No changes are planned to waiting list preferences, and applicants will maintain their original date and time of application. The owner will manage and maintain the site-based waiting list in accordance with PHA's Housing Choice Voucher program Administrative Plan. PHA will post information on how to apply for the PBV site-based waiting list on the PHA website.

RAD Significant Amendment Attachment 1

Pre-Conversion Development Name	Plymouth Hall
PIC Development ID #	PA002000079
Conversion Type (PBV or PBRA)	PBV
Capital Fund Grant (FY15)	129,581

Pre-Conversion Total Units	53
Pre-Conversion Unit Type	Senior
Pre-Conversion Bedroom Size	

	# of Units
0 BR	47
1 BR	6
2 BR	0
3 BR	0
4 BR	0
5 BR	0
6 BR	0

Post-Conversion Total Units	53
Post-Conversion Unit Type	Senior
Post-Conversion Bedroom Size	

	# of Units
0 BR	47
1 BR	6
2 BR	0
3 BR	0
4 BR	0
5 BR	0
6 BR	0

Transfer of Assistance	No
De Minimis Reduction	N/A
Transfer of Waiting List	Following conversion to PBV under RAD, applicants on the existing Plymouth Hall site-based waiting list will be transferred to a PBV site-based waiting list. No changes are planned to waiting list preferences, and applicants will maintain their original date and time of application. The owner will manage and maintain the site-based waiting list in accordance with PHA's Housing Choice Voucher program Administrative Plan. PHA will post information on how to apply for the PBV site-based waiting list on the PHA website.

Moving to Work Annual Plan Amendment
Rental Assistance Demonstration Significant Amendment
Attachment 2 – Project Based Voucher Program (PBV)

Information on resident rights and participation, waiting list and grievance procedures for Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program conversions to the Project Based Voucher (PBV) program are included in this attachment:

HUD PIH Notice 2012-32, REV-2 dated June 15, 2015, Sections 1.C and 1.D

HUD Joint Housing Notice H-2014-09/PIH-2014-17 in its entirety

C. PBV Resident Rights and Participation.

1. **No Re-screening of Tenants upon Conversion.** Pursuant to the RAD statute, at conversion, current households are not subject to rescreening, income eligibility, or income targeting. Consequently, current households will be grandfathered for conditions that occurred prior to conversion but will be subject to any ongoing eligibility requirements for actions that occur after conversion. For example, a unit with a household that was over-income at time of conversion would continue to be treated as an assisted unit. Thus, 24 CFR § 982.201, concerning eligibility and targeting, will not apply for current households.[24] Once that remaining household moves out, the unit must be leased to an eligible family. MTW agencies may not alter this requirement.

2. **Right to Return.** See section 1.4.A.4(b) regarding a resident's right to return.

3. **Renewal of Lease.** Since publication of the PIH Notice 2012-32 Rev 1, the regulations under 24 CFR § 983.257(b)(3) have been amended requiring Project Owners to renew all leases upon lease expiration, unless cause exists. MTW agencies may not alter this requirement.

4. **Phase-in of Tenant Rent Increases.** If a tenant's monthly rent increases by more than the greater of 10 percent or $25 purely as a result of conversion, the rent increase will be phased in over 3 or 5 years. To implement this provision, HUD is specifying alternative requirements for section 3(a)(1) of the Act, as well as 24 CFR § 983.3 (definition of "total tenant payment" (TTP)) to the extent necessary to allow for the phase-in of tenant rent increases. A PHA must create a policy setting the length of the phase in period at three years, five years or a combination depending on circumstances. For example, a PHA may create a policy that uses a three year phase-in for smaller increases in rent and a five year phase-in for larger increases in rent. This policy must be in place at conversion and may not be modified after conversion.

[24] These protections (as well as all protections in this Notice for current households) apply when in order to facilitate repairs a household is relocated following the conversion and subsequently returns to the property, even if they are considered a "new admission" upon return.

The method described below explains the set percentage-based phase-in a Project Owner must follow according to the phase-in period established. For purposes of this section "standard TTP" refers to the TTP calculated in accordance with regulations at 24 CFR §5.628 and the "most recently paid TTP" refers to the TTP recorded on line 9j of the family's most recent HUD Form 50058. If a family in a project converting from Public Housing to PBV was paying a flat rent immediately prior to conversion, the PHA should use the flat rent amount to calculate the phase-in amount for Year 1, as illustrated below.

Three Year Phase-in:

- Year 1: Any recertification (interim or annual) performed prior to the second annual recertification after conversion – 33% of difference between most recently paid TTP or flat rent and the standard TTP
- Year 2: Year 2 Annual Recertification (AR) and any Interim Recertification (IR) prior to Year 3 AR – 66% of difference between most recently paid TTP and the standard TTP
- Year 3: Year 3 AR and all subsequent recertifications – Full standard TTP

Five Year Phase in:

- Year 1: Any recertification (interim or annual) performed prior to the second annual recertification after conversion – 20% of difference between most recently paid TTP or flat rent and the standard TTP
- Year 2: Year 2 AR and any IR prior to Year 3 AR – 40% of difference between most recently paid TTP and the standard TTP
- Year 3: Year 3 AR and any IR prior to Year 4 AR – 60% of difference between most recently paid TTP and the standard TTP
- Year 4: Year 4 AR and any IR prior to Year 5 AR – 80% of difference between most recently paid TTP and the standard TTP
- Year 5 AR and all subsequent recertifications – Full standard TTP

Please Note: In either the three year phase-in or the five-year phase-in, once the standard TTP is equal to or less than the previous TTP, the phase-in ends and tenants will pay full TTP from that point forward. MTW agencies may not alter this requirement.

5. **Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) and Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency Service Coordinator (ROSS-SC) programs.** Public Housing residents that are current FSS participants will continue to be eligible for FSS once their housing is converted under RAD, and PHAs will be allowed to use any remaining PH FSS funds, to serve those FSS participants who live in units converted by RAD. Due to the

program merger between PH FSS and HCV FSS that took place pursuant to the FY14 Appropriations Act (and was continued in the FY15 Appropriations Act), no special provisions are required to continue serving FSS participants that live in public housing units converting to PBV under RAD.

However, PHAs should note that there are certain FSS requirements (e.g. escrow calculation and escrow forfeitures) that apply differently depending on whether the FSS participant is a participant under the HCV program or a public housing resident, and PHAs must follow such requirements accordingly. All PHAs will be required to administer the FSS program in accordance with FSS regulations at 24 CFR Part 984, the participants' contracts of participation, and the alternative requirements established in the "Waivers and Alternative Requirements for the FSS Program" Federal Register notice, published on December 29, 2014, at 79 FR 78100.[25] Further, upon conversion to PBV, already escrowed funds for FSS participants shall be transferred into the HCV escrow account and be considered TBRA funds, thus reverting to the HAP account if forfeited by the FSS participant.

Current ROSS-SC grantees will be able to finish out their current ROSS-SC grants once their housing is converted under RAD. However, once the property is converted, it will no longer be eligible to be counted towards the unit count for future ROSS-SC grants, nor will its residents be eligible to be served by future ROSS-SC grants, which, by statute, can only serve public housing residents.

6. **Resident Participation and Funding.** In accordance with Attachment 1B, residents of Covered Projects with converted PBV assistance will have the right to establish and operate a resident organization for the purpose of addressing issues related to their living environment and be eligible for resident participation funding.

7. **Resident Procedural Rights.** The following items must be incorporated into both the Section 8 Administrative Plan and the Project Owner's lease, which includes the required tenancy addendum, as appropriate. Evidence of such incorporation may be requested by HUD for purposes of monitoring the program.

[25] The funding streams for the PH FSS Program and the HCV FSS Program were first merged pursuant to the FY 2014 appropriations act. As a result, PHAs can serve both PH residents and HCV participants, including PBV participants, with FSS funding awarded under the FY 2014 FSS Notice of Funding Availability (FSS NOFA) and any other NOFA under which the combination of funds remains in the applicable appropriations act. For PHAs that had managed both programs separately and now have a merged program, a conversion to PBV should not impact their FSS participants.

i. **Termination Notification**. HUD is incorporating additional termination notification requirements to comply with section 6 of the Act for public housing projects that convert assistance under RAD. In addition to the regulations at 24 CFR § 983.257 related to Project Owner termination of tenancy and eviction (which MTW agencies may not alter) the termination procedure for RAD conversions to PBV will require that PHAs provide adequate written notice of termination of the lease which shall not be less than:
   a. A reasonable period of time, but not to exceed 30 days:
      i. If the health or safety of other tenants, PHA employees, or persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises is threatened; or
      ii. In the event of any drug-related or violent criminal activity or any felony conviction;
   b. 14 days in the case of nonpayment of rent; and
   c. 30 days in any other case, except that if a State or local law provides for a shorter period of time, such shorter period shall apply.

ii. **Grievance Process.** Pursuant to requirements in the RAD Statute, HUD is establishing additional procedural rights to comply with section 6 of the Act.

For issues related to tenancy and termination of assistance, PBV program rules require the Project Owner to provide an opportunity for an informal hearing, as outlined in 24 CFR § 982.555. RAD will specify alternative requirements for 24 CFR § 982.555(b) in part, which outlines when informal hearings are not required, to require that:
   a. In addition to reasons that require an opportunity for an informal hearing given in 24 CFR § 982.555(a)(1)(i)-(vi),[26] an opportunity for an informal hearing must be given to residents for any dispute that a resident may have with respect to a Project Owner action in accordance with the individual's lease or the contract administrator in accordance with RAD PBV requirements that adversely affect the resident's rights, obligations, welfare, or status.
      i. For any hearing required under 24 CFR § 982.555(a)(1)(i)-(vi), the contract administrator will perform the hearing, as is the current standard in the program. The hearing officer must be selected in accordance with 24 CFR § 982.555(e)(4)(i).
      ii. For any additional hearings required under RAD, the Project Owner will perform the hearing.

[26] § 982.555(a)(1)(iv) is not relevant to RAD as the tenant-based certificate has been repealed.

b. There is no right to an informal hearing for class grievances or to disputes between residents not involving the Project Owner or contract administrator.
c. The Project Owner gives residents notice of their ability to request an informal hearing as outlined in 24 CFR § 982.555(c)(1) for informal hearings that will address circumstances that fall outside of the scope of 24 CFR § 982.555(a)(1)(i)-(vi).
d. The Project Owner provides opportunity for an informal hearing before an eviction.

Current PBV program rules require that hearing procedures must be outlined in the PHA's Section 8 Administrative Plan.

8. **Earned Income Disregard (EID).** Tenants who are employed and are currently receiving the EID exclusion at the time of conversion will continue to receive the EID after conversion, in accordance with regulations at 24 CFR § 5.617. Upon the expiration of the EID for such families, the rent adjustment shall not be subject to rent phase-in, as described in Section 1.6.C.4; instead, the rent will automatically rise to the appropriate rent level based upon tenant income at that time.

   Under the Housing Choice Voucher program, the EID exclusion is limited only to persons with disabilities (24 CFR § 5.617(b)). In order to allow all tenants (including non-disabled persons) who are employed and currently receiving the EID at the time of conversion to continue to benefit from this exclusion in the PBV project, the provision in section 5.617(b) limiting EID to disabled persons is waived. The waiver, and resulting alternative requirement, apply only to tenants receiving the EID at the time of conversion. No other tenant (e.g., tenants who at one time received the EID but are not receiving the EID exclusion at the time of conversion e.g., due to loss of employment; tenants that move into the property following conversion, etc.,) is covered by this waiver.

9. **Jobs Plus.** Jobs Plus grantees awarded FY14 and future funds that convert the Jobs Plus target projects(s) under RAD will be able to finish out their Jobs Plus period of performance at that site unless significant re-location and/or change in building occupancy is planned. If either is planned at the Jobs Plus target project(s), HUD may allow for a modification of the Jobs Plus work plan or may, at the Secretary's discretion, choose to end the Jobs Plus program at that project.

10. **When Total Tenant Payment Exceeds Gross Rent.** Under normal PBV rules, the PHA may only select an occupied unit to be included under the PBV HAP contract if

the unit's occupants are eligible for housing assistance payments (24 CFR §983.53(d)). Also, a PHA must remove a unit from the contract when no assistance has been paid for 180 days because the family's TTP has risen to a level that is equal to or greater than the contract rent, plus any utility allowance, for the unit (i.e., the Gross Rent)) (24 CFR §983.258). Since the rent limitation under this Section of the Notice may often result in a family's TTP equaling or exceeding the gross rent for the unit, for current residents (i.e residents living in the public housing property prior to conversion), HUD is waiving both of these provisions and requiring that the unit for such families be placed on and/or remain under the HAP contract when TTP equals or exceeds than the Gross Rent. Further, HUD is establishing the alternative requirement that the rent to owner for the unit equal the family's TTP until such time that the family is eligible for a housing assistance payment. HUD is waiving as necessary to implement this alternative provision, the provisions of Section 8(o)(13)(H) of the Act and the implementing regulations at 24 CFR 983.301 as modified by Section 1.6.B.5 of this Notice.[27] In such cases, the resident is considered a participant under the program and all of the family obligations and protections under RAD and PBV apply to the resident. Likewise, all requirements with respect to the unit, such as compliance with the HQS requirements, apply as long as the unit is under HAP contract. Assistance may subsequently be reinstated if the tenant becomes eligible for assistance. The PHA is required to process these individuals through the Form- 50058 submodule in PIC.

Following conversion, 24 CFR §983.53(d) applies, and any new families referred to the RAD PBV project must be initially eligible for a HAP payment at admission to the program, which means their TTP may not exceed the gross rent for the unit at that time. Further, a PHA must remove a unit from the contract when no assistance has been paid for 180 days. If units are removed from the HAP contract because a new admission's TTP comes to equal or exceed the gross rent for the unit and if the project is fully assisted, HUD is imposing an alternative requirement that the PHA must reinstate the unit after the family has vacated the property; and, if the project is partially assisted, the PHA may substitute a different unit for the unit on the HAP contract in accordance with 24 CFR §983.207 or, where "floating" units have been permitted, Section 1.6.B.10 of this Notice.

[27] For example, a public housing family residing in a property converting under RAD has a TTP of $600. The property has an initial Contract Rent of $500, with a $50 Utility Allowance. Following conversion, the residents is still responsible for paying $600 in tenant rent and utilities.

11. **Under-Occupied Unit.** If a family is in an under-occupied unit under 24 CFR 983.259 at the time of conversion, the family may remain in this unit until an appropriate-sized unit becomes available in the Covered Project. When an appropriate sized unit becomes available in the Covered Project, the family living in the under-occupied unit must move to the appropriate-sized unit within a reasonable period of time, as determined by the administering Voucher Agency. In order to allow the family to remain in the under-occupied unit until an appropriate-sized unit becomes available in the Covered Project, 24 CFR 983.259 is waived. MTW agencies may not modify this requirement.

D. <u>PBV: Other Miscellaneous Provisions</u>

1. **Access to Records, Including Requests for Information Related to Evaluation of Demonstration.** PHAs must agree to any reasonable HUD request for data to support program evaluation, including but not limited to project financial statements, operating data, Choice-Mobility utilization, and rehabilitation work. Please see Appendix IV for reporting units in Form HUD-50058.

2. **Additional Monitoring Requirement.** The PHA's Board must approve the operating budget for the Covered Project annually in accordance with HUD requirements.[28]

3. **Davis-Bacon Act and Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (Section 3).** This section has been moved to 1.4.A.13 and 1.4.A.14.

4. **Establishment of Waiting List.** 24 CFR § 983.251 sets out PBV program requirements related to establishing and maintaining a voucher-wide, PBV program-wide, or site-based waiting list from which residents for the Covered Project will be admitted. These provisions will apply unless the project is covered by a remedial order or agreement that specifies the type of waiting list and other waiting list policies. The PHA shall consider the best means to transition applicants from the current public housing waiting list, including:

    i. Transferring an existing site-based waiting list to a new site-based waiting list. If the PHA is transferring the assistance to another neighborhood, the PHA must notify applicants on the wait-list of the transfer of assistance, and on how they can apply for residency at the new project site or other sites. Applicants on a project-specific waiting list for a project where the assistance is being

[28] For PBV conversions that are not FHA-insured, a future HUD notice will describe project financial data that may be required to be submitted by a PBV owner for purposes of the evaluation, given that PBV projects do not submit annual financial statements to HUD/REAC.

transferred shall have priority on the newly formed waiting list for the new project site in accordance with the date and time of their application to the original project's waiting list.

ii. Informing applicants on the site-based waiting list on how to apply for a PBV program-wide or HCV program-wide waiting list.

iii. Informing applicants on a public housing community-wide waiting list on how to apply for a voucher-wide, PBV program-wide, or site-based waiting list. If using a site-based waiting list, PHAs shall establish a waiting list in accordance with 24 CFR § 903.7(b)(2)(ii)-(iv) to ensure that applicants on the PHA's public housing community-wide waiting list have been offered placement on the converted project's initial waiting list. In all cases, PHAs have the discretion to determine the most appropriate means of informing applicants on the public housing community-wide waiting list given the number of applicants, PHA resources, and admissions requirements of the projects being converted under RAD. A PHA may consider contacting every applicant on the public housing waiting list via direct mailing; advertising the availability of housing to the population that is less likely to apply, both minority and non-minority groups, through various forms of media (e.g., radio stations, posters, newspapers) within the marketing area; informing local non-profit entities and advocacy groups (e.g., disability rights groups); and conducting other outreach as appropriate. Applicants on the agency's public housing community-wide waiting list who wish to be placed onto the newly-established site-based waiting list must be done so in accordance with the date and time of their original application to the centralized public housing waiting list. Any activities to contact applicants on the public housing waiting list must be conducted in accordance with the requirements for effective communication with persons with disabilities at 24 CFR § 8.6 and with the obligation to provide meaningful access for persons with limited English proficiency (LEP).[29]

A PHA must maintain any site-based waiting list in accordance with all applicable civil rights and fair housing laws and regulations unless the project is covered by a remedial order or agreement that specifies the type of waiting list and other waiting list policies.

To implement this provision, HUD is specifying alternative requirements for 24 CFR § 983.251(c)(2). However, after the initial waiting list has been established, the PHA

[29] For more information on serving persons with LEP, please see HUD's Final guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons (72 FR 2732), published on January 22, 2007.

shall administer its waiting list for the converted project in accordance with 24 CFR § 983.251(c).

5. **Mandatory Insurance Coverage.** The Covered Project shall maintain at all times commercially available property and liability insurance to protect the project from financial loss and, to the extent insurance proceeds permit, promptly restore, reconstruct, and/or repair any damaged or destroyed project property.

6. **Agreement Waiver.** This section has been moved to 1.6.(B)(7).

7. **Future Refinancing.** Project Owners must receive HUD approval for any refinancing or restructuring of permanent debt during the HAP contract term, to ensure the financing is consistent with long-term preservation. (Current lenders and investors are also likely to require review and approval of refinancing of the primary permanent debt.)

8. **Administrative Fees for Public Housing Conversions during Transition Period**. For the remainder of the Calendar Year in which the HAP Contract is effective (i.e. "transition period"), RAD PBV projects will be funded with public housing funds. For example, if the project's assistance converts effective July 1, 2015, the public housing Annual Contributions Contract (ACC) between the PHA and HUD will be amended to reflect the number of units under HAP contract, but will be for zero dollars, and the RAD PBV contract will be funded with public housing money for July through December 2015. Since TBRA is not the source of funds, PHAs should not report leasing and expenses into VMS during this period, and PHAs will not receive section 8 administrative fee funding for converted units during this time. .

   For fiscal years 2014 and 2015, PHAs operating HCV program received administrative fees for units under a HAP contract, consistent with recent appropriation act references to "section 8(q) of the [United States Housing Act of 1937] and related appropriations act provisions in effect immediately before the Quality Housing and Responsibility Act of 1998" and 24 CFR § 982.152(b). During the transition period mentioned in the preceding paragraph, these provisions are waived, and PHAs will not receive section 8 ongoing administrative fees for PBV RAD units.

   After this transition period, the section 8 ACC will be amended to include section 8 funding that corresponds to the units covered by the section 8 ACC. At that time, the regular section 8 administrative fee funding provisions will apply.

9. **Choice-Mobility.** One of the key features of the PBV program is the mobility component, which provides that if the family has elected to terminate the assisted lease at any time after the first year of occupancy in accordance with program requirements, the PHA must offer the family the opportunity for continued tenant-based rental assistance, in the form of either assistance under the voucher program or other comparable tenant-based rental assistance.

   If as a result of participation in RAD a significant percentage of the PHA's HCV program becomes PBV assistance, it is possible for most or all of a PHA's turnover vouchers to be used to assist those RAD PBV families who wish to exercise mobility. While HUD is committed to ensuring mobility remains a cornerstone of RAD policy, HUD recognizes that it remains important for the PHA to still be able to use tenant-based vouchers to address the specific housing needs and priorities of the community. Therefore, HUD is establishing an alternative requirement for PHAs where, as a result of RAD, the total number of PBV units (including RAD PBV units) under HAP contract administered by the PHA exceeds 20 percent of the PHA's authorized units under its HCV ACC with HUD.

   The alternative mobility policy provides that an eligible voucher agency would not be required to provide more than three-quarters of its turnover vouchers in any single year to the residents of Covered Projects. While a voucher agency is not required to establish a voucher inventory turnover cap, if such a cap is implemented, the voucher agency must create and maintain a waiting list in the order in which the requests from eligible households were received. In order to adopt this provision, this alternative mobility policy must be included in an eligible PHA's administrative plan.

   To effectuate this provision, HUD is providing an alternative requirement to Section 8(o)(13)(E) and 24 CFR part 983.261(c). Please note that this alternative requirement does not apply to PBVs entered into outside of the context of RAD. MTW agencies may not alter this requirement.

10. **Reserve for Replacement**. The Project Owner shall establish and maintain a replacement reserve in an interest-bearing account to aid in funding extraordinary maintenance and repair and replacement of capital items in accordance with applicable regulations. The reserve must be built up to and maintained at a level determined by HUD to be sufficient to meet projected requirements. For FHA transactions, Replacement Reserves shall be maintained in accordance with the FHA Regulatory Agreement. For all other transactions, Replacement Reserves shall be maintained in a bank account covered under a General Depository Agreement (HUD-51999) or similar instrument, as approved by HUD, where funds will be held by the

Project Owner or mortgagee and may be drawn from the reserve account and used subject to HUD guidelines and as directed by HUD.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-8000

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HOUSING-
FEDERAL HOUSING COMMISSIONER

Special Attention of:	**Notice** H 2014-09
Public Housing Agencies	PIH 2014-17
Public Housing Hub Office Directors	
Public Housing Program Center Directors	Issued: July 14, 2014
Regional Directors	
Field Office Directors	This notice remains in effect until amended,
RAD Transaction Managers	superseded, or rescinded.
	Cross Reference: PIH Notice 2012-32 (HA) REV 1

Subject: **Relocation Requirements under the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Program, Public Housing in the First Component**

1. Purpose

This Notice provides public housing agencies (PHAs)[1] and their partners with information and resources on applicable program and relocation assistance requirements when planning for or implementing resident moves as a result of a **Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD)** conversion[2] under the first component of the demonstration.[3] This Notice provides guidance on RAD relocation requirements and requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, (URA), as they relate to the public housing conversion process under the first component.[4]

[1] This Notice always uses the term "PHA" to refer to the owner of the project prior to and after the RAD conversion, even though, in some cases, the owner of the converted RAD project may be another public entity, a non-profit organization, or other owner (e.g., low-income housing tax credit owner). In addition, this Notice uses "PHA" to refer to the "displacing agency," a URA term that means the agency or person that carries out a program or project, which will cause a resident to become a displaced person. Projects vary and, for any specific task described in this Notice, may require substituting in a reference to a party that is more appropriate for a specific project.
[2] The content of this Notice should not be relied upon in carrying out any other activities funded under any other HUD program, except where specifically directed by HUD.
[3] The "first component" of RAD allows public housing and Moderate Rehabilitation properties to convert assistance; the "second component" refers to conversion of Rent Supplement, Rental Assistance Payment, and Moderate Rehabilitation properties upon contract expiration or termination.
[4] Relocation concerns and URA requirements apply to both components of RAD. This notice provides guidance only as to the first component.

Relocation assistance provided pursuant to public housing and RAD requirements is broader than URA relocation assistance requirements. Not all specific situations requiring relocation under RAD may trigger URA assistance requirements. In addition, whereas all qualifying residents[5] of a converting public housing project are eligible for relocation assistance under RAD, some residents or household members may not meet the statutory and regulatory requirements for eligibility under URA. This Notice supersedes PIH Notice 2012-32 (HA), REV-1, with respect to relocation matters. This Notice also specifically addresses when relocation may begin (see Section 9 below). As necessary, the Department will issue additional guidance on relocation issues and requirements as they relate to RAD.

2. Background

RAD allows public housing properties to convert assistance to long-term project-based Section 8 contracts. In many cases, a RAD project may require relocation of residents when properties undergo repairs, are demolished and rebuilt, or when the assistance is transferred to another site. PIH Notice 2012-32 REV-1 (see also FR Notice 5630-N-05, 78 FR 39759-39763 (July 2, 2013)) details RAD program requirements.

The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, (URA) is a federal law that establishes minimum standards for federally-funded programs and projects that include the acquisition of real property (real estate) and/or displace persons from their homes, businesses, or farms as a result of acquisition, rehabilitation, or demolition of real property.[6] The URA will apply to acquisitions of real property and relocation of persons from real property that occurs as a direct result of acquisition, rehabilitation, or demolition for a project that involves conversion of assistance to Project-Based Voucher (PBV) or Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) programs under RAD.

Additionally, all relocation conducted as part of a RAD conversion and all relocation assistance provided under URA must be consistent with applicable fair housing and civil rights laws, including, but not limited to, the Fair Housing Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Because each RAD proposal varies in its scope, this Notice may not address each PHA's specific circumstances. RAD PHAs and participants should carefully review the regulations, notices, and guidance material referenced in this Notice. Any questions related to the applicability of these requirements should be referred to the RAD Transaction Managers (TM) or may be emailed to rad@hud.gov.

3. Applicable Legal Authorities

[5] The term "resident" as used in this Notice refers to eligible resident families of public housing residing in a property applying for participation in RAD or a property that undergoes a conversion of assistance through RAD.

[6] HUD Handbook 1378 (Tenant Assistance, Relocation, and Real Property Acquisition), available at: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/library/relocation/policyandguidance/handbook1378.

- RAD: Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-55, approved November 18, 2011), with the implementing PIH Notice 2012-32, REV-1
- URA statute and implementing regulations: 49 CFR part 24
- FHEO: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Fair Housing Act
- Section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, statute and implementing regulations (if CDBG and/or HOME funds are used): 24 CFR part 42, subpart C

4. Relocation Planning

If there is a possibility that residents will be relocated as a result of acquisition, demolition, or rehabilitation for a project converting under RAD, PHAs must undertake a planning process in conformance with URA in order to minimize the adverse impact of relocation (49 CFR 24.205(a)).

While a written Relocation Plan is not a requirement under RAD or URA, the Department strongly encourages PHAs to prepare a written Relocation Plan, both to establish their relocation process and to communicate this process consistently and effectively to all relevant stakeholders. Appendix 1 contains recommended elements of a Relocation Plan.

The following presents a general sequencing of relocation planning activities within the RAD milestones:

Stage	Activities
1. Prior to submission of RAD application	• Determine potential need for relocation • Meet with residents to discuss plans, communicate right to return, and solicit feedback • Provide *General Information Notice* (GIN) to residents • Survey residents to prepare Relocation Plan and relocation process cost estimate
2. After receipt of the Commitment to Enter into a HAP Contract (CHAP) Award	• Prepare Significant Amendment to PHA Plan • Assess and refine need for relocation • Develop a Relocation Plan (See Appendix 1 for recommended content) • Identify relocation housing options
3. Preparing Financing Plan (due to RAD Transaction Manager no later than 180 days following	• Budget for relocation expenses • Submit FHEO Accessibility & Relocation checklist (PHAs may submit Relocation Plan along with checklist)

Stage	Activities
CHAP award)	
4. Receipt of RAD Conversion Commitment (RCC)	• The date of issuance of the HUD RCC marks the date of "Initiation of Negotiations" (ION), as defined in the URA (49 CFR 24.2(a)(15)) • Provide residents with appropriate notice informing them if they will be relocated and any associated relocation assistance • Meet with residents to describe approved conversion plans and discuss required relocation
5. Closing/RAD conversion	• Generally, resident relocation should not begin until after the date of closing/conversion of assistance under RAD • PHAs must adhere to notification requirements (described in Paragraph 8 of this Notice): generally, a minimum of 30 days for residents to be temporarily relocated for up to a year, and 90 days for permanent relocation • PHAs seeking to move residents prior to closing must receive prior approval from HUD as described in Paragraph 9 of this Notice

5. Resident Right to Return

RAD program rules prohibit the permanent involuntary relocation of residents as a result of conversion. Residents that are temporarily relocated retain the right to return to the project once it has been completed and is in decent, safe, and sanitary conditions.[7] The period during which residents may need to be temporarily relocated is determined by the period of rehabilitation or construction, which will be specific to each project.

If proposed plans for a project would preclude a resident from returning to the RAD project, the resident must be given an opportunity to comment and/or object to such plans. If the resident objects to such plans, the PHA must alter the project plans to accommodate the resident in the converted project. If a resident agrees to such plans, the PHA must secure informed, written consent from the resident to receive permanent relocation assistance and payments consistent with URA and acknowledge that acceptance of such assistance terminates the resident's right to return to the project. In obtaining this consent, PHAs must inform residents of their right to return, potential relocation, and temporary and permanent housing options at least 30 days before residents must make a decision. The PHA cannot employ any tactics to pressure residents into

[7] Where the transfer of assistance to a new site is approved, residents of the converting project will have the right to reside in an assisted unit at the new site once rehabilitation or new construction is complete.

relinquishing their right to return or accepting permanent relocation assistance and payments.[8] A PHA may not terminate a resident's lease if it fails to obtain this consent.

PHAs must keep documentation of such information provided to residents and such consent by residents. While HUD does not require PHAs to submit documentation of obtaining this consent, PHAs and participants must properly brief residents on their housing and relocation options and must keep auditable written records of such consultation and decisions. HUD may request this documentation during a review of the FHEO Relocation and Accessibility Checklist or if relocation concerns arise.

Examples of project plans that may preclude a resident from returning to the converted RAD project include, but are not limited to:

- Changes in bedroom distribution (i.e. when larger units will be replaced with smaller units such that current residents would become under-housed or when smaller units will be replaced with larger units such that current residents would become over-housed);
- Where a PHA is reducing the number of assisted units at a property by a de minimis amount[9], but those units are occupied by assisted residents; or
- The reconfiguration of efficiency apartments, or the repurposing of dwelling units in order to facilitate social service delivery.

In all scenarios where residents voluntarily accept permanent relocation to accommodate project plans, these residents are eligible for permanent relocation assistance and payments under URA. If a resident accepts permanent relocation assistance, the resident surrenders his or her right to return to the completed project.

6. <u>Relocation Assistance</u>

Under RAD, relocation assistance may vary depending on the length of time relocation is required.[10]

a. In instances when the PHA anticipates that a resident will be relocated for more than a year, the PHA must offer the resident the choice of:

    - Permanent relocation assistance and payments at URA levels; or
    - Temporary relocation assistance, including temporary housing, while the resident retains his or her right to return and reimbursement for all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses associated with the temporary relocation.

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[8] Persons with disabilities returning to the RAD project may not be turned away or placed on a waiting list due to a lack of accessible units. Their accessibility needs must be accommodated.

[9] A reduction in total number of assisted units at RAD project of 5% or less. (Section 1.5.B of PIH 2012-32 REV-1)

[10] Some residents may not qualify for relocation assistance under URA. A nonexclusive listing of persons who do not qualify as displaced persons under URA is at 49 CFR 24.2(a)(9)(ii). See also, Paragraph 1-4(J) of HUD Handbook 1378.

The PHA must give the resident no less than 30 days to decide between permanent and temporary relocation assistance. If the resident elects to permanently relocate with assistance at URA levels, the PHA must inform the resident that his or her acceptance of permanent relocation assistance terminates the resident's right to return to the completed RAD project.

b. In instances when a resident elects temporary relocation assistance and reoccupies a unit in the completed project within one year, the resident need not be offered permanent relocation assistance pursuant to URA.

   Great care must be exercised to ensure that residents are treated fairly and equitably. If a resident is required to relocate temporarily in connection with the project, his or her temporarily occupied housing must be decent, safe, and sanitary and the resident must be reimbursed for all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with the temporary relocation. These expenses include, but are not limited to, moving expenses and increased housing costs during the temporary relocation.

c. In the event that a resident elects to receive temporary relocation assistance and the temporary relocation exceeds one year, the resident becomes eligible for all permanent relocation assistance and payments under URA. (This assistance would be in addition to any assistance the person has already received for temporary relocation, and may not be reduced by the amount of any temporary relocation assistance.) In such event, the PHA shall give the resident the opportunity to choose to remain temporarily relocated for an agreed-to period (based on new information about when they can return to the completed RAD unit), or choose to permanently relocate with URA assistance.

   PHAs may not propose or request that a displaced person waive rights or entitlements to relocation assistance under the URA. If the resident elects to permanently relocate with URA assistance, the PHA must inform the person that the person's acceptance of URA relocation assistance to permanently relocate will terminate the person's right to return to the completed RAD project. Conversely, unless and until the resident elects to be permanently relocated, the resident may remain temporarily relocated with a right to return to the completed project.

7. Initiation of Negotiations (ION) Date

Eligibility for URA relocation assistance is generally effective on the date of initiation of negotiations (ION) (49 CFR 24.2(a)(15)). For RAD projects, the ION date is the date of the issuance of the RAD Conversion Commitment (RCC).

8. Resident Notification

When a project converting under RAD will include relocation of residents, notice must be provided to those resident households. For each notice listed below, one notice shall be given to each resident household. The purpose of these notifications is to ensure that residents are

informed of their potential rights and the relocation assistance available to them. During initial meetings with residents about RAD and in subsequent communications with residents related to relocation, the PHA should inform residents that if they choose to move after receiving a written GIN, but prior to receiving a RAD Notice of Relocation, they may jeopardize their eligibility for relocation assistance. However, PHAs should note that a resident move undertaken as a direct result of the project may still require relocation assistance and the resident may be eligible to receive permanent relocation assistance under the URA even though the PHA has not yet issued notices.

a. *General Information Notice* (49 CFR 24.203(a) & Handbook 1378, Paragraph 2-3(B))

As soon as feasible in the planning process, the PHA must provide each resident with a written GIN (see sample in Appendix 2) to provide a general description of the project, the activities planned, and the relocation assistance that may become available. URA regulations state that the GIN should be provided *as soon as feasible*. Under RAD, PHAs must provide GINs during the initial RAD resident meetings, before submitting a RAD application. GINs must do at least the following:

- Inform the resident that he or she may be displaced for the project and generally describe the relocation payment(s) for which the resident may be eligible, the basic conditions of eligibility, and the procedures for obtaining the payment(s);
- Inform the resident that he or she will be given reasonable relocation advisory services, including referrals to replacement properties, help in filing payment claims, and other necessary assistance to help the resident successfully relocate;
- Inform the resident that, if he or she qualifies for relocation assistance as a displaced person under the URA, he or she will not be required to move without at least 90 days advance written notice, and inform any person to be displaced from a dwelling that he or she cannot be required to move permanently unless at least one comparable replacement dwelling has been made available;
- Inform the resident that any person who is an alien not lawfully present in the United States is ineligible for relocation advisory services and relocation payments, unless such ineligibility would result in exceptional and extremely unusual hardship to a qualifying spouse, parent, or child (see 49 CFR 24.208(h) for additional information); and
- Describe the resident's right to appeal the PHA’s determination as to a person's eligibility for URA assistance.

b. *RAD Notice of Relocation*

If a resident will be relocated to facilitate the RAD conversion, the PHA shall provide notice of such relocation (RAD Notice of Relocation). The PHA shall issue this notice upon the PHA’s receipt of the RCC from HUD, which is the ION date.

If residents will not be relocated, notice of relocation is not required, but the PHA should

notify them that they are not being relocated.[11]

The RAD Notice of Relocation must conform to the following requirements:

- The notice must state the anticipated duration of the resident's relocation.
- PHAs must provide this notice a minimum of 30 days prior to relocation to residents who will be temporarily relocated.[12] Longer notice may be appropriate for persons who will be relocated for an extended period of time (over 6 months), or if necessary due to personal needs or circumstances.
- Residents whose temporary relocation is anticipated to exceed one year must be informed that they will have no less than 30 days to elect temporary or permanent relocation as described in Section 6 of this Notice. When timing is critical for project completion, the 30-day decision period can run concurrently with the 30-day notice period for temporary relocation and with the 90-day period for permanent relocation if the PHA makes available comparable replacement dwellings consistent with 24.204(a).
- Residents who will be permanently relocated must receive written notice a minimum of 90 days prior to relocation. This 90-day time period may only begin once the PHA has made available at least one comparable replacement dwelling consistent with 49 CFR 24.204(a).[13]
- The notice must describe the available relocation assistance, the estimated amount of assistance based on the individual circumstances and needs, and the procedures for obtaining the assistance. The notice must be specific to the resident and his or her situation so that the resident will have a clear understanding of the type and amount of payments and/or other assistance the resident household may be entitled to claim.
- The notice must explain the reasonable terms and conditions under which the resident may continue to lease and occupy a unit in the completed project.
- The notice must state that the PHA will reimburse the resident for all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with any temporary move. These expenses include, but are not limited to, moving expenses and increased housing costs (rent, utilities, etc.).

c. *Notice of Intent to Acquire* (49 CFR 24.203(d))

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[11] HUD policy generally requires a "notice of non-displacement" in certain instances; the RAD program does not require this notice. Although the scope of this notice is limited to guidance for projects requiring relocation, PHAs should note, however, that there may be notification requirements for projects that do not involve relocation. The RAD conversion will terminate the resident's public housing lease and commence a PBV or PBRA lease, even when there is no relocation required. In such instances, state law may impose certain notification requirements. In addition, public housing regulations generally require 30 days' notice prior to lease termination. PHAs are encouraged to review public housing requirements set forth in 24 CFR parts 5 and 966.

[12] HUD may approve shorter notice periods based on an urgent need due to danger, health, or safety issues or if the person will be temporarily relocated for only a short period.

[13] PHAs should note that URA regulations also require, where possible, that three or more comparable replacement dwellings be made available before a resident is required to move from his or her unit.

For RAD projects involving acquisition, residents may be provided with a notice of intent to acquire ("*Notice of Intent to Acquire"*) prior to the ION date with HUD's prior approval. Once the Notice of Intent to Acquire is provided, a resident's eligibility for relocation assistance and payments is established. Therefore, the RAD Notice of Relocation must be provided in conjunction with or after the Notice of Intent to Acquire. A RAD Notice of Relocation would not otherwise be sent prior to the ION date.

Since residents who accept permanent relocation must receive 90 days advanced written notice prior to being required to move, providing residents the Notice of Intent to Acquire and RAD Notice of Relocation prior to the ION date may be necessary to provide sufficient notice of relocation to a resident in instances where there may not be 90 days between the issuance of the RCC (ION date) and the anticipated closing date. This allows the PHA to issue the notice earlier so that relocation may begin upon closing. This allows program participants to conduct orderly relocation upon closing, minimize adverse impacts on displaced persons, and to expedite project advancement and completion.[14]

d. *URA Notice of Relocation Eligibility – for residents whose temporary relocation exceeds one year* (49 CFR 24.203(b) & Handbook 1378, Paragraph 2-3(C))

After a resident has been temporarily relocated for one year, the PHA must provide a notice of relocation eligibility in accordance with URA requirements ("*Notice of Relocation Eligibility*"). This notice is not required if the resident has already accepted permanent relocation assistance.

The Notice of Relocation Eligibility must conform to URA requirements as set forth in 49 CFR Part 24, to HUD Handbook 1378 and to the following requirements:

- The PHA must provide updated information as to when it is anticipated that the resident will be able to return to the completed project.
- The resident may choose to remain temporarily relocated based upon such updated information or may choose to accept permanent URA relocation assistance in lieu of exercising the right to return.
- If the resident chooses to accept permanent URA relocation assistance and such assistance requires that the resident move, the URA requires such resident to receive 90 days advance written notice of the earliest date they will be required to move (i.e., 90-Day Notice, 49 CFR 24.203(c)). The PHA should be mindful that the 90-day time period may only begin once the PHA has made available at least one "comparable replacement dwellings" as set forth in 49 CFR 24.204(a).

9. <u>Initiation of Relocation</u>

[14] PHAs and program participants should note that, in most instances, it will be most appropriate for the acquiring entity to send this notice.

Unless otherwise approved by HUD, relocation may not begin until the date of closing of the RAD transaction and recordation of the RAD Use Agreement. PHAs must provide residents being temporarily relocated at least 30 days advance written notice of the required move. PHAs must give residents being permanently relocated at least 90 days advance written notice of the required move. This means PHAs are advised to plan carefully to account for this 30-day or 90-day notice period to ensure the closing is not delayed.

However, HUD is aware that, in rare cases, some project plans necessitate relocation prior to closing. With prior HUD approval, for projects involving acquisition, PHAs may relocate residents prior to the closing date subject to public housing requirements (see 24 CFR part 5 and 24 CFR 966). PHAs must contact their assigned RAD transaction manager (TM) to discuss plans as early as possible in the process to ensure compliance with all RAD and URA requirements.

If relocation prior to closing is desired, PHAs should submit to the TM the following information, as early as possible in the process:

- A written request for relocation prior to closing. The request must include justification of why the early relocation is necessary for the viability of the RAD transaction. Justification may include the presence of outside financing, such as Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) awards, if the PHA can show that early relocation is necessary to meet critical LIHTC deadlines.
- FHEO Accessibility and Relocation Checklist.
- Evidence of intent to comply with public housing requirements, as applicable. Generally, public housing regulations require public housing residents to receive 30 days' notice prior to relocation and that such notice either be published in the PHA's admissions and continued occupancy policies (ACOP) or published elsewhere at least 30 days prior to receipt of such notice (24 CFR parts 5 and 966).

When seeking to relocate residents prior to closing, submission of this request as early as possible is preferred, prior to the 180-day Financing Plan milestone if possible (with Financing Plan submission following the request).

HUD reserves the right to request additional follow-up information, including a Relocation Plan and related budget, prior to approving such requests. PHAs must receive written HUD approval before beginning relocation of residents prior to closing.

Early planning and submission of the Financing Plan and FHEO checklist to HUD will ensure the PHA has built in the 30- or 90-day notice period prior to initiating relocation.

10. Fair Housing and Civil Rights Requirements

PHAs must comply with all applicable fair housing and civil rights laws, including, but not limited to, the Fair Housing Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, when conducting relocation planning and providing relocation assistance. Further, communication must be provided in a manner that is effective for persons

with disabilities (24 CFR 8.6) and for person who are Limited English Proficient (see 72 FR 2732). This section discusses some of the PHA's obligations under these laws and regulations. However, the applicability of civil rights laws is not limited to the activities discussed in this section. PHAs conducting relocation activities should familiarize themselves with applicable civil rights statutes, regulations, and guidance, including but not limited to, those listed at the end of this section.

- Effective Communication for Persons with Disabilities: Communications and materials must be provided in a manner that is effective for persons with hearing, visual, and other communication-related disabilities consistent with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (24 CFR 8.6), and as applicable, the Americans with Disabilities Act; and for persons who are limited English proficient (*see* 72 Fed Reg 2732). This includes ensuring that training materials are in appropriate alternative formats as needed, e.g., Braille, audio, large type, assistive listening devices, and sign language interpreters.

- Accessible Meeting Facilities for Persons with Disabilities: When holding public meetings, PHAs must give priority to methods that provide physical access to individuals with disabilities, i.e., holding the meetings, workshops, and briefings or any other type of meeting in an accessible location, in accordance with the regulations implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as applicable. All programs and activities must be held in accessible locations unless doing so would result in an undue financial and administrative burden, in which case the PHA must take any action that would not result in such an alteration or such burden but would nevertheless ensure that individuals with disabilities receive the benefits and services of the program or activity, e.g., briefings at an alternate accessible, in-home briefing. Individuals with disabilities must receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. The most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities is a setting that enables individuals with disabilities to interact with nondisabled person to the fullest extent possible (28 CFR part 35, appendix B).

- Meaningful Access for Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP): PHAs must provide meaningful access to programs and activities for persons who have a limited ability to read, speak, or understand English. Any person with LEP who will be temporarily relocated or permanently displaced must have meaningful access to any public meetings regarding the project. In addition, any information provided to residents including, but not limited to, any notices required under the URA, should be provided in the appropriate language to persons with LEP. Generally, PHAs will be responsible for providing oral interpreters at meetings, including ensuring their competence, and covering any associated translation and interpretation costs.

- URA requires that PHAs provide persons who are unable to read or understand the notices, such as persons with disabilities or persons with LEP, with appropriate translation and counseling to ensure that they understand their rights and responsibilities and the assistance available to them (49 CFR 24.5). URA also requires that each notice indicate the name and telephone number of a person to contact with questions or for other

needed help (49 CFR 24.5). This notice should include the number for the telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD) or other appropriate communication device, if applicable (24 CFR 8.6(a)(2)).

- Comparable Housing for Persons with Disabilities: PHAs should identify the accessibility needs of residents to be relocated by consulting existing information (e.g., tenant characteristics forms, including identification of the need for accessible unit features; records of approved reasonable accommodations, and records of the presence of accessible unit features). For guidance on providing relocation assistance to persons with disabilities, see Exhibit 3-1 in HUD Handbook 1378.

- Advisory Services: PHAs should determine the advisory services that will be necessary to ensure a successful relocation program consistent with 49 CFR 24.205(c). Such advisory services may include housing counseling that should be facilitated to ensure that residents affected by the project understand their rights and responsibilities and the assistance available to them (49 CFR 24.205(c)). Advisory counseling must also inform residents of their fair housing rights and be carried out in a manner that satisfies the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, and Executive Order 11063 (49 CFR 24.205(c)(1)). In addition, PHAs should inform residents that if they believe they have experienced unlawful discrimination, they may contact HUD at 1-800-669-9777 (Voice) or 1-800-927-9275 (TDD) or at http://www.hud.gov.

Fair Housing References:

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Regulations: 24 CFR part 8
- Fair Housing Act Regulations: 24 CFR part 100
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Regulations: 24 CFR part 1
- Final Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons (LEP Guidance) (72 FR 2732)
- Exhibit 3-1 Compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act in HUD Handbook 1378 (Tenant Assistance Relocation and Real Property Acquisition)

11. Other Requirements

a. Public Housing Program Compliance
PHAs should note that public housing resident provisions related to occupancy and termination, including grievances and related hearings, will remain in effect until the execution of the new PBV or PBRA Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) contract.

b. Evictions for Cause
If the PHA determines that a resident was evicted in accordance with applicable state and local law for serious or repeated violation of material terms of the lease, and the eviction was not undertaken for the purpose of evading the obligation to make available URA payments and other assistance, the resident is not entitled to relocation payments and assistance under the URA (49 CFR 24.206).

Jemine A. Bryon
General Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Public and Indian Housing

Carol Galante, Federal Housing
Commissioner – Assistant Secretary for
Housing

APPENDICES

Appendix 1
Recommended Relocation Plan Contents

Appendix 2
Sample RAD General Information Notice (GIN)

Appendix 3
Sample RAD Notice of Relocation (for relocation anticipated for a year or less)

Appendix 4
Sample RAD Notice of Relocation (for relocation anticipated for more than a year)

Appendix 5
Sample Notice of Eligibility for URA Relocation Assistance (for residents who have been temporarily relocated for more than a year)

Appendix 1: RECOMMENDED RELOCATION PLAN CONTENTS

While written Relocation Plans are not required under RAD or URA, the Department strongly encourages PHAs to document their relocation planning process and procedures in a written Relocation Plan. The following provides suggested content for Relocation Plans.

I. Project Summary

The Relocation Plan should provide a general description of and purpose for the project (e.g., year built, location, number of units, configuration, occupancy information, and funding sources).

The basic components of a plan include:

- A general description of the project and the site, including acquisition, demolition, rehabilitation, and construction activities and funding sources;
- A detailed discussion of the specific steps to be taken to minimize the adverse impacts of relocation, including when transferring the assistance to a new site;
- Information on occupancy (including the number of residents, residential owner-occupants and non-residential occupants, if any, to be permanently or temporarily relocated);
- Information on relocation needs and costs (including the number of residents who plan to relocate with Section 8 assistance);
- General moving assistance information;
- Temporary move assistance (including information on the duration of temporary moves);
- Permanent move assistance; and
- Appeals process.

II. Resident Return and Re-occupancy Policies

For residents that will be temporarily relocated, the plan should include the criteria that will be used to determine the priority for residents to re-occupy units at the project after rehabilitation, demolition, and/or construction is completed. For example, if units will come online in stages, the plan should outline how the PHA will determine when each resident will return to the project. PHAs should ensure that any written return or re-occupancy policy is compliant with related RAD requirements, such as the right-to-return policy and the “no re-screening upon conversion” policy, as described in the RAD Notice.

III. Summary of Moving Costs

The plan should include a summary of moving costs, identified by move types, including the following:

Temporary Moves

- Number of and cost amount for two-way moves (i.e., a move to another unit and then a return move) within the same building/complex.
- Number of and cost amount for two-way moves to a unit not in the same building/complex, carried out by the PHA.
- Number of and cost amount for two-way moves to a unit not in the same building/complex not carried out by the PHA.

Permanent Moves

- Number of and cost amount for one-time moves into another unit in the same building/complex.[15]
- Number of and cost amount for one permanent move to a unit not within the same building/complex, carried out by the PHA.
  PHAs should note that if a residential move is carried out by the PHA at no cost to the resident, this per-household estimate must include the required dislocation allowance (currently $100). The URA Fixed Residential Moving Cost Schedule lists the most current dislocation allowance:
  http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/real_estate/practitioners/uniform_act/relocation/moving_cost_schedule.cfm
- Number of and cost amount for one permanent move to a unit not within the same building/complex that is not carried out by the PHA.

IV. Temporary Relocation Assistance

The PHA will assist residents who are required to move temporarily. At the Initiation of Negotiations (ION), the PHA will send a RAD Notice of Relocation to residents who will be relocated. Appendices 3 and 4 of this Notice contain sample RAD Notices of Relocation to be provided to residents that will be temporarily relocated.

The plan should detail the temporary relocation assistance the PHA will provide for residents (Paragraph 2-7 of HUD Handbook 1378). This assistance includes:

- Temporary Housing - The PHA will provide temporary housing that is decent, safe, and sanitary on a nondiscriminatory basis for residents who are relocated temporarily. The PHA will also pay for reasonable increased housing costs that the resident incurs in connection with the temporary relocation.

  NOTE: If a resident's relocation exceeds one year, the PHA must then issue a *Notice of Relocation Eligibility* (49 CFR 24.203(b)) to the resident and offer the resident permanent

[15] A resident who moved to another unit in the same building/complex may be considered a displaced person under URA if the resident moves from the building/complex permanently and was not offered reimbursement for all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with the move within the same building/complex and/or if other conditions of the move within the building/complex were not reasonable.

relocation assistance and payments at URA levels. The PHA must provide this notice to affected residents as soon as the temporary relocation exceeds one year.

- Packing and Moving Assistance - Since most residents prefer to pack their own personal possessions and items of value, they should be provided packing instructions, boxes, markers, and tape for the move. If assistance in packing is needed, the PHA should provide the resident with information on how to request this assistance. The PHA is responsible for covering all reasonable moving expenses incurred in connection with temporarily relocating a resident. The PHA may reimburse the resident's out-of-pocket moving expenses and/or directly carry out the move.

- Payment for Temporary Relocation Moving Expenses - The plan should also indicate how the PHA intends to provide or reimburse for moving services and expenses. The PHA can choose to do one or more of the following:
  - Undertake the moves itself, using force account labor or a moving company;
  - Use PHA's contractor or moving company;
  - Carry out moves with employees of the PHA;
  - Reimburse residents for all actual and reasonable moving costs.

  NOTE***:*** The PHA will not make fixed payments since such payments may not be representative of actual reasonable costs incurred. However, in order for a resident to be sure of full reimbursement, the resident should submit a moving cost estimate to the PHA for approval prior to the move unless the PHA is directly carrying out the move and the resident will not incur any reasonable out-of-pocket moving expenses. Failure to do so may result in the resident not being fully reimbursed.

- Utility Costs - The PHA is responsible for covering the expenses relating to disconnection and reconnection of necessary utilities. If the resident has telephone, cable service or Internet access, the PHA is responsible for covering the expenses involved in transferring existing service. The PHA may also pay utility deposits, if required at the temporary relocation housing (HUD Handbook 1378, paragraph 2-7(A)(3)). If a resident is temporarily relocating from a public housing unit to a non-public housing unit, the resident must be reimbursed for reasonable increases in utility costs even if the PHA utility allowance is lower than the actual costs to the resident.

V. Permanent Relocation Assistance

Based on the local housing resources available, the PHA should identify the replacement housing options that will be available to meet the housing needs of residents to be permanently relocated. Replacement housing options for residents that meet the definition of a "displaced person" (49 CFR 24.2(a)(9)) under the URA include, but are not limited to:

- Other Public Housing;
- Section 8 Project-Based Voucher unit;
- Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher unit;
- Homeownership housing;

- Private-market rental housing (affordable, non-subsidized).[16]

The plan should describe each type of replacement housing projected to be available, including:

1. Number of units, by bedroom size, expected to be available, and discussion of whether available units will meet dwelling requirements of relocated residents;
2. General area or location of unit(s);
3. Criteria for receiving relocation assistance; and
4. Any other information that might benefit residents in their consideration of housing choices.

The plan should include a description of the permanent relocation assistance the PHA will provide to residents. This assistance includes:

- Availability of Comparable Replacement Housing – Under URA, no displaced resident will be required to move unless at least one comparable replacement dwelling (49 CFR 24.2(a)(6)) is made available at least 90 days before the required move (49 CFR 24.203(c)). Comparable replacement dwellings must contain the accessibility features needed by displaced persons with disabilities (49 CFR 24.2(a)(8)(vii); 49 CFR part 24, Appendix A, §24.2(a)(8)(vii)). If the comparable replacement dwelling is not subsidized housing, the PHA should contact the RAD staff for advice on replacement housing payment requirements.

- Referral to Housing Not Located in an Area of Minority Concentration - Whenever possible, minority persons shall be given reasonable opportunities to relocate to decent, safe, and sanitary replacement dwellings that are within their financial means and not located in areas of minority concentration (49 CFR 24.205(c)(2)(ii)(D)). However, this policy does not require a PHA to provide a person a larger payment than is necessary to enable a person to relocate to a comparable replacement dwelling unit.

- Permanent Relocation Moving Expenses from Public Housing to Public Housing - The PHA may choose one of the following options for covering the expenses involved in moving public housing residents that are relocated into other public housing:

  – Undertake the move itself, using force account labor or a moving company. Residents should incur no moving costs under this option, but if such expenses are incurred, the PHA is responsible for reimbursing the resident for any such actual and reasonable expenses. In such case, the resident is also entitled to a dislocation allowance (currently $100). The URA Fixed Residential Moving Cost Schedule lists the current dislocation allowance and is available at: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/real_estate/practitioners/uniform_act/relocation/moving_cost_schedule.cfm

[16] Every effort should be made to find another subsidized unit as replacement housing for a resident relocating from subsidized housing so that the resident will continue receiving the housing subsidy as long as it is needed.

NOTE: Residents who prefer to pack their own personal possessions and items of value may be provided packing instructions, boxes, markers, and tape for their move. If a resident needs assistance in packing, they should contact the PHA. It is the responsibility of the PHA to pack and move all of their belongings and household goods, if so desired.

- Allow the resident to elect one of the following choices:

  1) The PHA will reimburse the resident for the cost of all actual reasonable and necessary moving and related expenses (49 CFR 24.301), such as:
     - Transportation of the resident and personal property. This may include reimbursement at the current mileage rate for personally owned vehicles that need to be moved. Transportation costs for a distance beyond 50 miles are not eligible, unless the PHA determines that relocation beyond 50 miles is justified.
     - Packing, crating, uncrating, and unpacking of personal property.
     - Storage of personal property for a period not to exceed 12 months, unless the PHA determines that a longer period is necessary.
     - Disconnecting, dismantling, removing, reassembling, and reinstalling relocated household appliances and other personal property.
     - Insurance for the replacement value of the property in connection with the move and necessary storage.
     - The replacement value of property lost, stolen, or damaged in the process of moving (not through the fault or negligence of the displaced person, his or her agent, or employee) where insurance covering such loss, theft, or damage is not reasonably available.

  2) The PHA will pay directly to the resident the applicable and current fixed moving cost payment according to the URA Fixed Residential Moving Cost Schedule (49 CFR 24.302), available at: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/real_estate/practitioners/uniform_act/relocation/moving_cost_schedule.cfm

- Permanent Relocation Moving Expenses for All Other Moves – Under URA, residents who are permanently displaced, except for those residents displaced from public housing and moving to other public housing, are entitled to the assistance described in the brochure *Relocation Assistance To Residents Displaced From Their Homes,* available in English at http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=DOC_16280.doc and in Spanish at http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=DOC_16281.doc. Residents may choose moving assistance from one of the following two options.

  1) The PHA will reimburse the resident for the cost of all actual reasonable moving and related expenses (49 CFR 24.301).

  2) The PHA will pay directly to the resident the applicable and current fixed moving cost payment according to the URA Fixed Residential Moving Cost Schedule (49

CFR 24.302), available at: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/real_estate/practitioners/uniform_act/relocation/moving_cost_schedule.cfm.

- Replacement Housing Payment - In addition to covering moving expenses, displaced residents may be entitled to a replacement housing payment (RHP). This payment is intended to cover the increase, if any, in monthly housing costs for a 42-month period.

  When calculating the RHP, the PHA must consider the comparable replacement housing unit offered to the resident. Since the PHA is not required to pay an RHP amount that exceeds the amount of RHP calculated for the offered comparable replacement dwelling, residents are cautioned to work closely with the PHA prior to their move.

- Accessible Housing for Persons with Disabilities - Under the URA, persons with disabilities who will be permanently displaced must be relocated to a replacement dwelling that contains the accessibility features they need (49 CFR 24.2(a)(8)(vii); 49 CFR Appendix A, 24.2(a)(8)(vii)). A person with disabilities who has been relocated must be offered a comparable replacement dwelling unit that contains accessible features comparable to the housing from which the tenant has been displaced or relocated. This is so even if the tenant has paid for the acquisition and/or installation of accessible features in the housing from which he or she has been relocated; in such instances, the recipient must ensure that the replacement housing contains comparable accessible features or provide relocation assistance to the tenant in an amount that covers the cost of acquiring and/or installing comparable accessible features. Under the URA, an agency may use project funds to remove architectural barriers for displaced owners and tenants with disabilities or take other last resort housing measures if comparable replacement dwelling units are not available within the monetary limits prescribed under the URA regulations (49 CFR 24.404(c)(vii); HUD Handbook 1378, Paragraph 3-8).

VI. **Relocation Budget**

Based on the results of the planning process, the PHA should create a relocation budget that includes the following six components:

1) The cost of administering the plan and providing assistance and counseling.

2) Reasonable moving expenses for a person with disabilities, which may include the cost of moving assistive equipment that is the personal property of the residents, the furnishings and personal belonging of a live-in aide, and/or other reasonable accommodations (HUD Handbook 1378, Paragraph 3-2).

3) The cost of the physical move of the residents' belongings. (It is suggested that the move costs be broken down by average cost per move type multiplied by the number of moves.)
   NOTE: This physical move cost total should be based on the move scenarios anticipated

or projected by the resident survey.

4) The cost estimated to pay for projected increases in monthly housing costs for temporary relocation.

5) The cost estimated to pay for the replacement housing payment (RHP) (42-month period for URA or 60-month period if section 104(d) applies).

6) Contingency costs estimated for carrying out the relocation process necessary to complete the proposed project. (The PHA should state where these costs are indicated in the application, or attach any other information required by HUD, to support these costs.)

VII. Appeal Process

If a resident disagrees with the PHA's decision as to the resident's eligibility to receive relocation assistance, the amount of a relocation payment, or the adequacy of a comparable replacement dwelling offered to a resident, the resident may file a written appeal to the PHA. The Relocation Plan should describe the specific appeal procedures to be followed consistent with 49 CFR 24.10 (and 24 CFR 42.390 if section 104(d) is involved). At a minimum, the resident will have 60 days to file an appeal with the PHA after receiving written notification of a claim or ineligibility determination.

VIII. Certification

The plan should contain a certification of compliance with the URA and, if applicable, section 104(d).

Technical Assistance

The PHA should direct questions on this Notice's relocation assistance requirements to their RAD Transaction Manager or email rad@hud.gov.

Appendix 2: SAMPLE RAD GENERAL INFORMATION NOTICE (GIN)

PHA LETTERHEAD

RENTAL ASSISTANCE DEMONSTRATION (RAD)
GENERAL INFORMATION NOTICE (GIN)

[Date]

Dear [Resident Name],

The property you currently occupy is being proposed for participation in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program. At this time, we expect that [the proposed acquisition, rehabilitation or demolition, may require you to be relocated (temporarily or permanently) from your unit]. We will provide further details to you as plans develop. **This notice does not mean that you need to leave the property at this time. This is not a notice of eligibility for relocation assistance.** The remainder of this letter only applies to situations where you will need to be relocated from your unit.

This notice serves to inform you of your potential rights under the RAD program and a federal law known as the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act (URA). If the proposed RAD project receives HUD approval and if you are displaced permanently as a result, you may become eligible for relocation assistance and payments under the URA, including:

1) Relocation advisory services that include referrals to replacement properties, help in filing payment claims and other necessary assistance to help you successfully relocate;
2) At least 90 days' advance written notice of the date you will be required to move;
3) Payment for moving expenses; and
4) Payments to enable you to rent a similar replacement home.

NOTE: Aliens not lawfully present in the United States are not eligible for URA relocation assistance, unless such ineligibility would result in exceptional and extremely unusual hardship to a qualifying spouse, parent, or child as defined at 49 CFR 24.208(h). All persons seeking relocation assistance will be required to certify that they are a United States citizen or national, or an immigrant lawfully present in the United States.

As a resident of a property participating in RAD, you have the right to return to the project after the project is complete. You will be able to lease and occupy a unit in the converted project when rehabilitation is complete.

If you are permanently displaced from your home, you will not be required to move until you are given at least 90-day advance written notice of any required move and at least one comparable replacement dwelling has been made available to you. If you are temporarily relocated and your temporary relocation lasts more than one year, you will be contacted and offered permanent relocation assistance as a displaced person under the URA. This assistance would be in addition

to any assistance you may receive in connection with temporary relocation and will not be reduced by the amount of any temporary relocation assistance you have already received.

If you are required to relocate from the property in the future, you will be informed in writing. [PHA] will inform you of what assistance and payments you are eligible for if you will be relocated because of RAD and how you will receive these payments. If you become a displaced person, you will be provided reasonable assistance necessary to complete and file any required claim to receive a relocation payment. If you feel that your eligibility for assistance is not properly considered, you will also have the right to appeal a determination on your eligibility for relocation assistance.

You should continue to pay your rent and meet any other requirements specified in your lease. If you fail to do so, [PHA] may have cause for your eviction. If you choose to move, or if you are evicted, prior to receiving a formal notice of relocation eligibility, you may become ineligible to receive relocation assistance. It is very important for you to contact us before making any moving plans.

You will be contacted soon so that we can provide you with more information about the proposed project. If the project is approved, we will make every effort to accommodate your needs. In the meantime, if you have any questions about our plans, please contact: [Name, Title, Address, Phone, Email Address]. This letter is important to you and should be retained.

Sincerely,

[Name]
[Title]

NOTES:

1. Files must indicate how this notice was delivered (e.g., personally served or certified mail, return receipt requested) and the date of delivery. (49 CFR 24.5 and Paragraph 2-3(J) of Handbook 1378)
2. This is a sample GIN. PHAs should revise it to reflect project-specific circumstances.
3. PHAs may provide residents with HUD brochure "Relocation Assistance To Residents Displaced From Their Homes" available at: http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/library/relocation/publications/1042.pdf.

Appendix 3: SAMPLE RAD NOTICE OF RELOCATION (For relocation anticipated for a year or less)

THIS IS A GUIDE FORM.
REVISE TO REFLECT THE PROJECT-SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES.

PHA Letterhead

(date)

Dear [*Resident Name*],

The property you currently occupy is participating in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program. On [*date*], the [*Public Housing Authority*] (PHA) notified you of proposed plans to [acquire/ rehabilitate/demolish] the property you currently occupy at [*address*]. On [*date*], HUD issued the RAD Conversion Commitment (RCC) and committed federal financial assistance to the project. [*In instances where a Notice of Intent to Acquire is applicable and this notice is being sent before the RCC is issued, in lieu of the previous sentence noting the RCC issuance date, insert:* [*Name of entity acquiring the property*] (Displacing Agency) intends to acquire the property you currently occupy. **This is a Notice of Intent to Acquire.**]

In order for PHA to complete the project, you will need to be relocated for [*anticipated duration of relocation*]. Upon completion of the project, you will be able to lease and occupy your present unit or another decent, safe and sanitary unit in the completed project under reasonable terms and conditions. You are eligible for relocation payments and assistance.

However, **<u>you do not need to move now</u>.** This notice informs you that a decent, safe, and sanitary dwelling unit, listed below, has been made available to you and you will be required to move by [*insert date at least 30 days after the date of this notice*].

If your temporary relocation exceeds one year and you qualify as a "displaced person" under the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act (URA), you may be eligible for further relocation assistance and payments under URA.

NOTE: Aliens not lawfully present in the United States are not eligible for URA relocation assistance, unless such ineligibility would result in exceptional and extremely unusual hardship to a qualifying spouse, parent, or child as defined at 49 CFR 24.208(h). All persons seeking relocation assistance will be required to certify that they are a United States citizen or national, or an alien lawfully present in the United States.

The relocation assistance to which you are entitled includes:

- <u>Payment for Moving Expenses</u>. You are entitled to be reimbursed for all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with any temporary

move. [*PHA should list the form of payment for moving expenses selected in accordance with Appendix 1, Section 4 of this Notice.*]

- The location of your temporary replacement unit is [*address*]. This temporary housing has been determined to be decent, safe and sanitary.

- [*List appropriate relocation advisory services and any other services and assistance provided.*]

If you disagree with this determination, you may file a written appeal to the PHA in accordance with 49 CFR 24.10.

If you have any questions about this notice and your eligibility for relocation assistance and payments, please contact [*Name, Title, Address, Phone, Email Address*] before you make any moving plans. He/she will assist you with your move to a temporary unit and help ensure that you preserve your eligibility for any relocation payments to which you may be entitled.

Remember, do not move or commit to the purchase or lease of a replacement home before we have a chance to further discuss your eligibility for relocation assistance. This letter is important to you and should be retained.

Sincerely,

_____
Print name:
Title:

NOTE: The case file must indicate the manner in which this notice was delivered (e.g., personally served or certified mail, return receipt requested) and the date of delivery. (See 49 CFR 24.5 and Paragraph 2-3(J) of Handbook 1378.)

Appendix 4: SAMPLE RAD NOTICE OF RELOCATION (For relocation anticipated for more than a year)

THIS IS A GUIDE FORM.
REVISE TO REFLECT THE PROJECT-SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES.

PHA Letterhead

(date)

Dear [*Resident Name*],

The property you currently occupy is participating in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program. On [*date*], the [*Public Housing Authority*] (PHA), notified you of proposed plans to [acquire/ rehabilitate/demolish] the property you currently occupy at [*address*]. On [*date*], HUD issued the RAD Conversion Commitment (RCC) and committed federal financial assistance to the project. [*In instances where a Notice of Intent to Acquire is applicable and this notice is being sent before the RCC is issued, in lieu of the previous sentence noting the RCC issuance date, insert:* [*Name of entity acquiring the property*] (Displacing Agency) intends to acquire the property you currently occupy. **This is a Notice of Intent to Acquire.**]

In order for PHA to complete the project, you will need to be relocated for [*anticipated duration of relocation*]. Upon completion of the project, you will be able to lease and occupy your present unit or another decent, safe and sanitary unit in the completed project under reasonable terms and conditions. You are eligible for relocation assistance and payments. Because we expect your relocation to exceed one year, you have the choice to either:

- Receive temporary relocation assistance and return to a unit in the RAD project once it is complete; or
- Receive permanent relocation assistance and payments consistent with the URA instead of returning to the completed RAD project.

You must inform us of your choice within 30 days.

However, **<u>you do not need to move now</u>.** If you choose temporary relocation assistance, you will not be required to move sooner than 30 days after you receive notice that a temporary unit is available for you. If you choose permanent relocation assistance, you will not be required to move sooner than 90 days after you receive written notice that at least one comparable replacement unit is available to you in accordance with 49 CFR 24.204(a). [*Note to PHA: These time periods may start running as of the date of this Notice if the notice of relocation includes such information on the temporary and/or comparable replacement dwelling options, as applicable. In such circumstance, add applicable sentences to adequately notify the resident. For example:* This notice informs you that a temporary unit, listed below, has been made available to you and, if you choose this option, you will be required to move by [*date no sooner than 30 days after notice*]. This notice informs you

that a comparable unit, listed below, has been made available to you and, if you choose this option, you will be required to move by [*date no sooner than 90 days after notice*].]

If you choose temporary relocation, your relocation exceeds one year and you qualify as a "displaced person" under the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act (URA), you may become eligible for further relocation assistance and payments under URA.

NOTE: Aliens not lawfully present in the United States are not eligible for URA relocation assistance, unless such ineligibility would result in exceptional and extremely unusual hardship to a qualifying spouse, parent, or child as defined at 49 CFR 24.208(h). All persons seeking relocation assistance will be required to certify that they are a United States citizen or national, or an alien lawfully present in the United States.

If you choose to receive temporary relocation assistance, this assistance will include:

- Payment for Moving Expenses. You are entitled to be reimbursed for all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with any temporary move. [*PHA should list the form of payment for moving expenses selected in accordance with Appendix 1, Section 4 of this Notice.*]

- The location of your temporary replacement unit is [*address*]. This temporary housing has been determined to be decent, safe and sanitary.

- [*List appropriate relocation advisory services and any other services and assistance provided.*]

If you elect to receive permanent relocation assistance, this assistance will include:

- Relocation Advisory Services. You are entitled to receive current and continuing information on available comparable replacement units and other assistance to help you find another home and prepare to move.

- Payment for Moving Expenses. [*PHA should list the form of payment for moving expenses selected in accordance with Appendix 1, Section 5 of this Notice.*]

- Replacement Housing Payment. You may be eligible for a replacement housing payment to rent or buy a replacement home. The payment is based on several factors including: (1) the monthly rent and cost of utility services for a comparable replacement unit, (2) the monthly rent and cost of utility services for your present unit, and (3) 30% of your average monthly gross household income. This payment is calculated on the difference between the old and new housing costs for a one-month period and multiplied by 42.

- [*PHA: list here any permanent relocation assistance offered, such as a Housing Choice Voucher.*]

- Listed below are three comparable replacement units that you may wish to consider for your replacement home. If you would like, we can arrange transportation for you to inspect these and other replacement units.

	Address	Rent & Utility Costs	Contact Info
1.			
2.			
3.			

We believe that the unit located at [*address*] is most representative of your original unit in the converting RAD project. The monthly rent and the estimated average monthly cost of utilities for this unit is [$ *amount*] and it will be used to calculate your maximum replacement housing payment. Please contact us immediately if you believe this unit is not comparable to your original unit. We can explain our basis for selecting this unit as most representative of your original unit and discuss your concerns.

Based on the information you have provided about your income and the rent and utilities you now pay, you may be eligible for a maximum replacement housing payment of approximately [$ (42 x monthly amount)], if you rent the unit identified above as the most comparable to your current home or rent another unit of equal cost.

Replacement housing payments are not adjusted to reflect future rent increases or changes in income. This is the maximum amount that you would be eligible to receive. If you rent a decent, safe and sanitary home where the monthly rent and average estimated utility costs are less than the comparable unit, your replacement housing payment will be based on the actual cost of that unit. All replacement housing payments must be paid in installments. Your payment will be paid in [#]__ installments.

You may choose to purchase (rather than rent) a decent, safe and sanitary replacement home. If you do, you would be eligible for a down-payment assistance payment which is equal to your maximum replacement housing payment, [$*amount*.] [*PHAs should note that, at the agency's discretion, a down-payment assistance payment that is less than $5,250 may be increased to any amount not to exceed $5,250. (See 49 CFR 24.402(c)(1)).*] Let us know if you are interested in purchasing a replacement home and we will help you locate such housing.

Please note that all replacement housing must be inspected in order to ensure it is decent, safe and sanitary before any replacement housing payments are made.

If you have any questions about this notice and your eligibility for relocation assistance and payments, please contact [*Name, Title, Address, Phone, Email Address*] before you make any moving plans. He/she will assist you with your move to a new home and help ensure that you preserve your eligibility for all relocation payments to which you may be entitled.

Remember, do not move or commit to the purchase or lease of a replacement home before we have a chance to further discuss your eligibility for relocation assistance. This letter is important to you and should be retained.

Sincerely,

_____

Print name:
Title:

Enclosure/s

NOTE: The case file must indicate the manner in which this notice was delivered (e.g., personally served or certified mail, return receipt requested) and the date of delivery. (See 49 CFR 24.5 and Paragraph 2-3(J) of Handbook 1378.)

Appendix 5: SAMPLE NOTICE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR URA RELOCATION ASSISTANCE (For residents who have been temporarily relocated for more than a year)

THIS IS A GUIDE FORM.
IT SHOULD BE REVISED TO REFLECT THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

PHA Letterhead

(date)

Dear [*Resident*]:

The property you formerly occupied at [*address*] is participating in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program.
You have been temporarily relocated from that property since [*date*.] Your temporary relocation has exceeded one year.

It has been determined that you qualify as a "displaced person" according to the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act (URA). You are eligible for relocation assistance and payments under the URA.

You may choose to remain temporarily relocated and return to a unit in the RAD project once it is completed. It is currently estimated that you may return to the RAD project by [*date*]. If you choose to remain temporarily relocated, you will stay at your current location until the RAD project is completed.

Alternatively, you may choose permanent relocation assistance and payments for which you are eligible, as listed below. If you choose permanent relocation assistance, you give up your right to return to the completed RAD project. However, **<u>you do not need to move now</u>.** If you choose permanent relocation assistance instead of exercising your right to return to the completed RAD project, you will not be required to move sooner than 90 days from the date that at least one comparable replacement unit has been made available to you. [*Alternatively:* You will not be required to move sooner than 90 days from the date of this notice, which informs you of a comparable replacement unit that has been made available for you].

This is your Notice of Eligibility for relocation assistance.

The effective date of your eligibility is [*insert date that relocation exceeds one year*.]

NOTE: Aliens not lawfully present in the United States are not eligible for URA relocation assistance, unless such ineligibility would result in exceptional and extremely unusual hardship to a qualifying spouse, parent, or child as defined at 49 CFR 24.208(h). All persons seeking relocation assistance will be required to certify that they are a United States citizen or national, or an alien lawfully present in the United States.

Enclosed is a brochure entitled, "Relocation Assistance to Tenants Displaced From Their Homes." Please read the brochure carefully. It explains your rights and provides additional information on eligibility for relocation payments and what you must do in order to receive these payments.

The relocation assistance to which you are entitled includes:

- Relocation Advisory Services. You are entitled to receive current and continuing information on available comparable replacement units and other assistance to help you find another home and prepare to move.

- Payment for Moving Expenses. [*PHA should list the form of payment for moving expenses selected in accordance with Appendix 1, Section 5 of this Notice.*] This is in addition to any amounts received to reimburse for any reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with the temporary move.

- Replacement Housing Payment. You may be eligible for a replacement housing payment to rent or buy a replacement home. The payment is based on several factors including: (1) the monthly rent and cost of utility services for a comparable replacement unit, (2) the monthly rent and cost of utility services for your present home, and (3) for low-income persons, 30 percent of your average monthly gross household income. This payment is calculated on the difference between the old and new housing costs for a one-month period and multiplied by 42.

- [*PHA list here any other relocation assistance offered the resident, such as Housing Choice Voucher* .]

Listed below are three comparable replacement units that you may wish to consider for your replacement home. If you would like, we can arrange transportation for you to inspect these and other replacement units.

	Address	Rent & Utility Costs	Contact Info
1.			
2.			
3.			

We believe that the unit located at [*address*] is most representative of the original unit you occupied in the converting RAD project. The monthly rent and the estimated average monthly cost of utilities for this unit is $[*amount*] and it will be used to calculate your maximum replacement housing payment. Please contact us immediately if you believe this unit is not comparable to your original unit. We can explain our basis for selecting this unit as most representative of your original unit and discuss your concerns.

Based on the information you have provided about your income and the rent and utilities you now pay, you may be eligible for a maximum replacement housing payment of approximately $ [42 x $Amount], if you rent the unit identified above as the most comparable to your current home or rent another unit of equal cost.

Replacement housing payments are not adjusted to reflect future rent increases or changes in income. This is the maximum amount that you would be eligible to receive. If you rent a decent, safe and sanitary home where the monthly rent and average estimated utility costs are less than the comparable unit, your replacement housing payment will be based on the actual cost of that unit. All replacement housing payments must be paid in installments. Your payment will be paid in [#] installments.

Should you choose to purchase (rather than rent) a decent, safe and sanitary replacement home, you would be eligible for a downpayment assistance payment which is equal to your maximum replacement housing payment, [$ *amount*] [*PHAs should note that, at the agency's discretion, a downpayment assistance payment that is less than $5,250 may be increased to any amount not to exceed $5,250. (See 49 CFR 24.402(c)(1)).*] Let us know if you are interested in purchasing a replacement home and we will help you locate such housing.

Please note that all replacement housing must be inspected in order to ensure it is decent, safe, and sanitary before any replacement housing payments are made.

If you have any questions about this notice and your eligibility for relocation assistance and payments, please contact [Name, Title, Address, Phone, Email Address] before you make any moving plans. He/she will assist you with your move to a new home and help ensure that you preserve your eligibility for any applicable relocation payments.

Remember, do not move or commit to the purchase or lease of a replacement home before we have a chance to further discuss your eligibility for relocation assistance. This letter is important to you and should be retained.

Sincerely,

_____

Print Name:
Title:

Enclosure/s

NOTE: The case file must indicate the manner in which this notice was delivered (e.g., personally served or certified mail, return receipt requested) and the date of delivery. (See 49 CFR 24.5 and Paragraph 2-3(J) of Handbook 1378.)