

ACTION ITEM: *For all grantees receiving funds under the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-2) that have received a waiver of section 105(a) of the HCD Act to make eligible long term rental assistance, select the “Rental Assistance (waiver only)” activity type in the DRGR Action Plan for this program.*

OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE: Following several recent disasters, the Department has waived section 105(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act, to make eligible long term rental assistance and utility payments on behalf of homeless and at-risk households when such assistance or payments are part of a homeless prevention or rapid rehousing program following a disaster.

Currently, grantees that receive this waiver report rental assistance activities under the “Public Services” activity type in DRGR, which aggregates rental assistance activities with short term shelter as well as a wide range of other types of services. This reporting method follows previous guidance based on temporary rental assistance activities made eligible under the CDBG entitlement program as specified in 24 CFR 570.201(e). Because of the increase in grantee waiver requests for this type of assistance, and subsequent approvals thereof, HUD has added a new “Rental Assistance (waiver only)” activity type in DRGR. This new activity type will continue to be a CDBG eligible activity under the aforementioned citation and related expenditures will count towards the public assistance cap. This addition will enhance grantees’ ability to more accurately report the type of assistance being provided and HUD’s ability to monitor such activities. Further, it will allow the Department to improve the accuracy and efficiency with which it reports on long term housing recovery to internal and external parties.

INSTRUCTIONS: The “Rental Assistance (waiver only)” activity type will be the required activity type for Grantees receiving funds under P.L. 113-2 that have received a rental assistance waiver. Those grantees that have already added the activity to their DRGR Action Plan will be required to edit their DRGR Action Plan to reflect the addition of the new activity type. In some cases this will require the creation of a new activity or activities. In other instances where rental assistance is the only program being carried out under the existing public services activity in DRGR, the grantee will simply change the activity type to “Rental Assistance (waiver only)”. Grantees with new rental assistance programs that have not been entered into the system will select this new activity type for all applicable DRGR activities as part of developing their DRGR action plans.

Grantees will be required to report on the number of households assisted for this activity type. When updating the Action Plan, the grantee will provide projected accomplishments in the DRGR Action Plan upon selecting the activity, and then actual accomplishments upon fulfillment of a national objective¹.

¹ In DRGR, the CDBG Eligible Activity and National Objective will be Public Services – Low-Moderate Income - Limited Clientele.