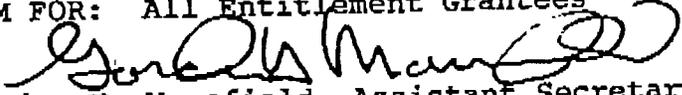


U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, D.C. 20410

May 31, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Entitlement Grantees

FROM: 
Gordon H. Mansfield, Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing
and Equal Opportunity, E
Anna Kondratas, Assistant Secretary for Community
Planning and Development, C

SUBJECT: Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

Shortly after the enactment of the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 our predecessors as Assistant Secretaries of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity and Community Planning and Development sent each of you a joint memorandum encouraging your support of private fair housing organizations as one means of satisfying your obligation to affirmatively further fair housing. We are attaching a copy of that memorandum, dated October 14, 1988, to this communication because we fully subscribe to its message. Secretary Kemp has made fair housing one of his top six priorities at HUD.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) recipients, because they are cities, counties or states possessing all the political and legal powers of governmental units, are uniquely situated to affect housing rights and opportunities. In affirmatively furthering fair housing CDBG communities need to actively promote wider housing opportunities for all racial and ethnic groups while maintaining a nondiscriminatory environment in all aspects of the public and private housing market within their jurisdiction. Indeed, events since 1988 only serve to heighten the awareness which entitlement communities need to give to this important aspect of their Block Grant program administration. In November of 1990 Congress enacted the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 (NAHA). Title I of that law includes a provision requiring all jurisdictions which expect to be "participating jurisdictions" (i.e. jurisdictions eligible to receive HOME block grant funding under Title II of NAHA) to complete a Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy, or CHAS. One of the CHAS requirements is a certification to affirmatively further fair housing. Moreover, the Department's recently published proposed rule for the HOME program, in describing the affirmative duty, cross references the standards set out in the current Community Development Block Grant entitlement regulations.

Thus, it is clear that satisfying the affirmative obligation will, in the future, be a necessity not only for the CDBG Program, but for NAHA funding as well. Since many current CDBG communities will also be "participating jurisdictions" under NAHA, we urge each of you to take a close look at your current efforts to affirmatively further fair housing. And, where private fair housing organizations are available as a resource in your communities, we enthusiastically endorse your support in and cooperation with, such entities.

Attachment