

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Office of Public and Indian Housing

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Small PHA Plan Update  
Annual Plan for Fiscal Year: 2003-2004

**NOTE: THIS PHA PLANS TEMPLATE (HUD-50075 Small PHA) IS TO BE COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS LOCATED IN APPLICABLE PIH NOTICES**

**PHA Plan  
Agency Identification**

**PHA Name:** Municipality of Vieques

**PHA Number:** RQ074

**PHA Fiscal Year Beginning: (mm/yyyy)** 07/2003

**PHA Plan Contact Information:**

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Vieques, PR 00765

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**Public Access to Information**

**Information regarding any activities outlined in this plan can be obtained by contacting:  
(select all that apply)**

- Main administrative office of the PHA
- PHA development management offices

**Display Locations For PHA Plans and Supporting Documents**

The PHA Plans (including attachments) are available for public inspection at: (select all that apply)

- Main administrative office of the PHA
- PHA development management offices
- Main administrative office of the local, county or State government – **Mayor's Office**
- Public library
- PHA website
- Other (list below)

PHA Plan Supporting Documents are available for inspection at: (select all that apply)

- Main business office of the PHA
- PHA development management offices
- Other (list below)

**PHA Programs Administered:**

- Public Housing and Section 8       Section 8 Only       Public Housing Only

**Annual PHA Plan**  
**Fiscal Year 2003**  
 [24 CFR Part 903.7]

**i. Table of Contents**

Provide a table of contents for the Plan, including attachments, and a list of supporting documents available for public inspection. For Attachments, indicate which attachments are provided by selecting all that apply. Provide the attachment's name (A, B, etc.) in the space to the left of the name of the attachment. If the attachment is provided as a **SEPARATE** file submission from the PHA Plans file, provide the file name in parentheses in the space to the right of the title.

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 <b>Annual Plan Supplement – rq074a01</b>	
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## **ii. Executive Summary**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (r)]

At PHA option, provide a brief overview of the information in the Annual Plan

This same **Annual Plan** is a continuation of a process that provides a framework for local accountability and an easily identifiable source by which public housing residents, participants in the tenant-based assistance program, and other members of the public may locate basic PHA policies, rules and requirements concerning its operations, programs and services.

The Municipality of Vieques has an established Section 8 Office to administer the Housing Choice Voucher Program, as well as other Tenant-based (Section 8) subsidized housing programs in order to assist financially disadvantaged families in meeting their housing needs, mainly decent, safe and sanitary housing as well as to their health and well-being. There are two major philosophy components in the tenant-based subsidized housing program:

1. To give extremely low-income and low-income families the opportunity of choice and mobility in selecting where they chose to live;
2. Maintain the essential elements of a private relationship between the tenant and the landlord on matters other than rent.

Because of this philosophy, the Housing Choice Voucher Program is a tenant-based and does not tie the participant to any particular housing unit.

This Municipality also administers various tenant-based subsidized housing programs geared towards certain sectors of the population in general to afford them the same opportunities as other extremely low-income and low-income families within the general population. The programs that are administered by the Municipality of Vieques are as follows:

- 🕒 **Moderate Rehabilitation Program** - a program geared to provide assistance to upgrade substandard rental housing and to provide rental subsidies for extremely low-income and low-income eligible families.
- 🕒 **Family Self Sufficiency** - a program whereby strategies are developed to coordinate the use of housing assistance under the auspices of the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) with public and private resources. Hence, enabling extremely low-income and low-income families, who are eligible to receive said assistance to achieve economic independence, and self-sufficiency.

The purpose of the Municipal program is to assist the families during financial distress as well as gradually reduce the amount paid by the program in an efficient manner, while at the same time motivating these same families. This is in direct relation to both the major commitments and priorities of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). **The Municipality of Vieques is a Tenant-based (Section 8) only PHA.**

The Annual Plan of Vieques as presented herein furthers HUD's statutory goal of merging the Certificate and Voucher Program, respectively, in accordance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998, 24 CFR 903, Section 545, whereby, the Municipality of Vieques has established a unified vision of community actions. This same Plan will permit Vieques a chance to shape the various programs presented herein into effective, viable, and coordinated strategies, involving citizen participation.

### **1. Summary of Policy or Program Changes for the Upcoming Year**

In this section, briefly describe changes in policies or programs discussed in last year's PHA Plan that are not covered in other sections of this Update.

The Municipality of Vieques does not contemplate any significant changes or deviation in its policies or programs from the previous year's PHA Plan that is not covered in other sections of this same Plan. The following represents what the Municipality will be doing for the fiscal year 2003-2004 in relation to its subsidized housing program.

### **2. Capital Improvement Needs**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (g)]

Exemptions: Section 8 only PHAs are not required to complete this component.

A.  Yes  No: Is the PHA eligible to participate in the CFP in the fiscal year covered by this PHA Plan?

B. What is the amount of the PHA's estimated or actual (if known) Capital Fund Program grant for the upcoming year? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

C.  Yes  No Does the PHA plan to participate in the Capital Fund Program in the upcoming year? If yes, complete the rest of Component 7. If no, skip to next component.

D. Capital Fund Program Grant Submissions

#### **(1) Capital Fund Program 5-Year Action Plan**

The Capital Fund Program 5-Year Action Plan is provided as Attachment

#### **(2) Capital Fund Program Annual Statement**

The Capital Fund Program Annual Statement is provided as Attachment

### **3. Demolition and Disposition**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (h)]

Applicability: Section 8 only PHAs are not required to complete this section.

1.  Yes  No: Does the PHA plan to conduct any demolition or disposition activities (pursuant to section 18 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437p)) in the plan Fiscal Year? (If “No”, skip to next component ; if “yes”, complete one activity description for each development.)

#### 2. Activity Description

<b>Demolition/Disposition Activity Description (Not including Activities Associated with HOPE VI or Conversion Activities)</b>
1a. Development name: 1b. Development (project) number:
2. Activity type: Demolition <input type="checkbox"/> Disposition <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Application status (select one) Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted, pending approval <input type="checkbox"/> Planned application <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Date application approved, submitted, or planned for submission: <u>(DD/MM/YY)</u>
5. Number of units affected: 6. Coverage of action (select one) <input type="checkbox"/> Part of the development <input type="checkbox"/> Total development
7. Relocation resources (select all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Section 8 for     units <input type="checkbox"/> Public housing for     units <input type="checkbox"/> Preference for admission to other public housing or section 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Other housing for     units (describe below)
8. Timeline for activity: a. Actual or projected start date of activity: b. Actual or projected start date of relocation activities: c. Projected end date of activity:

### **4. Voucher Homeownership Program**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (k)]

- A.  Yes  No: Does the PHA plan to administer a Section 8 Homeownership program pursuant to Section 8(y) of the U.S.H.A. of 1937, as implemented by 24 CFR part 982 ? (If “No”, skip to next component; if “yes”, describe each program using the table below (copy and complete questions for each program identified.)

**B. Capacity of the PHA to Administer a Section 8 Homeownership Program**

The PHA has demonstrated its capacity to administer the program by (select all that apply):

- Establishing a minimum homeowner downpayment requirement of at least 3 percent and requiring that at least 1 percent of the downpayment comes from the family’s resources
- Requiring that financing for purchase of a home under its section 8 homeownership will be provided, insured or guaranteed by the state or Federal government; comply with secondary mortgage market underwriting requirements; or comply with generally accepted private sector underwriting standards
- Demonstrating that it has or will acquire other relevant experience (list PHA experience, or any other organization to be involved and its experience, below):

**5. Safety and Crime Prevention: PHDEP Plan**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 (m)]

Exemptions Section 8 Only PHAs may skip to the next component PHAs eligible for PHDEP funds must provide a PHDEP Plan meeting specified requirements prior to receipt of PHDEP funds.

A.  Yes  No: Is the PHA eligible to participate in the PHDEP in the fiscal year covered by this PHA Plan?

B. What is the amount of the PHA’s estimated or actual (if known) PHDEP grant for the upcoming year? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

C.  Yes  No Does the PHA plan to participate in the PHDEP in the upcoming year? If yes, answer question D. If no, skip to next component.

D.  Yes  No: The PHDEP Plan is attached at Attachment \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Other Information**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (r)]

**A. Resident Advisory Board (RAB) Recommendations and PHA Response**

1.  Yes  No: Did the PHA receive any comments on the PHA Plan from the Resident Advisory Board/s?

2. If yes, the comments are Attached at Attachment (File name) Attachment H

3. In what manner did the PHA address those comments? (select all that apply)

- The PHA changed portions of the PHA Plan in response to comments  
A list of these changes is included
  - Yes  No: below or
  - Yes  No: at the end of the RAB Comments in Attachment \_\_\_\_\_.

Considered comments, but determined that no changes to the PHA Plan were necessary. An explanation of the PHA's consideration is included at the end of the RAB Comments in Attachment H.

Other: (list below)

## **B. Statement of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan**

For each applicable Consolidated Plan, make the following statement (copy questions as many times as necessary).

1. Consolidated Plan jurisdiction: (provide name here)

### **COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO CONSOLIDATED PLAN**

2. The PHA has taken the following steps to ensure consistency of this PHA Plan with the Consolidated Plan for the jurisdiction: (select all that apply)

- The PHA has based its statement of needs of families in the jurisdiction on the needs expressed in the Consolidated Plan/s.
- The PHA has participated in any consultation process organized and offered by the Consolidated Plan agency in the development of the Consolidated Plan.
- The PHA has consulted with the Consolidated Plan agency during the development of this PHA Plan.
- Activities to be undertaken by the PHA in the coming year are consistent with specific initiatives contained in the Consolidated Plan. (list such initiatives below)
- Other: (list below)

3. PHA Requests for support from the Consolidated Plan Agency

Yes  No: Does the PHA request financial or other support from the State or local government agency in order to meet the needs of its public housing residents or inventory? If yes, please list the 5 most important requests below:

4. The Consolidated Plan of the jurisdiction supports the PHA Plan with the following actions and commitments: (describe below)

## **C. Criteria for Substantial Deviation and Significant Amendments**

### **1. Amendment and Deviation Definitions**

24 CFR Part 903.7(r)

PHAs are required to define and adopt their own standards of substantial deviation from the 5-year Plan and Significant Amendment to the Annual Plan. The definition of significant amendment is important because it defines when the PHA will subject a change to the policies or activities described in the Annual Plan to full public hearing and HUD review before implementation.

**A. Substantial Deviation from the 5-year Plan:**

In accordance with established HUD rules and regulations, the following will be the basic criteria that will be utilized by the Municipality of Vieques and it will constitute a substantial deviation from its 5-Year Plan and/or amendment or modification to its Annual Plan that has met full public process requirements including Resident Advisory Board Review:

- ⌚ Changes to rent (i.e., minimum rent), admission policies and/or organization of the waiting list;
- ⌚ Additions of new activities not included in the current Annual Plan;
- ⌚ Any change with regard to the administration of the current programs handled by the Municipality of Vieques.

**B. Significant Amendment or Modification to the Annual Plan:**

**SAME AS ABOVE**

**Attachment A**  
**Supporting Documents Available for Review**

PHAs are to indicate which documents are available for public review by placing a mark in the “Applicable & On Display” column in the appropriate rows. All listed documents must be on display if applicable to the program activities conducted by the PHA.

<b>List of Supporting Documents Available for Review</b>		
<b>Applicable &amp; On Display</b>	<b>Supporting Document</b>	<b>Related Plan Component</b>
X	PHA Plan Certifications of Compliance with the PHA Plans and Related Regulations	5 Year and Annual Plans
X	State/Local Government Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan (not required for this update)	5 Year and Annual Plans
	Fair Housing Documentation Supporting Fair Housing Certifications: Records reflecting that the PHA has examined its programs or proposed programs, identified any impediments to fair housing choice in those programs, addressed or is addressing those impediments in a reasonable fashion in view of the resources available, and worked or is working with local jurisdictions to implement any of the jurisdictions’ initiatives to affirmatively further fair housing that require the PHA’s involvement.	5 Year and Annual Plans
X	Housing Needs Statement of the Consolidated Plan for the jurisdiction/s in which the PHA is located and any additional backup data to support statement of housing needs in the jurisdiction	Annual Plan: Housing Needs
	Most recent board-approved operating budget for the public housing program	Annual Plan: Financial Resources
	Public Housing Admissions and (Continued) Occupancy Policy (A&O/ACOP), which includes the Tenant Selection and Assignment Plan [TSAP]	Annual Plan: Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions Policies
	Any policy governing occupancy of Police Officers in Public Housing <input type="checkbox"/> check here if included in the public housing A&O Policy	Annual Plan: Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions Policies
X	Section 8 Administrative Plan <b>REVISED COPY OF ADM PLAN SUBMITTED WITH 5-YEAR PLAN TO LOCAL HUD OFFICE.</b>	Annual Plan: Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions Policies
	Public housing rent determination policies, including the method for setting public housing flat rents <input type="checkbox"/> check here if included in the public housing A & O Policy	Annual Plan: Rent Determination
	Schedule of flat rents offered at each public housing development <input type="checkbox"/> check here if included in the public housing A & O Policy	Annual Plan: Rent Determination

<b>List of Supporting Documents Available for Review</b>		
<b>Applicable &amp; On Display</b>	<b>Supporting Document</b>	<b>Related Plan Component</b>
X	Section 8 rent determination (payment standard) policies <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> check here if included in Section 8 Administrative Plan and <b>Section VII, Page 17 of the Annual Plan Supplement.</b>	Annual Plan: Rent Determination
	Public housing management and maintenance policy documents, including policies for the prevention or eradication of pest infestation (including cockroach infestation)	Annual Plan: Operations and Maintenance
	Results of latest binding Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS) Assessment	Annual Plan: Management and Operations
	Follow-up Plan to Results of the PHAS Resident Satisfaction Survey (if necessary)	Annual Plan: Operations and Maintenance and Community Service & Self- Sufficiency
X	Results of latest Section 8 Management Assessment System (SEMAP)	Annual Plan: Management and Operations
X	Any required policies governing any Section 8 special housing types <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> check here if included in Section 8 Administrative Plan	Annual Plan: Operations and Maintenance
	Public housing grievance procedures <input type="checkbox"/> check here if included in the public housing A & O Policy	Annual Plan: Grievance Procedures
X	Section 8 informal review and hearing procedures <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> check here if included in Section 8 Administrative Plan- <b>Section VIII, Page 21 of the Annual Plan Supplement.</b>	Annual Plan: Grievance Procedures
	The HUD-approved Capital Fund/Comprehensive Grant Program Annual Statement (HUD 52837) for any active grant year	Annual Plan: Capital Needs
	Most recent CIAP Budget/Progress Report (HUD 52825) for any active CIAP grants	Annual Plan: Capital Needs
	Approved HOPE VI applications or, if more recent, approved or submitted HOPE VI Revitalization Plans, or any other approved proposal for development of public housing	Annual Plan: Capital Needs
	Self-evaluation, Needs Assessment and Transition Plan required by regulations implementing §504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. See, PIH 99-52 (HA).	Annual Plan: Capital Needs
	Approved or submitted applications for demolition and/or disposition of public housing	Annual Plan: Demolition and Disposition
	Approved or submitted applications for designation of public housing (Designated Housing Plans)	Annual Plan: Designation of Public Housing
	Approved or submitted assessments of reasonable revitalization of public housing and approved or submitted conversion plans prepared pursuant to section 202 of the 1996 HUD Appropriations Act, Section 22 of the US Housing Act of 1937, or Section 33 of the US Housing Act of 1937	Annual Plan: Conversion of Public Housing

<b>List of Supporting Documents Available for Review</b>		
<b>Applicable &amp; On Display</b>	<b>Supporting Document</b>	<b>Related Plan Component</b>
	Approved or submitted public housing homeownership programs/plans	Annual Plan: Homeownership
X	Policies governing any Section 8 Homeownership program <b>(Section XI, Page 27 of the current Annual Plan and Section 8 Administrative Plan)</b>	Annual Plan: Homeownership
	Cooperation agreement between the PHA and the TANF agency and between the PHA and local employment and training service agencies	Annual Plan: Community Service & Self-Sufficiency
X	FSS Action Plan/s for public housing and/or Section 8  <b>COPY OF PLAN SUBMITTED WITH 5-YEAR TO LOCAL HUD OFFICE</b>	Annual Plan: Community Service & Self-Sufficiency
	Section 3 documentation required by 24 CFR Part 135, Subpart E	Annual Plan: Community Service & Self-Sufficiency
	Most recent self-sufficiency (ED/SS, TOP or ROSS or other resident services grant) grant program reports	Annual Plan: Community Service & Self-Sufficiency
	The most recent Public Housing Drug Elimination Program (PHDEP) semi-annual performance report	Annual Plan: Safety and Crime Prevention
	PHDEP-related documentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Baseline law enforcement services for public housing developments assisted under the PHDEP plan;</li> <li>· Consortium agreement/s between the PHAs participating in the consortium and a copy of the payment agreement between the consortium and HUD (applicable only to PHAs participating in a consortium as specified under 24 CFR 761.15);</li> <li>· Partnership agreements (indicating specific leveraged support) with agencies/organizations providing funding, services or other in-kind resources for PHDEP-funded activities;</li> <li>· Coordination with other law enforcement efforts;</li> <li>· Written agreement(s) with local law enforcement agencies (receiving any PHDEP funds); and</li> <li>· All crime statistics and other relevant data (including Part I and specified Part II crimes) that establish need for the public housing sites assisted under the PHDEP Plan.</li> </ul>	Annual Plan: Safety and Crime Prevention
	Policy on Ownership of Pets in Public Housing Family Developments (as required by regulation at 24 CFR Part 960, Subpart G) <input type="checkbox"/> check here if included in the public housing A & O Policy	Pet Policy
X	The results of the most recent fiscal year audit of the PHA conducted under section 5(h)(2) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (42 U. S.C. 1437c(h)), the results of that audit and the PHA's response to any findings	Annual Plan: Annual Audit
	Troubled PHAs: MOA/Recovery Plan	Troubled PHAs

**List of Supporting Documents Available for Review**

<b>Applicable &amp; On Display</b>	<b>Supporting Document</b>	<b>Related Plan Component</b>
X	Other supporting documents (optional) (list individually; use as many lines as necessary)  <b>Screening and Eviction or Drug Abuse and Other Criminal Activity Policy, Section XIII, Page 32 of the Annual Plan Supplement.</b>  <b>PHA CODE OF CONDUCT, Section XVI, Page 35.</b>	(specify as needed)









## Capital Fund Program 5-Year Action Plan

Complete one table for each development in which work is planned in the next 5 PHA fiscal years. Complete a table for any PHA-wide physical or management improvements planned in the next 5 PHA fiscal year. Copy this table as many times as necessary. Note: PHAs need not include information from Year One of the 5-Year cycle, because this information is included in the Capital Fund Program Annual Statement.

CFP 5-Year Action Plan		
<input type="checkbox"/> Original statement <input type="checkbox"/> Revised statement		
Development Number	Development Name (or indicate PHA wide)	
Description of Needed Physical Improvements or Management Improvements	Estimated Cost	Planned Start Date (HA Fiscal Year)
<b>Total estimated cost over next 5 years</b>		

## PHA Public Housing Drug Elimination Program Plan

**Note: THIS PHDEP Plan template (HUD 50075-PHDEP Plan) is to be completed in accordance with Instructions located in applicable PIH Notices.**

### **Section 1: General Information/History**

**A. Amount of PHDEP Grant \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Eligibility type (Indicate with an “x”)**      **N1**\_\_\_\_\_ **N2**\_\_\_\_\_ **R**\_\_\_\_\_

**C. FFY in which funding is requested** \_\_\_\_\_

### **D. Executive Summary of Annual PHDEP Plan**

In the space below, provide a brief overview of the PHDEP Plan, including highlights of major initiatives or activities undertaken. It may include a description of the expected outcomes. The summary must not be more than five (5) sentences long

### **E. Target Areas**

Complete the following table by indicating each PHDEP Target Area (development or site where activities will be conducted), the total number of units in each PHDEP Target Area, and the total number of individuals expected to participate in PHDEP sponsored activities in each Target Area. Unit count information should be consistent with that available in PIC.

PHDEP Target Areas (Name of development(s) or site)	Total # of Units within the PHDEP Target Area(s)	Total Population to be Served within the PHDEP Target Area(s)

### **F. Duration of Program**

Indicate the duration (number of months funds will be required) of the PHDEP Program proposed under this Plan (place an “x” to indicate the length of program by # of months. For “Other”, identify the # of months).

**12 Months** \_\_\_\_\_ **18 Months** \_\_\_\_\_ **24 Months** \_\_\_\_\_

**G. PHDEP Program History**

Indicate each FY that funding has been received under the PHDEP Program (place an “x” by each applicable Year) and provide amount of funding received. If previously funded programs have not been closed out at the time of this submission, indicate the fund balance and anticipated completion date. The Fund Balances should reflect the balance as of Date of Submission of the PHDEP Plan. The Grant Term End Date should include any HUD-approved extensions or waivers. For grant extensions received, place “GE” in column or “W” for waivers.

<b>Fiscal Year of Funding</b>	<b>PHDEP Funding Received</b>	<b>Grant #</b>	<b>Fund Balance as of Date of this Submission</b>	<b>Grant Extensions or Waivers</b>	<b>Grant Start Date</b>	<b>Grant Term End Date</b>
FY 1995						
FY 1996						
FY 1997						
FY1998						
FY 1999						

**Section 2: PHDEP Plan Goals and Budget**

**A. PHDEP Plan Summary**

In the space below, summarize the PHDEP strategy to address the needs of the target population/target area(s). Your summary should briefly identify: the broad goals and objectives, the role of plan partners, and your system or process for monitoring and evaluating PHDEP-funded activities. This summary should not exceed 5-10 sentences.

**B. PHDEP Budget Summary**

Enter the total amount of PHDEP funding allocated to each line item.

<b>FFY _____ PHDEP Budget Summary</b>	
<b>Original statement</b>	
<b>Revised statement dated:</b>	
<b>Budget Line Item</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>
9110 – Reimbursement of Law Enforcement	
9115 - Special Initiative	
9116 - Gun Buyback TA Match	
9120 - Security Personnel	
9130 - Employment of Investigators	
9140 - Voluntary Tenant Patrol	
9150 - Physical Improvements	
9160 - Drug Prevention	
9170 - Drug Intervention	
9180 - Drug Treatment	
9190 - Other Program Costs	
<b>TOTAL PHDEP FUNDING</b>	

**C. PHDEP Plan Goals and Activities**

In the tables below, provide information on the PHDEP strategy summarized above by budget line item. Each goal and objective should be numbered sequentially for each budget line item (where applicable). Use as many rows as necessary to list proposed activities (additional rows may be inserted in the tables). PHAs are not required to provide information in shaded boxes. Information provided must be concise—not to exceed two sentences in any column. Tables for line items in which the PHA has no planned goals or activities may be deleted.

<b>9110 – Reimbursement of Law Enforcement</b>					<b>Total PHDEP Funding: \$</b>		
Goal(s)							
Objectives							
Proposed Activities	# of Persons Served	Target Population	Start Date	Expected Complete Date	PHEDE P Funding	Other Funding (Amount/ Source)	Performance Indicators
1.							
2.							
3.							

<b>9115 - Special Initiative</b>					<b>Total PHDEP Funding: \$</b>		
Goal(s)							
Objectives							
Proposed Activities	# of Persons Served	Target Population	Start Date	Expected Complete Date	PHEDEP Funding	Other Funding (Amount/ Source)	Performance Indicators
1.							
2.							
3.							

<b>9116 - Gun Buyback TA Match</b>					<b>Total PHDEP Funding: \$</b>		
Goal(s)							
Objectives							
Proposed Activities	# of Persons Served	Target Population	Start Date	Expected Complete Date	PHEDEP Funding	Other Funding (Amount /Source)	Performance Indicators
1.							
2.							
3.							

<b>9120 - Security Personnel</b>					<b>Total PHDEP Funding: \$</b>		
Goal(s)							
Objectives							
Proposed Activities	# of Persons Served	Target Population	Start Date	Expected Complete Date	PHEDEP Funding	Other Funding (Amount /Source)	Performance Indicators
1.							
2.							
3.							

<b>9130 – Employment of Investigators</b>					<b>Total PHDEP Funding: \$</b>		
Goal(s)							
Objectives							
Proposed Activities	# of Persons Served	Target Population	Start Date	Expected Complete Date	PHEDEP Funding	Other Funding (Amount /Source)	Performance Indicators
1.							
2.							
3.							

<b>9140 – Voluntary Tenant Patrol</b>					<b>Total PHDEP Funding: \$</b>		
Goal(s)							
Objectives							
Proposed Activities	# of Persons Served	Target Population	Start Date	Expected Complete Date	PHEDEP Funding	Other Funding (Amount /Source)	Performance Indicators
1.							
2.							
3.							

<b>9150 - Physical Improvements</b>					<b>Total PHDEP Funding: \$</b>		
Goal(s)							
Objectives							
Proposed Activities	# of Persons Served	Target Population	Start Date	Expected Complete Date	PHEDEP Funding	Other Funding (Amount /Source)	Performance Indicators
1.							
2.							
3.							

<b>9160 - Drug Prevention</b>					<b>Total PHDEP Funding: \$</b>		
Goal(s)							
Objectives							
Proposed Activities	# of Persons Served	Target Population	Start Date	Expected Complete Date	PHEDEP Funding	Other Funding (Amount /Source)	Performance Indicators
1.							
2.							
3.							

<b>9170 - Drug Intervention</b>					<b>Total PHDEP Funding: \$</b>		
Goal(s)							
Objectives							
Proposed Activities	# of Persons Served	Target Population	Start Date	Expected Complete Date	PHEDEP Funding	Other Funding (Amount /Source)	Performance Indicators
1.							
2.							
3.							

<b>9180 - Drug Treatment</b>					<b>Total PHDEP Funding: \$</b>		
Goal(s)							
Objectives							
Proposed Activities	# of Persons Served	Target Population	Start Date	Expected Complete Date	PHEDEP Funding	Other Funding (Amount /Source)	Performance Indicators
1.							
2.							
3.							

<b>9190 - Other Program Costs</b>					<b>Total PHDEP Funds: \$</b>		
Goal(s)							
Objectives							
Proposed Activities	# of Persons Served	Target Population	Start Date	Expected Complete Date	PHEDEP Funding	Other Funding (Amount /Source)	Performance Indicators
1.							
2.							
3.							

## Required Attachment F: Resident Member on the PHA Governing Board

1.  Yes  No: Does the PHA governing board include at least one member who is directly assisted by the PHA this year? (if no, skip to #2)

A. Name of resident member(s) on the governing board:

B. How was the resident board member selected: (select one)?

- Elected  
 Appointed

C. The term of appointment is (include the date term expires):

2. A. If the PHA governing board does not have at least one member who is directly assisted by the PHA, why not?

- the PHA is located in a State that requires the members of a governing board to be salaried and serve on a full time basis
- the PHA has less than 300 public housing units, has provided reasonable notice to the resident advisory board of the opportunity to serve on the governing board, and has not been notified by any resident of their interest to participate in the Board.
- Other (explain):

**The PHA is located in a State where the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8 Tenant-Based), which is run by the local municipal government. The executive director of the PHA is the locally elected Mayor of the City.**

B. Date of next term expiration of a governing board member:

C. Name and title of appointing official(s) for governing board (indicate appointing official for the next position):

## **Required Attachment G: Membership of the Resident Advisory Board or Boards**

List members of the Resident Advisory Board or Boards: (If the list would be unreasonably long, list organizations represented or otherwise provide a description sufficient to identify how members are chosen.)

The Resident Advisory Board, for the Municipality of Vieques' locally administered Housing Choice Voucher Program, was duly elected by the families participating within the program. The Board is composed of seven (7) members and the term of the board is one year. Annually the families come together to vote and elect their board members. The following is a list of the members that make up the board:

1. President

Mrs. Nilsa Garcia-Franco  
Urb. Lucila Franco #51  
Vieques, Puerto Rico 00765

2. Vice-President

Mrs. Edna Vega-Garcia  
Urb. Lucila Franco #59  
Vieques, Puerto Rico 00765

3. Secretary

Mrs. Maria Abreu-Santiago  
Urb. Lucila Franco #46  
Vieques, Puerto Rico 00765

4. Treasurer

Mrs. Luz E. Carrasquillo  
Urb. Lucila Franco #57  
Vieques, Puerto Rico 00765

5. Vocal

Mrs. Rosa Navedo-Díaz  
Bo. Santa Mana  
PO Box 1238  
Vieques, Puerto Rico 00765-1238

6. Vocal

Mr. José Pérez-Pérez  
Bo. Morropause A-56  
Vieques, Puerto Rico 00765

7. Vocal

Mrs. Aura E. Santiago-Legrand  
Urb. Isabel II B-7  
Vieques, Puerto Rico 00765

## **Required Attachment H: Resident Advisory Board (RAB) Recommendations and Response**

The local RAB met and discussed the overall structure of the Annual Plan to be presented to HUD in accordance with established rules and regulations. The board approved the plan and thanks the Municipality for allowing them to partake in the preparation of said plan.

## **Required Attachment I: Required Attachments**

- 1. Statement of Housing Needs is located in the attached annual supplement, Section V, page 4.**
- 2. Statement of PHA's Rent Determination is located in the attached annual supplement, Section VII, page 17.**
- 3. Statement of PHA's Grievance Procedure is located in the attached annual supplement, Section VIII, page 21.**
- 4. Statement of Progress is located in the attached annual supplement, Section IV, page 3.**
- 5. Statement of PHA Code of Conduct is located in the attached annual supplement, Section XVI, page 35.**
- 6. Statement Regarding the steps the PHA will take to affirmatively further Fair Housing, Section X, page 24.**
- 7. Screening and Eviction or Drug Abuse and Other Criminal Activity, Section XIII, page 32.**
- 8. Statement concerning Additional Information Required, Section XIV, page 35.**
- 9. Statement concerning the PHA's Policies Governing Eligibility, Selection and Admissions, Section XVII, page 53.**



*MUNICIPALITY OF  
VIEQUES  
RQ 074*



*ANNUAL PLAN  
FY 2003-2004*

*Hon. Damaso Serrano Lopez*  
*Mayor*

*Fabian Martínez*  
*Federal Funds Director*

*Marilu Williams*  
*Section 8 Coordinator*

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## *I EXECUTIVE STATEMENT*

*This same Annual Plan is a continuation of a process that provides a framework for local accountability and an easily identifiable source by which public housing residents, participants in the tenant-based assistance program, and other members of the public may locate basic PHA policies, rules and requirements concerning its operations, programs and services.*

*The Municipality of Vieques has an established Section 8 Office to administer the Housing Choice Voucher Program, as well as other Tenant-based (Section 8) subsidized housing programs in order to assist financially disadvantaged families in meeting their housing needs, mainly decent, safe and sanitary housing as well as to their health and well-being. There are two major philosophy components in the tenant-based subsidized housing program:*

- A. To give extremely low-income and low-income families the opportunity of choice and mobility in selecting where they chose to live;*
- B. Maintain the essential elements of a private relationship between the tenant and the landlord on matters other than rent.*

*It is because of this philosophy that the Housing Choice Voucher Program is tenant-based and does not tie the participant to any particular housing unit.*

*This Municipality also administers various tenant-based subsidized housing programs geared towards certain sectors of the population in general to afford them the same opportunities as other extremely low-income and low-income families within the general population. The programs that are administered by the Municipality of Vieques are as follows:*

- 10 Moderate Rehabilitation Program – a program geared to provide assistance to upgrade substandard rental housing and to provide rental subsidies for extremely low-income and low-income eligible families.*
- 20 Family Self Sufficiency – a program whereby strategies are developed to coordinate the use of housing assistance under the auspices of the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) with public and private resources. Hence, enabling extremely low-income and low-income families, who are eligible to receive said assistance to achieve economic independence, and self -sufficiency.*

*The purpose of the Municipal program was designed to assist the families during financial distress as well as gradually reduce the amount paid by the program in an efficient manner, while at the same time motivating these same families. This is in direct relation to both the major commitments and priorities of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Municipality of Vieques is a*

*Tenant-based (Section 8) only PHA.*

*The Annual Plan of Vieques as presented herein furthers HUD's statutory goal of merging the Certificate and Voucher Program, respectively, in accordance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998, 24 CFR 903, Section 545, whereby, the Municipality of Vieques has established a unified vision of community actions. This same Plan will permit Vieques a chance to shape the various programs presented herein into effective, viable, and coordinated strategies, involving citizen participation.*

## *II SUMMARY OF POLICY OR PROGRAM CHANGES FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR*

*The Municipality of Vieques does not contemplate any significant changes or deviation in its policies or programs from the previous year's PHA Plan that is not covered in other sections of this same Plan. The following represents what the Municipality will be doing for the fiscal year 2003-2004 in relation to its subsidized housing program.*

## *III PHA'S COMMUNITY SERVICE AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM*

*The purpose of the FSS Program is to promote the development of local strategies to coordinate the use of assistance under the Tenant-based Housing Assistance Program (Housing Choice Voucher Program) with public and private resources, to enable families for whom assistance under this same program is afforded achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency.*

*The Municipality of Vieques has developed and implemented an FSS Program in conformity with the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) regulations and applicable civil rights authorities. At the current time the Municipality has monies allocated to assist 14 families of low and very low income. It has been successful in the implementation of said programs due to the hard work and motivation provided by not only the Section 8 Staff but also the Professional consulting firm.*

*Upon its inception, the Municipality appointed and has received funding for an FSS Coordinator to carry out the necessary functions in the formal structure of the Coordinating Committee. The Program Coordinating Committee (PCC) is integrated by professional representatives from public and private enterprises, church groups, community leaders, local business, and other resources. The representatives from these entities have an input in the program design and action steps of the FSS Program and are responsible for such functions as:*

- 10     *Developing a working relationship with the FSS Coordinator and other related Program Staff in the achievement of the program objectives.*
- 20     *Coordinating the needed actions for the selection of committee representatives.*
- 30     *Making specific commitments of time, staff, and resources to the program.*
- 40     *Providing input into the program research and evaluation process.*

#### *IV STATEMENT OF PROGRESS IN MEETING THE 5-YEAR PLAN MISSION AND GOALS*

*Within the first three years of its 5-Year Plan, the Municipality of Vieques has achieved the following:*

- Consolidated the Section 8 Voucher and Certificate Program, respectively, into a single market-driven program.*
- Has been actively promoting freedom of housing choice so as to achieve spatial deconcentration of extremely low income families within our homogeneous community.*
- Continue with our established goal of providing improved conditions for extremely low-income families while maintaining their rent payments at an affordable level.*
- Provide an incentive to private owners to rent their dwelling units to economically disadvantaged families by offering timely assistance payments and protection against unpaid rent, damages, and vacancy loss.*

*While the Municipality of Vieques is pleased with what has been accomplished so far, Vieques is very much cognizant of the long road ahead so as to meet the needs of its citizens. On an on-going basis, the Municipality of Vieques continues to evaluate the goals and strategies that have been established so that it can better meet the demand of housing.*

#### *V HOUSING NEEDS*

*The following represents the estimated housing needs projected for the next five-year (2000-2004) period. The data included within this portion of the plan is based upon existing available U.S. Census data, as well as Puerto Rico Housing Planning Board statistical data, and other reliable sources such as*

*the local housing authority, and other similar agencies such as the Commonwealth Department of the Family.*

*Since this same jurisdiction, namely the Municipality of Vieques is not seeking funding on behalf of an eligible metropolitan statistical area under the HOPWA program, the needs described for housing and supportive services DO NOT address the needs of persons with HIV/AIDS and their families throughout the eligible metropolitan statistical area.*

#### 2561 Housing Needs

The Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) Data book issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, indicates that the Municipality of Vieques, has a total of some 2,653 housing units, of which some 2,021 units are occupied by very low income families, 379 units by low income families, 112 units by moderate income families and some 141 housing units are being occupied by above income families.

It should be noted, that the housing needs were based upon the number of renter and owner-occupied units with one or more housing problems. The definition of housing units with problems included those that:

- 11 Occupying units having physical defects or being in deteriorated state.
- 12 Classified as being overcrowded.
- 13 Meet the definition of having a cost burden of more than 30 percent.
- 14 Lacking complete kitchen and sanitary facilities.

Based upon the latter, housing needs were determined to represent a major problem in terms of identifying housing problems in both renter and owner-occupied households with more than one problem, such as residing within overcrowded, deteriorated and/or dilapidated dwelling units, or meeting the definition of housing cost burdens greater than 30 percent of family's income.

#### 2562 Renter Households

According to the 2000 U.S. Census of Population, there exist a total 4,388 year-round housing units within the Municipality of Vieques, of which 660 units are occupied by renter's on a year-round basis and 585 units were experiencing some type of housing problem.

It is estimated from figures obtained from such sources as the Department of Housing, the Department of the Family, the Planning Board, and our own internal figures based upon demands from the public at large upon local public housing units, and upon our locally administered Tenant-Based Subsidized Housing Program, that rental housing demands will require some additional 300 units by the year 2004, for a total renter household size of 885. This is assuming that the present economic conditions will stabilize at present levels, and that all social programs currently in place, will continue to be funded at present levels over the next five years. Should any existing social program be eliminated and/or receive severe cutbacks, the demand for renter households will then sky-rocket at unpredictable levels.

It should be noted, that this same increase of 300 additional rental units on the local housing market, will, it is estimated, be among the extremely low and low income segment of our local society who are either unable and/or unwilling to relocate to other communities.

2563 Substandard Units

Within the category of defining a substandard unit within the rental household group, it was determined that of these 296 units were found to be in deteriorating/dilapidated condition or lacking complete sanitary or kitchen facilities.

2564 Overcrowded Units

According to the CHAS Data book dated 1990 there were some 125 renters occupied housing units which were classified as being in an overcrowded condition. Additionally, some 62.8% of large family renter households likewise, represented overcrowded conditions.

In this regard, and based upon the statistical data presented herein and from such reliable sources as the Planning Board, Housing, Social Services, and our own local appraisal, we have identified the following Renter Households by Income Groups and categories. This is shown in Table I.

*TABLE I*  
*MUNICIPALITY OF VIEQUES*  
*RENTER HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME GROUPS: 1990*

<i>RENTER HOUSEHOLDS</i>	<i>EXTREMELY LOW INCOME</i>	<i>VERY LOW INCOME (31-50%)</i>	<i>LOW INCOME (51-80%)</i>	<i>MODERATE INCOME (81-95%)</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>

	(0-30%)				
<i>ELDERLY</i>	40	8	0	0	48
<i>SMALL FAMILIES</i>	237	38	6	24	305
<i>LARGE FAMILIES</i>	51	6	7	0	64
<i>OTHER</i>	6	9	0	0	15
<i>TOTAL</i>	788	61	13	24	432

#### 2565 Elderly Rental Households

According to the 1990, CHAS Data book, there was a total of some 48 renter households within the Municipality of Vieques of which 40 were classified as being of extremely low income and 8 households classified as being very low income.

#### 2566 Cost Burden

Within this same income category involving elderly households, some 8 were within the 0-30% and 8 households were within 31-50% range .

#### 2567 Small Family Rental Households

The small family rental household category, some 305 households, represented the following numbers:

- 01 237 units were classified as being of extremely low income;
- 02 38 units were classified as being of very low income;
- 03 6 units were classified as being of low income;
- 04 24 units were classified as being of moderate income.

#### 18 Cost Burden

Within this same Small Family renter's household group some 78% of the households were classified as being of extremely low income, 12% households of very low income, 2% households of low income, and finally, 8% represented moderate income levels.

I. Large Family Renter Households

This same Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) Data book covering Puerto Rico and dated 1990, indicated that there was a total of some 64 large rental household families, of which some 51 were classified as being of extremely low income; 6 were classified as very low income and some 7 large family renter households representing low income families.

25610 Cost Burden

Within this same large family renter's household income group of some 45 households fall within the 0-30% group and 22 such households are within the 31-50% range.

25611 Homeless Persons

From a review of available reliable statistical data available at the present time, the Municipality of Vieques does not possess any homeless persons. Perhaps one of the reasons may be, that (1) Vieques is a rather small community in terms of population and therefore does not possess a highly developed central business district with all-night bars, cafeterias, bus stations, etc., where homeless people tend to congregate with total immunity, and (2) Since Vieques is such a small tight knit community any homeless person would be afforded room and board by a family member, whereby, this would tend to free Vieques of having to deal with this same problem.

Since Vieques does not possess any homeless population, it has no need for shelters or supportive services covering this same segment of its local population.

## 25612 Persons with Disabilities

Utilizing various information available to the Municipality of Vieques including both the U.S. Census (2000), the Puerto Rico Planning Board, and likewise numerous state and local agencies having to deal with disabilities, we likewise have estimated our needs fairly accurately.

According to the Puerto Rico Developmental Disabilities Planning Board, it is a nationally accepted fact that within the general population, 1.8 percent will have one form or another of a developmental disability. In this respect, Vieques with a 2000 total population of some 9,351, it is estimated that 168 persons are classified as having a developmental disability.

## 25613 Persons With Physical and Developmental Disabilities

Within Vieques the 168 estimated persons as having been classified as having either a physical or developmental disabilities are currently residing with other family members, or residing within a rental unit.

One of the projects requested within our first year of activities is housing rehabilitation, a part of which, will be devoted not only to remove or correct health or safety hazards, in order to comply with applicable development standards or codes, and/or to improve general living conditions of the resident(s), including improved accessibility by handicapped persons.

At the present time there are no known day care centers, either private or public for developmental disability within Vieques. These same services are rendered on the main island of Puerto Rico in the metropolitan areas of Farjado and Carolina.

Within Vieques several obstacles prevent the disabled from obtaining adequate housing:

- Proper accessibility;
- Centrally located housing convenient to public transportation;
- The need for additional rent subsidies as those afforded under HUD's tenant-based subsidized housing programs;
- Scarcity of land for development.

It is the intent of the present Mayor to seek out and obtain funds from other sources in order to provide new housing for this segment of the population. It is anticipated that the Municipality of Vieques will require some 100 additional supportive units over the next five years in order to serve both existing and anticipated needs within this same segment of its society.

Needless to say, any additional new units, or for that matter any rehabilitated units will be required among other factors, to meet the requirements for handicapped persons as required by Americans with Disabilities Act, since most of all existing units occupied by the disabled were not designed and/or are not properly equipped to meet the special needs of this same category.

#### 25614 Estimate of Housing Needs Projected

The projected housing needs within Vieques were estimated based on various sources such as the 2000 Census, Puerto Rico Planning Board, Puerto Rico Department of Housing, and the local Section 8 Office. The housing needs in most communities, of which Vieques is no different, come about as a result of the following:

- 01 High housing costs;
- 02 Housing located in areas subject to landslides, or unstable terrain;
- 03 Physically deteriorated housing;
- 04 Inadequate and overcrowded units;
- 05 Limited land for development.

The Puerto Rico Planning Board clearly indicates three (3) reasons for which a dwelling unit would be classified as being inadequate housing:

- 01 High Housing cost;
- 02 Being overcrowded;
- 03 Being in a physical deteriorated condition.

It is in this regard that these general principles required to be operational through precise definitions according to the U.S. Census Bureau, such as a unit is considered overcrowded if the household consists of at least three persons and have 1.5 persons or more per room.

It should be noted, that households having unusually high housing costs when the following occurs:

- 01 Two or more persons, with the heads of households less than 65 years of age paying more than 25 percent of their income for rent.
- 02 Single person paying more than 35 percent of their income for rent;
- 03 Two or more persons, with the heads of households over the age of 65, which are paying more than 35 percent of their income for rent.

Furthermore, housing units lacking complete indoor plumbing facilities or deteriorated/dilapidated housing units having all plumbing facilities are regarded as being inadequate. In this regard, estimating the total needs for housing within Vieques was based on the various sources previously noted, regarding each of the three components of housing need. From this analysis it was concluded that there exist housing needs for 898 housing units within the Municipality of Vieques covering extremely low and low income families. This same projection while based upon available data sources does not take into consideration any change and/or elimination of any existing housing programs, or a severe downturn in either the national or local economy.

The present municipal administration of Vieques is desirous in obtaining additional housing units over the next five years and preserving existing housing stock.

#### 25615 Barriers to Affordable Housing

Like any other community across this Nation, whether it be in Puerto Rico, or on the U.S. Mainland, the principle barriers to affordable housing within the Municipality of Vieques are:

- 40 The high cost of land development due to general lack of both vacant and available land;
- 41 The high cost of construction, which for the most part includes the construction of a sanitary sewer system, water lines, electrical services, within distant rural communities where vacant lands are currently available.

These combined factors representing the high cost, clearly indicates that better than 80% of the total population of Vieques would indeed require some kind of assistance in order to solve their housing problems.

At the present time the only source of purchasing a home within Vieques is by securing a private mortgage through a banking institution or mortgage lending institution, which for the most part is not approving mortgages to low or moderate income families. At the present time, it appears that the minimum income required to purchase a home, averages at least \$30,000. This same requisite along with a stable with a stable credit and employment recorded are required.

Bearing this in mind, if a family does not qualify to purchase a dwelling unit, then they qualify to rent a housing unit. This is more acute, since (1) there exists a lack of rental properties available, and (2) those units that are available for rent, are so costly ranging from \$350 to \$600 a month, that without some form of a rental subsidy, are indeed beyond the low and moderate income families. This can be verified, since some 220 families are currently awaiting placement on a waiting list, seeking assistance under our own Tenant - based Subsidized Housing Assistance Program.

## *VI HOUSING MARKET ANALYSIS*

### 11 General Characteristics

The significant characteristics of the housing market within the Municipality of Vieques area presented in Table II, according to the 2000 U.S. Census of Population.

<i>TABLE II</i>	
<i>HOUSEHOLDS</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>YEAR ROUND UNITS</i>	<i>4,388</i>
<i>TOTAL VACANT UNITS</i>	<i>1,069</i>
<i>FOR RENT</i>	<i>61</i>
<i>FOR SALE</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>FOR USE AS A RECREATIONAL, OCCASIONALLY, ETC.</i>	<i>496</i>
<i>FOR OTHER REASONS</i>	<i>481</i>
<i>TOTAL OCCUPIED UNITS</i>	<i>3,319</i>
<i>RENTER OCCUPIED</i>	<i>660</i>
<i>OWNER OCCUPIED</i>	<i>2,659</i>

<i>TABLE II</i>	
<i>HOUSEHOLDS</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>UNITS LACKING COMPLETE KITCHEN FACILITIES</i>	66
<i>UNITS LACKING COMPLETE SANITARY FACILITIES</i>	230
<i>AVERAGE UNIT SIZE</i>	2.74%
<i>AVERAGE FAMILY SIZE</i>	3.36%
<i>VACANCY RATE FOR UNITS OCCUPIED BY OWNER</i>	1.20%
<i>VACANCY RATE FOR UNITS OCCUPIED BY RENTER</i>	8.50%
<i>AVERAGE UNIT SIZE OCCUPIED BY OWNER</i>	2.66%
<i>AVERAGE UNIT SIZE OCCUPIED BY RENTER</i>	3.08%

*It should be noted, that the total population of some 9,351 persons reside on only some 50.83 square miles, representing a population density of some 179.1 persons per square mile and 86.3 dwelling units per square mile.*

*Because of Vieques' terrain and the scarcity of available land for development, it makes the Municipality one of the highest population densities in Puerto Rico. This represents a major problem since land for housing construction is limited, and the cost of acquisition as well as the placement of the necessary infrastructure such as water, electric, and sewers, would place the cost acquiring individual units way beyond the reach of low income families.*

*The tenant-based housing assistance program which is administered by the Municipality of Vieques, and funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development include the following categories:*

<i>Housing Choice Vouchers</i>	50
<i>Moderate Rehabilitation</i>	12
<i>Family Self-Sufficiency</i>	52
<i>Total Tenant-based units</i>	114
<i>Administered by the Municipality</i>	114

The need for secure, decent and sanitary housing within the Municipality of Vieques is demonstrated by the facts that there are some 220 families currently on a waiting list seeking housing under this same program. When an acceptable rate per family within Puerto Rico is 3.5 persons per family, these same 220 families requesting housing under the Tenant-based Subsidized Housing Program which is representative of some 770 persons or 8.23% of the total Municipal population.

Table III presents the information derived from the 1990 CHAS Data book for Vieques concerning family income groups.

<i>Table III</i>				
<i>ALL HOUSEHOLDS</i>				
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>INCOME GROUPS</i>			
	<i>Very Low</i>	<i>Other Low</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Above</i>
2,653	2,021	379	112	141

Percent of Renter Households with Incomes Below 51%

HAMFI:

<i>Elderly</i>	100%
<i>Small Family</i>	84.40%
<i>Large Family</i>	100%

Bedroom Size:

Renter Occupied:

<i>0-1</i>	84
<i>2</i>	216
<i>3</i>	191
<i>Total</i>	491

Owner Occupied:

<i>0 - 1</i>	324
<i>2</i>	614
<i>3</i>	1,158
<i>Total</i>	2,096

12     Demand for Housing

There clearly is a demand for housing within Vieques, due primarily to its location. Vieques is an island municipality located on the eastern side of Puerto Rico, facing the coastal area of the Municipality of Humacao. Access between the mainland Puerto Rico and Vieques is achieved by either air transport or ferry service. Within Vieques there exist the necessary roads which connect rural areas within the Island Municipality. The desire for housing within Vieques is primarily among the residents - sons and daughters of residents of Vieques, as a result of a close-knit community.

However, as was stated earlier on this same submission, the general lack of availability of land for development, along with the high cost of acquisition coupled with the high cost of construction and the general lack of governmental subsidized houses, places almost 80% of the total population of Vieques in a position that would require some form of government assistance and/or subsidies in order to purchase a home.

In this regard, the government, which includes federal, state, and local, has to deal with the following factors that are affecting the local market, which may include, but not necessarily be limited to the following factors such as:

- 20     Population growth;
- 21     Economic factor;
- 22     Family Income;
- 23     Land costs;
- 24     Construction cost;
- 25     Financing;
- 26     Interest payments;
- 27     Return of investment by either a financial institution and/or developer;
- 28     Import Cost.

The Municipality of Vieques like so many other communities across this nation, must out of necessity, be forced to deal with one of the basic human needs, that of housing.

While the population continues to grow, this same growth is primarily among the low and very low income groups, who are unable to deal with a mortgage payment of roughly \$600 or more. By the same token a review of both moderate and low income families that are in need of adequate, decent, and affordable housing, are lacking the capacity of paying high rents.

2563 Percent of Renter Households With Incomes Below 51% HAMFI Having Any Housing Problems

It should be noted, that according to HUD's Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) Data book for Puerto Rico, the Municipality of Vieques, has a total of 89.9 percent in which renter households with incomes below 51% HAMFI have any housing problems. The following Chart I provide the percent of incidence by family type:

<i>CHART I</i>			
<i>PERCENT OF OWNER HOUSEHOLDS WITH ANY HOUSING PROBLEMS</i>			
<i>ALL HOUSEHOLDS - PERCENT OF INCIDENCE BY INCOME GROUP</i>			
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>0-30%</i>	<i>31-50%</i>	<i>51-80%</i>
<i>89.9</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>84.4</i>	<i>100</i>

Source: CHAS Data Book (1990)

2564 Housing Market and Inventory Conditions

Both the 2000 Census of Population and likewise the Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) Data book of Puerto Rico provide both an accurate picture of the market conditions within the Municipality of Vieques.

Without exception of the total housing units (4,388), some 3,319 are occupied on a year round basis. In this regard, of the total occupied units (3,319), some 2,659 are occupied by the owner while the remainder 660 are occupied by renters, with the balance or 1,069 units being vacant.

It should be noted again, that the 1,069 units that are classified as being vacant are for the most part due to the high cost of rent and the lack of any additional subsidized rental assistance programs in order to assist low, very low and moderate income families who are unable to make the required monthly payments, in addition to making other basic expenses such as food, clothing, electric and water service.

2565 Overcrowded Households

The Municipality of Vieques has according to the CHAS Data Book on Puerto Rico has among renters a total of 18.9 percent the incidence by income groups of being overcrowded, as that of some 17.6 percent for owners.

The following Chart II clearly indicates the incidence of overcrowded households by both tenure and income groups for all households and large related households:

<i>CHART II</i>				
<i>INCIDENCE OF OVERCROWDED HOUSEHOLDS</i>				
<i>PERCENT INCIDENCE BY INCOME GROUP</i>				
<i>CATEGORY</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>0-30%</i>	<i>31-50%</i>	<i>51-80%</i>
<i>All Renters</i>	<i>18.9</i>	<i>24.7</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Large Renters</i>	<i>62.8</i>	<i>72.8</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>All Owners</i>	<i>17.6</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>7.9</i>	<i>14.8</i>
<i>Owners Other than elderly</i>	<i>23.2</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>11.9</i>	<i>20.8</i>

2566 Identification of Concentrations of Low Income Areas/Racial-Ethnic Minorities

Due to Vieques's land area, there are no definable areas (rural or urban) with the exception of the location of the Public Housing Projects, that can be defined as areas of concentrations of low income persons, when you consider that 75% of the total population has been classified as having incomes below the poverty level. These same poverty areas are clearly spread evenly throughout the entire municipality. It should also be noted that the entire population is concentrated on one-quarter of the island municipality.

In terms of concentrations of either racial and/or minorities, the U.S. Census does not provide a breakdown of such categories within Puerto Rico, and as such, the population statistics include "all races".

*VII PHA'S RENT DETERMINATION*

2561 Total Tenant Payment

Computation of the total-tenant payment will be determined in accordance with 24 CFR Part 5, Section 5.613. The computation of TTP will be made once all income has been duly accounted and properly verified and all credits and unusual expenses have been determined eligible under the other applicable factors.

B. The total tenant payment will be the highest of the following amounts:

1. 30 percent of the family's monthly adjusted income;
2. 10 percent of the family's monthly income;
3. If the family is receiving payments for welfare assistance from a public agency and a part of those payments, adjusted in accordance with the family's actual housing costs, is specifically designated by the agency to meet the family's housing costs, the portion of those payment's which is designated for housing; or
4. Minimum rent in accordance with applicable provisions of Section 5.616.
5. A family renting a unit above the payment standard pays the higher of 30% of monthly adjusted income, 10% of monthly income, or the welfare rent, and the amount of rent above the payment standard but not more then 40% as the cap established by QHWRA of income on the family share of rent for initial leasing of any unit.

C. Minimum Rent

The minimum rent established by the PHA will be \$25.00.

D. Hardship exemption

- 02 Should a family request a hardship exemption, said request will be honored upon determination of whether there is a qualifying financial hardship. The suspension of the minimum rent requirement will begin the month following the family's hardship request.
- 01 The following will be considered as financial hardship:

- 01 When the family has lost eligibility for, or is waiting an eligibility determination for a Federal, State or, local assistance;
- 11 When the family would be evicted as a result of the imposition of the minimum rent requirement;
- 12 When the income of the family has decreased because of changed circumstances, including loss of employment;
- 13 When a death has occurred in the family;
- 14 Other circumstances as determined by the Municipality of Vieques.

2565 Request for hardship exemption

- 01 If a family requests a hardship exemption, the Municipality of Vieques will suspend the minimum rent requirement beginning the month following the family's hardship request until the Municipality of Vieques determines whether there is a qualifying financial hardship and whether it is temporary or long-term.
- 12 If the Municipality of Vieques determines that there is a qualifying financial hardship, but that it is temporary, the Municipality of Vieques will not impose a minimum rent for a period of no more than 90 days from the date of the family's request. At the end of the 90-day suspension period, a minimum rent is imposed retroactively to the time of suspension. The family will be afforded a responsible repayment agreement for the amount of back rent owed.
- 13 If the Municipality of Vieques has determined that there is no qualifying hardship exemption, the Municipality of Vieques will reinstate the minimum rent including the back payment for minimum rent from the time of suspension on terms and conditions established by the Municipality.
- 04 If the Municipality of Vieques determines that there is a qualifying long-term financial hardship, the family will be exempted from the minimum rent requirement in compliance with 24 CFR Part 5, Section 5.616.

2565 Appeal of financial hardship

Should the family appeal the financial hardship determination through the Municipality of Vieques' grievance procedure, it will be exempt from any escrow deposit that may be required in accordance with 24 CFR Part 5, Section 5.616.

2566 Payment Standard

A payment standard will be set between 90%-110% of the Fair Market Rent for the PHA jurisdiction as established by QWHRA. The Municipality of Vieques has a payment standard of 100% of the FMR Metro Area.

The following represents the subsidy standards that determine the number of bedrooms required for families of various sizes and compositions:

0 BR	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR
213	263	309	390	431

The local area Office of HUD, namely the Economic and Market Analysis Division (EMAD), as well as the HUD Public Housing Director will be consulted on an annual basis, so as to confirm that the FMR employed are both accurate and reflect the general cost of housing for our area.

In the case of the PHA requesting a revision to the existing FMR, the PHA will include documentation showing the current median rent for standard units in our area. In this regard the PHA's recommendations will be supported by such analytical data such as:

- Evidence that significant changes in rents have been experienced in the rental market, which differ from those changes measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) factors used to update the Annual Housing Services based Median Rent.
- When convenient and/or required the PHA will provide local housing Market surveys that indicate the current median rent levels for standard units of various sizes within our designated FMR area.

G. Determination of Unit Size in Relation to Family Composition

The Municipality of Vieques has applied the following requirements when determining the unit size in relation to the family composition under our subsidy standards:

- 03 The subsidy standards provide for the smallest number of bedrooms required to house a family without causing overcrowding;
- 04 The subsidy requirements are consistent with space requirements under the Housing Quality Standards;
- 05 The subsidy standards have been applied consistently for all families of like size and composition;
- 06 A child who may be temporarily away from the home because of placement in foster care is considered a member of the family in determining the family unit size;
- 07 A family consisting of only a pregnant woman will be treated as a two-person family;
- 08 Any live-in aide which has been authorized by the Municipality to reside within the unit to care for a family member who is either disabled or at least 50 years of age will be counted in determining the family unit size;
- 09 The Municipality has agreed, that unless a live-in-aide resides with the family, the family unit size for any family consisting of a single person must be either a zero or one bedroom unit.
- 010 The Municipality will grant an exception to its established subsidy standards, in determining the family unit size for a dwelling unit, if it determines that the exception is justified by the age, sex, health, handicapped or relationship of family members or other personal circumstances.

2568 Exceptions to FMR on a Unit by Unit Basis

The PHA is entitled to establish its payment standard from 90%-110% of the FMR approved for Non Metropolitan area of the PHA. The PHA will be allowed to approve initial gross rents on a unit by unit basis which exceed the FMR's or payment standard established by the PHA for units, which by virtue of size, amenities or location, or in the case of expanding housing opportunities for low income families, or to obtain units which have been made accessible to the disabled, which are determined to warrant exception rents. The PHA accepts the fact that this same authority will not be exercised for more than 20 percent of the units authorized by the ACC.

2569 Affordability Adjustments

Upon recertification/redetermination of the applicant, any adjustments will be to the appropriate Payment Standard established by the PHA. Where it has been accurately determined by the PHA that based upon the documentation available to the PHA, that an overpayment was made by the PHA, the PHA will immediately advise the participant of the same and request a meeting in order to establish a repayment schedule or other acceptable plan in order for the PHA to recover the overpayment.

#### 25610 Rent Adjustments

Rent adjustments requested by landlords will be processed as indicated in Section 982.509 Federal Register, April 30, 1998, page 23863. The owner must request said revision to the contract rent sixty (60) days prior to the HAP contract anniversary date.

### *VIII PHA'S GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE*

#### 100 Informal Review

At all times the Municipality will afford an applicant family the opportunity to request an informal review of any decision made to deny assistance under the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Specifically, the Municipality will be required to notify an applicant in writing that assistance has been denied no later than fifteen (15) working days after said decision has been made. Within this same written notice, the applicant will be informed of their right to appeal the decision either in written form or verbal. Additionally, the participant must be advised by the Municipality, that they have some thirty (30) days from the date of the written notice to request an informal hearing. Such a request may be either in written or oral form, and that the participant has the right to be represented by another family member, friend, and/or legal counsel.

Furthermore, the Municipality in advising the participant of his rights, must be stated within the denial letter the reason for the decision and at the same time reference that part of existing law, regulation and more specifically HUD regulation that was used a basis for denying assistance to the family participant.

#### 101 Hearing Procedures

The following represents the Municipality of Vieques established procedures for conducting an informal hearing for participants:

11 The family will be given an opportunity to review any HA documents that are deemed necessary before the hearing. The PHA will permit the family to copy any such document at the family's expense.

12 It is agreed that the PHA must be given the opportunity to examine at its office any family documents that are directly relevant to the hearing. The PHA is therefore allowed to copy any such documents at its own expense. It is then agreed, that if the family does not make the document available for examination at the request of the PHA, the family will not be permitted to submit the document(s) at the hearing.

13 Representation of the Family

The Municipality agrees that, at its own expense, the family may be represented by legal counsel or other representative(s).

14 Hearing Officers

The hearing will be conducted by a member of the legal staff of the municipality, or by any other person so designated by the Mayor, other than a person who made or approved the decision under review or a subordinate of this person. The Municipality in appointing a person to conduct the hearing is empowered to regulate the conduct of the hearing.

15 Evidence

The Municipality and the family will be given the opportunity to present evidence as well as question any witnesses brought forth by either party. The Municipality agrees that the evidence presented will be considered without regard to admissibility under the rules of evidence applicable to judicial proceedings.

16 Issuance of Decision

The Municipality has agreed that the person who will be conducting the hearing must issue a written decision within thirty (30) days of the date of the informal hearing, which states the reasons for the decision taken. The Municipality has agreed, that factual determinations relating to the individual circumstances of the family will be based on a preponderance of the evidence presented at the hearing.

17 Effect of Decision

The Municipality will not be bounded by a hearing decision as described in section 982.555(f) of the Federal Register.

## *IX CIVIL RIGHTS CERTIFICATION*

*The Municipality has agreed that it will comply with all Equal Opportunity requirements, both State and Federal such as:*

1. *The Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. 3610-3619 (implementing regulations at 24 CFR parts 100, et seq.);*
2. *Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d (implementing regulations 24 CFR part 1);*
3. *The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C. 6101-6107 (implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 146);*
- 04 Executive Order 11063, Equal Opportunity in Housing (1962) as amended. Executive Order 12259, 46 FR. 1253 (1980), as amended. Executive Order 12892, 59 FR. 2939 (1994) (implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 107);

- 05 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794 (implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 8); and
- 06 Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12101, et. Esq.
- 01 For the application of equal opportunity requirements to an Indian Housing Authority, see 24 CFR 950.115.
- 02 The Municipality must submit a signed certification to HUD of the PHA's intention to comply with the Fair Housing Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Executive Order 11063, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

*X STATEMENT REGARDING THE STEPS THE PHA WILL TAKE TO AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHER FAIR HOUSING*

*It is Congress' intent upon the enactment of the legislation under the "Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998" that created the merger of the Certificate and Voucher Programs into one market-driven program such as the Housing Choice Voucher Program. Thus, requires the Consolidated 5-Year Plan and Annual Plan, which provides a framework for local accountability and an easily identifiable source by which public housing residents, participants in the tenant-based assistance program, and other members of the public may locate basic PHA policies, rules and requirements concerning its operations, programs and services that benefit very low and low income families.*

*Based upon the latter, the Municipality of Vieques anticipates that the following activities will further fair housing, thereby benefitting those families, namely - the low and very low income families achieve safe, decent and affordable housing as well as self-sufficiency and economic independence.*

*ACTIVITIES:*

*REVIEW OF EXISTING HOUSING PROGRAM*

*The Municipality of Vieques will, in order to further fair housing within the community, review all existing dwellings and housing programs currently being carried out so as to assure that these very same programs and/or projects are implemented in total compliance in accordance with existing applicable regulations. In addition, the Municipality will undertake the following steps to ascertain that owners and participants are in compliance with fair housing laws as they are established by the Federal, State and Local governments, respectively:*

- 01 In order to promote fair housing and remedy discrimination as well as encourage fair housing choice, our Program, which permits low-income renters access to assisted housing regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status and disability, will be assured of this with the orientation which will be given to new as well as incumbent owners during the briefing session prior to execution of the housing assistance contract. Brochures will be prepared and handed out covering Fair Housing in both Spanish and English, which will form part of the owner's packet.
- 02 In order to provide a suitable living environment for families living in assisted housing, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, and disability will be assured of because of the orientation offered to new or incumbent families and owners during their prospective briefing sessions which are held before the execution of the HAP contract and during the initial session held for prospective participants. Brochures will be prepared and handed out covering Fair Housing in both Spanish and English and these same brochures will be included in the owners' and participants' packet, respectively.
- 03 After a thorough review of our records and programs, each staff member of our PHA is uniquely aware of the existing Fair Housing laws and the importance of adherence to these same laws by the family, owner and staff. They have been instructed on the applicability of these same laws and how they must brief and/or provide proper orientation to a new as well as actual owner or family.
- 04 Where a family alleges that illegal discrimination is preventing them from finding a suitable unit within the community our local housing staff will provide reasonable assistance in this matter by directing the aggrieved to the necessary agencies.
- 05 The measures that will be undertaken to insure accessible housing to persons with all varieties of disabilities regardless of unit size are as follows:
  - 11 The local Housing Inspector will receive the proper training so that when a prospective home has been inspected, it complies not only with established HQS but also with the American Disabilities Act.
  - 12 Brief the owner concerning established local and federal laws on how to make the prospective dwelling unit comply with said laws and HQS as established by HUD.

- 13 Revise the payment standard in accordance with our plan so as to assure owner acceptance as well as the incentive to invest and make the dwelling unit an accessible unit for individuals with disabilities.

#### COORDINATION BETWEEN PUBLIC/PRIVATE RESOURCES

*The Municipality will contact public and private operators of housing, including local financial institutions located within Vieques, to provide them with both information and descriptive materials making them aware of the need to further fair housing.*

#### COORDINATING INFORMATION/REGULATIONS

*Working closely with the housing division of HUD, the Municipality will obtain copies of regulations and other training aids in order to provide seminars, in order to create a public awareness of the importance of fair housing.*

#### CREATE AWARENESS OF LEAD BASE PAINT HAZARDS

*Since many of the private homes in Vieques were constructed prior to being informed that lead-based paint represented a health hazard to all the members of the household, and the effect that this same problem has upon children, the Municipality of Vieques is committed both in a short term, as well as in the long-term, to work with the Puerto Rico Department of Housing, in order to both develop and implement a viable, effective, safe, and cost-effective method of reducing this same hazard. While a great many precautions currently exist, effective abatement and likewise, hazard reduction activity requires participation from providers and contractors, aside from individual residents.*

*The Municipality of Vieques feels rather strongly, that in order to create an effective system of abatement services it must coordinate its activities with other state agencies dealing with this same problem. In cooperation with both the public and private sectors will initiate the following actions in order to achieve the most desirable results:*

#### *ACTIVITIES:*

#### COMPLYING WITH EXISTING REGULATIONS

*The Municipality of Vieques, has a goal of working with the existing management of the various Public Housing Projects located within the Community, to review all units in cooperation with the State Housing Department and other applicable State Agencies over the five-year period of the Consolidated Plan, in order to both assist and coordinate the required abatement services required.*

## *XI HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE PHA*

*One of the major objectives of the present Administration within the Municipality of Vieques is to create maximum opportunities to both low and very low income families to become first-time homeowners. Experience has clearly demonstrated that homeowners take more pride in, and better care of their individual housing units, than those families who occupy rental units. This fact will clearly assist in:*

- Eliminating blight and blighting conditions within low income areas by preserving existing housing units.*
- Develop self-sufficiency by encouraging other low and very low income families to become self-sufficient, in order to qualify as first-time homeowners.*
- Revitalize and stabilize existing and deteriorated low income neighborhoods.*

*The municipality has a first year goal of establishing a Homeownership Program in accordance with the Quality Housing & Work Responsibility Act of 1998 and will attempt the necessary procedures to promote a Homeownership Program within its Housing Program. In this regard, the municipality will seek out not only HOME funds, but likewise will work with both the Puerto Rico Department of Housing, the Housing Development Bank, and other similar public private agencies in order to accomplish this same goal.*

*The following actions listed below, we feel, will address the obstacles that may be faced by potential buyers.*

*ACTIVITIES:*

*PROVIDE GREATER ASSISTANCE IN MEETING BOTH DOWNPAYMENT AND CLOSING COST REQUIREMENTS*

*One of the greatest barriers to homeowners by potential low income purchases, are the initial costs, such as down payment and closing costs. The Municipality will, working with such housing agencies as previously set-forth within this same submission, in order to create both a viable and effective program whereby low income families have the opportunity to become first-time homeowners.*

*OBJECTIVE: CREATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING WITHIN THE COMMUNITY*

*Affordable housing within the Municipality of Vieques has been adversely impacted by the following factors over time:*

- 1. Family Income;*
- 2. Land Costs;*
- 3. Financing;*
- 4. Lack of Available Land for Development.*

*Bearing this in mind, the Municipality of Vieques will develop a strategy that identifies policies, which may require modification, and initiate the following actions that will address the problem of affordable housing and the establishment of the Homeownership Program.*

*ACTIVITIES:*

*IMPROVE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS*

*At the present time the Puerto Rico Planning Board is the primary regulatory agency of the State government, that deals with land use and requirements for construction of housing sub-division, which combined with requirements of other State agencies tend to create obstacles to affordable housing. In this regard, the municipality will be working with our elected officials, namely-both the State Representative in the House of Representatives and our State Senator, in order to study existing applicable regulations and their impact upon the local housing market. Additionally, both the Mayor and representatives of the*

*municipality will be working with their counterparts within the Planning Board in reviewing existing land policies.*

### *PROVIDING FOR THE COORDINATION OF FUNDING*

*In order to achieve any degree of success in creating affordable housing for households classified as being either low or very low income, requires funding for multiple funding sources. The Municipality will take into account and consider the appropriate changes in order to implement the Homeownership Program, whereby, it will consider the following:*

- 01 Assistance will be provided for:
  - 11 First time homeowner
  - 12 Family that owns or is acquiring shares in cooperative.
2. *The Program will become available to families participating in our Family Self Sufficiency Program*
3. *The total family that will be serviced through this program will be limited to approximately 10% of the total inventory of families participating in our Tenant-based Housing Choice Voucher Program.*
4. *Funding levels.*

*The Municipality of Vieques will take into account and consider the appropriate changes in order to improve the application process for all federal programs that may have a beneficial impact upon the local housing market and affect programs covered within the Five-Year Plan.*

## XII FINANCIAL RESOURCES

### OBJECTIVE: IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES UNDER RENTAL HOUSING

Renters experience more housing problems than do homeowners as it clearly is demonstrated by the latest U.S. Census of Population as well as has been our own experience under our own local Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8). When renters are compared to homeowners of the same household type and income levels, the percentage of renters with housing problems is higher than owners.

We have identified the need for rental housing based upon the number of requests made to the Municipality by the populations at large to numerous Municipal Agencies. In most cases, it was primarily a general need for more rental housing, since better than 80% of the population does not qualify to purchase a dwelling unit and require some type of rental assistance. It is in this regard that the Municipality of Vieques has a one year goal to provide assistance of upwards to approximately 45 households with rental housing assistance.

The activities that will be undertaken by the Municipality to accomplish this goal are:

#### 1. HOUSING FUNDING SOURCES -

Seek out whenever available alternative housing Programs as they become available from such agencies as the Rural Economic and Community Development, Puerto Rico Housing Department, Housing Development of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and local cooperatives, etc.

Additionally, work with island housing contractors that may be interested in constructing housing units within Vieques, by offering incentives and assistance in one form or another that may be legally acceptable, in order to encourage such contractors to participate in the local housing market (short-term and long-term).

#### 2. ADDITIONAL SUBSIDIZED FUNDING UNDER THE VOUCHER PROGRAM

The Municipality of Vieques will work closely with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in attempting to obtain additional vouchers if and when they become available. The Municipality will also petition HUD to become a participant under the Welfare-to-Work

*Program so as to assist the extremely low and low income families' becomes self sufficient in conjunction with its Self Sufficiency Program.*

2563 Target available assistance to Families with special needs

01 Moderate Rehabilitation Program -

The Municipality of Vieques cognizant of the economic needs of low income families with that of a housing shortage in Vieques has developed and implemented the Moderate Rehabilitation Program so that we may upgrade substandard rental housing and to provide rental subsidies for low-income families in accordance with established HUD regulations and requirements.

02 Family Self Sufficiency Program-

The purpose of this FSS Program is to promote the development of local strategies to coordinate the use of public and private resources to enable families eligible to receive assistance under the Voucher Programs achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency.

2564 Available Funding Sources

*The Municipality of Vieques will submit for HUD's consideration its Annual Plan (FY 2003-2004) in accordance with CFR 24, Section 903.1.*

*In order to assist the needs of 114 families that are currently enjoying the benefits of the Municipality of Vieques's tenant-based housing assistance program, we will be submitting for HUD's approval the following budget as illustrated in Table IV.*

<i>TABLE IV</i>	
<i>SUBSIDIZED HOUSING BUDGET FOR HUD APPROVAL</i>	
<i>PROGRAM</i>	<i>BUDGET ESTIMATE</i>
<i>HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES: TENANT-BASED HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR 50 FAMILIES.</i>	<i>\$237,588.00*</i>
<i>FAMILY SELF SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>

<i>ACTIVITIES: TENANT-BASED HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR 12 FAMILIES.</i>	
<i>*IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THIS DOLLAR AMOUNT REPRESENTS BOTH THE FSS AND HCV PROGRAMS, RESPECTIVELY.</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>MODERATE REHABILITATION PROGRAM ACTIVITIES: TENANT-BASED HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR 52 FAMILIES.</i>	<i>\$299,556.00</i>
<i>PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION</i>	<i>\$60,347.00</i>
<i>TOTAL ESTIMATE OF BUDGET TO BE SUBMITTED TO HUD FOR APPROVAL</i>	<i><u>\$597,491.00</u></i>
<i>TOTAL FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF VIEQUES'S HOUSING BUDGET (GRAND TOTAL)</i>	<i><u>\$597,491.00</u></i>

### *XIII SCREENING AND EVICTION FOR DRUG ABUSE AND OTHER CRIMINAL ACTIVITY*

#### *A. Purpose*

*All federally assisted housing is intended to provide a place to live and raise families, not a place to commit crime, to use or sell drugs or terrorize neighbors. It is the intention of the Municipality of Vieques to fully endorse and implement a policy designed to:*

- 11 Help create and maintain a safe and drug-free community.*
- 12 Keep program participants free from threats to their personal and family safety.*
- 13 Assist families in their vocational/educational goals in pursuit of self-sufficiency whenever possible.*

#### *2562 Administration*

*All screening and termination of assistance procedures shall be administered fairly and in such a manner so as not to violate rights to privacy or discriminate on the basis of race, color, nationality, religion, familial status, disability, sex or other legally protected groups.*

*To the maximum extent possible, the Municipality will involve other community and governmental entities in the promotion and enforcement of this policy.*

2563 Denial of Admission and Termination of Assistance for Criminals and Alcohol Abusers

01 Prohibiting Admission of Drug Criminals

The Municipality of Vieques will prohibit admission to the program of an applicant for five years from the date of conviction if a household member has been evicted from federally assisted housing for drug-related criminal activity. However, the Municipality may admit the household if it is determined:

- That the evicted household member who engaged in drug-related criminal activity has successfully completed a supervised drug rehabilitation program approved by the State;
- That the circumstances leading to eviction no longer exist such as that the criminal household member has died or is imprisoned.

The Municipality has established the following standards for prohibiting admission:

- The Municipality has determined that any household member is currently engaging in illegal use of a drug;
- The Municipality has determined that it has reasonable cause to believe that a household member's illegal drug use or a pattern of illegal drug use may threaten the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents;
- Any household member has ever been convicted of drug-related criminal activity for manufacture or production of methamphetamine on the premises of federally assisted housing.

2. Prohibiting Admission of Other Criminals

The Municipality has established standards that prohibit admission to the program if any member of the household is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a State sex offender registration program. The Municipality will screen the family by performing a criminal history background check necessary to determine whether any household member is subject to a lifetime sex offender registration requirement in the State where the housing is located and in other States where the household members are known to

have resided. This screening is to be carried-out through the Puerto Rico Police Department, which issues' **Certificate of Good Conduct**.

13 Prohibiting Admission of Alcohol Abusers

The Municipality will prohibit admission to the program it is determined that a household member's abuse or pattern of abuse of alcohol may threaten the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents.

14 Terminating Assistance for Drug Criminals and Other Criminals

The Municipality will terminate assistance for a family under the program if it is determined that:

- Any household member is currently engaged in any illegal use of a drug;
- A pattern of illegal use of a drug by any household member interferes with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents.
- The Municipality will immediately terminate assistance for a family under the program if it determined that any member of the household has ever been convicted of drug-related criminal activity for manufacture or production of methamphetamine on the premises of federally assisted housing.
- The Municipality will terminate assistance under the program to a family it is determined that any family member has violated the family's obligation under Section 982.551 which states that the family will not engage in any drug-related criminal activity.

05 Terminating Assistance for Alcohol Abusers

The Municipality of Vieques will terminate assistance under the Housing Choice Voucher Program if it is determined that a household member's abuse or pattern of abuse of alcohol may threaten the health, safety, or right to a peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents.

2564 Notice of Termination of Assistance

If the Municipality decides to terminate the assistance to the family, the provisions and procedures as set forth in our Administrative Plan shall be adhered to.

#### *XIV ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED*

##### *SUBSTANTIAL DEVIATION FROM 5-YEAR PLAN OR AMENDMENT AND/OR MODIFICATION TO ANNUAL PLAN*

*In accordance with established HUD rules and regulations, the following will be the basic criteria that will be utilized by the Municipality of Vieques and it will constitute a substantial deviation from its 5-Year Plan and/or amendment or modification to its Annual Plan that has met full public process requirements including Resident Advisory Board Review:*

- a. Changes to rent (i.e., minimum rent), admission policies and/or organization of the waiting list;*
- b. Any change with regard to the administration of any of the programs being administered by the Municipality of Vieques, including but not limited to the Homeownership Program.*

#### *XV ESTABLISHED PHA PET POLICY*

*The Municipality of Vieques has not established a pet policy but rather allows the owner and the tenant to reach an agreement. This agreement will form part of the Lease Agreement.*

#### *XVI PHA CODE OF CONDUCT*

*The public expects, and has a right to demand, that public employees maintain a high standard of ethical conduct. Maintaining the trust of the public means properly using government resources, information and power, which entails ensuring that the public sector serves the public and the Government of the day. Moreover, it means putting public interest before self interest as well as operating by the rules, the Acts, and guidelines which are designed to protect the public interest.*

*At all levels of government, officials should be sensitive to the actions they may take to create an appropriate control environment. People within any organization, be it government or private, must be convinced that senior officials believe that effective controls are essential and expect that each member of the organization will adhere to prescribed control procedures. The atmosphere that prevails in the form of control discipline, attitude and awareness significantly affects an organization's ability to achieve an effective level of control, implementation and execution. The factors which influence the level of discipline, attitude and awareness comprise the control environment.*

*It is useful to reflect on a number of control areas which, in terms of the significance usually attached to them, make an important contribution to the government control environment. The control environment is directly influenced by the degree of oversight formally exercised by a legislative body. While the presence of an appropriate level of legislative oversight can have a positive influence on the control environment, it should also be recognized that an operative but an ineffective oversight role may have the opposite effect. Within most levels of government, a civil service or comparable personal system exists to provide, among other things such as benefits, equity in job assignment, promotion and pay. The existence of a system of control over the establishment of positions, the life of such positions, and the qualifications and status of the employees who occupy positions has a major influence on control discipline and awareness.*

*Most units of government have instituted sophisticated procurement systems and procedures. These often complex procedures have been adopted in an attempt to:*

- To ensure equity in selection of vendors;*
- To ensure uniformity in the application of procurement procedures.*

*Bearing this in mind, the Municipality of Vieques established and implemented a Code of Conduct and Ethics, which sets forth the conduct required by Municipality employees, including the staff of the Municipal Housing Department. The Code of Conduct and Ethics derives from various pieces of legislation such as the Human Resources Law for Public Servants (PL# 5, October 14, 1975), the Municipal Autonomous Law (P. L. # 81, August 30, 1991) , Governmental Ethics Law of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Law # 12, July 24, 1985, Article 2 of the Civil Code and Article 20 of the Penal Code, 1974. All applicable regulations regarding the enforcement of the code of ethics are mandated by State regulations and are enforced by the State Office of the Controller and the State Office of Government Ethics.*

*The Code of Conduct and Ethics is based on principles, values, and behaviors outlined in the legislation and common law which establishes certain minimum standards or general obligations applying to the parties to any employment relationship. The Code is a formulation of policies, rules or guidelines that define the specific actions applicable to the employees of the Municipality of Vieques for a range of specific ethical issues, integrity and conduct.*

*The Municipality is a complex organization comprising a diversity of populations that have different relationships to one another. These may be relations of power and/or status. It is essential in such a society that all members recognize and respect not only their own rights and responsibilities, but also the right and responsibilities of other members of the community and those of the municipal staff. Cognizant of this fact, the Municipality of Vieques delineated and adopted a Code of Conduct and Ethics that will be hereby adhered to by the employees of the Municipality. The following constitutes the Code:*

## 01 Introduction

The Code of Conduct and Ethics, hereinafter referred to as the Code, is a statement of the ethical principles, values and behaviors expected of the employees of the Municipality of Vieques. It stems from the belief that the values of openness, honesty, tolerance, fairness and responsibility in social and moral matters are fostered by the Municipality. The Code is intended to assist employees to identify and resolve ethical issues that might arise during their employment with the Municipality. Moreover, the Code puts forward a set of general principles rather than detailed determinations. The principles of the Code do not specify every potential act of behavior but rather, establish the obligations generally expected of the employees of the Municipality in their relationship with Government, their chief executive, colleagues, and the public. It stands beside, but does not exclude or replace, the rights and obligations of the staff under common law.

The first principle of the Code is concerned with public servants' obligations to Government in the performance of their official duties. In essence, the first priority for public servants is to carry out Government policy. In doing so, they are expected to act in a manner which will bear the closest public scrutiny. Employees are obliged to serve the aims and objectives of the Municipal Government. Employees should ensure that their personal interests or activities do not interfere with, or appear to interfere with this obligation.

## 02 Code of Conduct and Ethics

The Code of Conduct and Ethics establishes four principles of conduct which all public employees of the Municipality of Vieques are to be expected to observe and adhere to:

- 11 There are a number of circumstances which may affect an employee's observance of these obligations, and the Code therefore provides guidelines for an appropriate conduct in a variety of contexts.
- 12 In performing their duties, Municipal employees should respect the rights of their colleagues and the public.
- 13 Employees should carry out their duties in an efficient and competent manner, and avoid behavior which might impair their effectiveness.
- 14 Employees should fulfill their lawful obligations with professionalism, honestly, faithfully, efficiently, and avoid situations which might compromise their integrity or otherwise lead to conflicts of interest.

- 15 Develop a consciousness understanding with the Municipal employees about what constitutes just cause in any disciplinary action taken.
- 16 To assist those employees who are demonstrating a conduct that is contrary to these same rules as they are outlined in this chapter.

03 Rules of Conduct

1. A municipal employee must behave honestly and with integrity in the course of employment with the Municipality of Vieques.
2. *A municipal employee must act with care and diligence in the course of employment with the Municipality of Vieques.*
3. *A municipal employee must comply with lawful and reasonable directive given by someone in the employee's Agency who has authority to give such operating instructions. In other words, the municipal employee shall not commit insubordination. For purposes of this rule, insubordination shall be defined as not submitting to authority, being insolent or refusing without just cause to comply with instructions.*
4. *A municipal employee, when acting in the course of employment with the Municipality of Vieques, must treat everyone with respect, courtesy and without harassment.*
5. *A municipal employee must maintain appropriate confidentiality about dealings with the Mayor, the Mayor's Staff Members and the general public.*
6. *A municipal employee must disclose, and take reasonable steps to avoid any and all conflict of interest (real or apparent) in connection with their employment with the Municipality.*
7. *A municipal employee must use the Municipality of Vieques resources in an efficient and proper manner.*

8. *A municipal employee must not provide false or misleading information and/or testimony in response to a request for information that is made for official purposes in connection with their employment with the Municipality of Vieques.*
  
9. *A municipal employee when acting in the course of employment with the Municipality of Vieques, must comply with all applicable Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as well as all Federal Laws enacted by the Congress of the United States. For purposes of this rule, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and Federal Laws, respectively, states:*
  - a. *Any Act, or any instrument made under an Act;*
  
  - b. *Any Law of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or Federal, including any instrument made under such a law.*
  
10. *A municipal must not make improper use of:*
  - 11 Inside information;
  
  - 12 The employee's duties, status, power, or authority;

In order to gain, or seek to gain, a benefit or advantage for the employee or for any other person.
  
- 011 A municipal employee must at all times behave in a way that upholds the values, integrity and good reputation of the Municipality of Vieques.
  
- 012 A municipal employee representing the Municipality of Vieques, within the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or abroad, must at all times behave in a way that upholds the good reputation of the Municipality. For purposes of this rule, aboard is defined as visiting any foreign country or the United States mainland.
  
- 013 Accept or solicit any gift, favor or service that might reasonably tend to influence the office or employee in the discharge of official duties or that the officer or employee knows or should know is being offered

with the intent to influence the independence of judgement in the performance of the officer's or employees' official duties.

- 014 No municipal employee may engage in business or professional activity for personal gain on Municipal property. For purposes of this rule, business or professional shall be defined as selling, buying, loaning or any other particular activity so as to benefit and/or obtain benefit from it.
- 015 Failure to follow instructions, inattentiveness or inability by the employees of the Municipality of Vieques from the Agency head constitutes an infringement upon the rights and privileges of other employees.
- 016 No employee of the Municipality shall intentionally intercept either verbal or written communication, be that as it may, official and/or private.
- 017 Any employee shall be subject to disciplinary action as provided for in this chapter who, either as a principal actor, aider, abettor, or accomplice and interferes with the personal rights and privileges of others or the municipal functions which violates any provision of this division and/or commits any of the following personal, property, or status offenses which are hereby prohibited:

11 Property Offenses related to the work area:

- 21 It shall be considered an offense by an employee who commits malicious mischief. Intentional or negligent damage to, or destruction of, any municipal facility or any other public and/or private real or personal property.
- 22 Employees of the Municipality of Vieques are expected to use all municipal facilities and equipment efficiently, carefully and honestly. Resources should be used economically, secured against theft or misuse and wasted avoided.
- 23 Unauthorized use of municipal equipment, personal and/or public property, or supplies shall be considered an offense as well as permit that this same equipment, property or supplies are destroyed, lost and/or harm comes to it. Converting of municipal

equipment or supplies for personal gain or use with proper authority is not permitted.

- 24 Theft and robbery. It will consider an offense, punishable under the Penal Code of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, of any theft, robbery and improper use of public and/or personal property, supplies, and services of the Municipality as defined in Art. 166, 33 L.P.R.A., sect. 4272 of the Penal Code.

02 Personal Offense related to the work area:

- (1) Assault, reckless endangerment, intimidation or interference upon another person.
- (2) *Disorderly, abusive, bothersome conduct. Disorderly or abusive behavior which interferes with the rights of others or which obstructs or disrupts the work area or administrative functions.*
- (3) *Derogatory statement or physical contact. Engaging in unwelcome derogatory statement, other verbal and/or physical contact which causes discomfort or humiliation and interfere with job performance.*
- (4) *False complaint, defamation of character and/or bearing false witnesses. Filing a formal complaint falsely accusing another employee or official of the Municipality with violating a provision of this chapter.*
- (5) *Refraining from any conduct arising from malice or negligence of rules and regulations as well as generally accepted security norms that would harm and/or place in danger, directly or indirectly, the lives of municipal employees or general public.*

- (6) *Municipal employees may not get involved in or perpetuate a quarrel within municipal facilities during working hours.*
- (7) *Employees should refrain from utilizing their public post for politically oriented purposes or other purposes which are not compatible with the public service being rendered by the municipal administration.*
- (8) *Employees which have been charged with a criminal act which implies a moral depravation shall be dismissed.*
- (9) *Employees shall refrain from violent or forcible acts in trying to bring the downfall of the governments of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or the United States of America.*

13 Status Offenses related to the work area:

- 01 Refusing to disclose information concerning a physical or contagious medical condition affecting the employee, and/or family members of this same employee which puts in danger or could present a health hazard to other employees.
- 02 Forgery or alteration of records. Forging or tendering any forged records or instruments as defined in Art. 241, 33 L.P.R.A., sect. 4437, Art. 242, 33 L.P.R.A., sect. 4438, and Art. 272, 33 L.P.R.A., sect. 4592 of the Penal Code of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as now law or hereafter amended, of any municipal record or instrument to an employee acting in his/her official capacity as such.
- 03 To perform the work required in a negligent form or disorderly manner.
- 04 Refusal to do the work assigned or not do it in the time allotted, deliberate idleness or wasting time during working hours.

- 05 Departing from the job route without just cause or authorization.
- 06 Refusing to work overtime without just cause.
- 07 Reporting late to work without justification.
- 08 Absent from the work area without authorization or consistently being absent from work or tardiness without just cause.
- 09 Falling asleep on the job or abandoning work area without proper authorization.
- 010 Forging another employee's signature on time card or any assistance record.
- 011 Employees of the Municipality of Vieques should avoid any activities, whether in connection with their official duties or otherwise, which might bring their department or the municipal government into disrepute, or jeopardize its relationship with the Mayor, clients, or the general public.
- 012 Alcoholic beverages. Being demonstrably under the influence of any form of an alcoholic beverage. Possessing or consuming any form of an alcoholic beverage on municipal property.
- 013 Weapons, explosives, and dangerous chemicals. Illegal or unauthorized use or possession of any device or substance which can be used to inflict bodily harm or to damage public or personal property.
- 014 Controlled substances. Using, possessing, being demonstrably under the influence of, or selling any narcotic or controlled substance as defined by law on municipal property, except when the use or possession of a drug is specifically prescribed as medication by an authorized medical doctor or dentist.
- 11 Employees may distribute and post any notice, posters or printed material within the

municipal facilities with the consent of the Mayor.

- 12 Employees may not take part in or get involved with games which are prohibited by law on municipal facilities during working hours.

#### 04 Code of Ethics

The Code of Ethics for the Municipality of Vieques is based on three universal and fundamental ethical principles. These are as follows:

##### 2561 Equity and Justice

People are to be treated fairly and will not be discriminated against, abused or exploited. Just is concerned with power sharing and preventing the abuse of power. In a just society all members can access opportunities that allow for their full participation within the community.

##### 2562 Respect for People

Individuals should be treated as human beings with rights to be honored and defended. Respect empowers others to claim their rights and achieve their potential. Respect for the rights of others is the foundation on which individuals become members of the community and accept their social responsibilities to behave with sincerity and integrity. Membership of a community means that individuals not only have rights but that they also have duties and responsibilities to others to act openly and honestly.

##### 2563 Personal and Professional Responsibility

The main idea of taking personal and professional responsibility requires not only that people avoid doing harm to others but that they exhibit courteous behavior as well as upholding the standards expected of all employees of the Municipality of Vieques as part of achieving a common good. Moreover, the employees are expected to protect the rights of others as well as respect the diversity of all cultures and peoples. Those individuals who assert their rights have a reciprocal duty to exercise care towards those who depend on them for their well being. This principle involves stewardship of assets, resources and the environment.

#### **E. Rules of Ethics**

The following principles will hereby be adhered to by the employees of the Municipality of Vieques. The following factors are the foundation of our Code of Conduct and Ethics.

2561 Fair, Equitable and Impartial Decisions and Procedures

Fairness requires that your decisions be honest, candid and impartial. Equity requires that each individual be given his/her due. Essentially, everyone deserves a fair chance.

2562 Conflict of Interest

Municipal employees should take suitable measures to avoid, or appropriately deal with, any situation in which they may have, or be seen to have, a conflict of interest that could, directly or indirectly, compromise the performance of their duties. When staff members become aware of such a situation they should take appropriate steps to disclose the conflict. Failure to do as well as a continuation of such a conflict of interest may lead to disciplinary action.

In accordance with 24 CFR Part 982.161 of the Federal Regulation, the following will hereby be adhered to by the staff members of the Municipal Housing Department:

- a. Neither the PHA nor any of its contractors or subcontractors may enter into any contract or arrangement in connection with the tenant-based programs in which any of the following classes of persons have an interest, direct or indirect, during tenure or for one year thereafter:
  - 11 Any present or former member or officer of the PHA (except a participant commissioner);
  - 12 Any employee of the PHA, or any contractor, subcontractor or agent of the PHA, who formulates policy or who influences decisions with respect to the programs;
  - 13 Any public official, member of a governing body, or State or local legislator, who exercises functions or responsibilities with respect to the programs;
  - 14 Any member of the Congress of the United States.

- b. Any member of the classes described in Article XVI, Section E, subpart 2(a) of this code must disclose their interest or prospective interest to the PHA and HUD.
- c. The conflict of interest prohibition under this section may be waived by the HUD field office for good cause.

#### 2563 Confidentially

Staff members who have access to official Municipal documentation and information must take due care to maintain the integrity, confidentiality and privacy of such information to protect any individual concerned. Municipal employees should also undertake to maintain the privacy of oral communication where that has been requested.

Furthermore, staff members of the Municipal Housing Department must take due care to respect the confidentiality and privacy of all concerned with the tenant-based housing programs administered and only provide information when authorized by the parties concerned, the Mayor or for legitimate legal purposes and/or request by the Judicial system.

#### 2564 Acceptance of Gifts or Benefits

All municipal employees are aware of the fact their official position is a position of public trust and the public good will be compromised by seeking private gain. Municipal employees will not solicit, encourage or accept gifts or benefits that could be reasonably seen as an inducement to act in a particular way or to place a staff member under any obligation that may either directly or indirectly compromise or influence them in their official capacity. Likewise, staff members are aware of the fact that it is a crime punishable under the Penal Code of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to use their official position to seek or obtain any financial or other advantage for oneself, their family, any other person and/or organization and to harass or oppress another person.

## 2565 Patronage and Nepotism is Unacceptable

Municipal employees should take great care in treating colleagues, coworkers, and general public fairly. Employees should not favor friends or relatives when in dealing with Municipal programs of public interest, contracts for the supply of goods and services and/or appointing new staff members. Any appointments should be merit based and legislative requirements should be strictly adhered to. It is an unacceptable practice and contrary to abstracts emitted by the Puerto Rico Governmental Ethics Office to hire friends or relatives for a position without designating the position.

## 2566 Obligations to Government and Political Neutrality

Employees are obliged to serve the aims and objectives of the Municipal Government through its elected official. Municipal employees should ensure that their personal interests or activities do not interfere with, or appear to interfere with, this obligation. As public servants are required to serve the Government of the day regardless of which political party is in office, they must act not only to ensure that their department maintains the confidence of its Mayor, but also that is able to establish the same relationship with future Mayors.

Public servants have a recognized role in assisting with the development as well as the implementation of public policy. This may occur in different ways and at different levels within each department. It is the responsibility of public servants to provide honest, candid, impartial, and comprehensive advice to the Mayor, and to alert them to the possible consequences of following particular policies, whether or not such advice accords with the Mayor's views. Essentially, the municipal employees should exercise their judgement within the confines of legislative requirements, Government policy, ministerial direction and considerations of equity, efficiency and effectiveness. Furthermore, the final decision on policy is the prerogative of the Mayor, and public servants may not withhold relevant information from the Mayor, nor seek to obstruct or delay a decision, nor attempt to undermine or improperly influence Government policy (for example, by the unauthorized release of official information).

The dilemma for public servants who hold strong personal beliefs on certain issues is recognized, but it is one which must be managed so as to avoid conflict with their official duties. It is the Mayor who bears the political responsibility for Government policies, and it is the role of the public servant to faithfully implement those policies to the best of their abilities. Once the Mayor has made a decision, it is the duty of the public servant to implement that decision within the law, whether or not they personally agree with it, with integrity, and to the best of their ability.

The Municipality of Vieques' procedures will have due regard for procedural fairness as called for under existing laws of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, namely the Municipal Autonomous Law of August 30, 1991. The principles of procedural fairness require people whose interests will be adversely affected by a decision to be given an opportunity to be heard, and decision makers to act without bias or self-interest, and to base their decisions on compelling or "logically probative" evidence.

The application of the principles of procedural fairness may vary, depending on the circumstances of the particular case or the way in which the particular statutory power is framed. In its fullest application, procedural fairness requires that:

- 011 People against whom an adverse decision may be made must be informed of any allegations against them in as much detail as possible;
- 012 Wherever possible people must be provided with an opportunity to put their case, and to hear the case against them, whether at an oral hearing or otherwise;
- 013 Where a decision has to be made between competing interests, all parties to a matter must be heard and all arguments considered;
- 014 No person judges their own case or a case in which they have a direct interest;
- 015 Decision makers must act fairly and without bias.

**G. Action that may be taken if breach found to have occurred**

- 11 If a determination is made that a municipal employee has breached either the Code of Conduct and/or Ethics, the employee may be counseled or a sanction may be imposed.
- 12 If a sanction is imposed on the employee, the employee must be given a written statement setting out the reasons for the determination and the imposition of the sanction as called for under Article XVII, Section I of this same directive.
- 13 Once a scrupulous investigation has been carried out and concluded by the Agency Head as authorized and called for in Article XVI, Section H of this same regulation.

- 04 It shall be the responsibility of the Agency Head to recommend in the written statement what action is to be taken based on the findings and which Code did the employee violate.
- 05 If a breach of the Code entail violating the Article XVI subsection B and C, respectively, as described within this same directive, then the disciplinary procedures set forth in Article XVI, Section H will be adhered to.
- 06 If a breach of the Code entail violating the Article XVI, Sections D and C, respectively, as described within this same directive, then the following shall take place:

2561 Setup of the Municipal Ethics Board

In accordance with the Government Ethics Law of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as amended on July 18, 1999, herein after to be known as the Ethics Law. The Municipality of Vieques is required to establish and implement a local Ethics Board. At a minimum the board shall consist of six members as dictated by Article IV, section B of the Ethics Law and all shall be so designated by the Mayor.

2562 Ethics Board Procedures

After the Mayor and/or the Human Resources Director receives the report filled by the Agency Head, who did the investigation over the alleged breach of the Code of Ethics, the municipal Ethics Board will be convened. Upon presenting the report to the Ethics Board, the veracity of the report will be determined. Should the board determine that there exist a violation of the Code of Ethics or any section of the Ethics Law, a report with all of the Ethics Board's finding, including the original report, shall be forward to the Puerto Rico Office of Governmental Ethics (O.E.G. as it is known in Spanish).

The Puerto Rico Office of Governmental Ethics will then proceed to investigate and determine the veracity of the reports in accordance with the Ethics Law as amended. Upon completing the investigation by the Puerto Rico Office of Governmental Ethics a determination will be rendered which could imply, but not necessarily, referring the case to the Puerto Rico Justice Department for processing as well as imposing economic sanctions for violating the Ethics Law. Based on the decision rendered by the Puerto Rico Office of Governmental Ethics, the Municipality could also process and impose their own sanctions as stipulated in Article VIII within this same directive.

**H. Disciplinary Procedures**

Section 1: Investigation

Agency heads are hereby authorized to make an administrative inquiry, when it is understood that an employee has committed a breach of the Code of Conduct and Ethics or has observed a breach that is not written and/or included in the Code that affects the image of the Municipality. Once the investigation has been concluded in relation to a suspected breach of the Code, a written record stating whether the employee has been found to have breached the Code must be prepared and presented to the Mayor or the Human Resources Director.

Section 2: Procedures of the Presentation of Formal Charges

After having been officially appraised of the misconduct by an employee, the Mayor has 10 days to make a determination and upon doing so will send a written notification titled "A Notice of Formal Charges", to the employee who committed the breach. The notice will contain the following:

- 11 Name and last known address of the employee;
- 12 A brief detailed description of the suspected breach of the Code as well as specifying the grounds in which it must also set out the findings on material questions of fact and refer to the evidence or other material on which those findings were based;
- 13 The notification will contain the range of sanctions that may be imposed should there be a finding that the employee indeed breached the Code of Conduct and Ethics;
- 14 The notification will state that the employee has a right to request an administrative review before the Official Examiner of Disciplinary Matters. The employee will be afforded 15 working days after receiving the official notification to request such a review;
- 15 The notification will state where the review may be requested.
- 16 The notification will also state that the employee has a right to have legal representation present or any other qualified representation as well as witnesses present should there exist any.

Section 3: Procedures of an Administrative Review

Any employee who has been served with a "Notice of Formal Charges", which specifies the grounds for suspension, with or without remuneration, or termination of employment will have a right to request an administrative review before the Official Examiner of Disciplinary Matters within 15 working days from the time that the employee was served the official notice.

The administrative review will consist of an informal hearing presided by the Official Examiner of Disciplinary Matters, who shall be recognized as being competent in the field of Administration of Human Resources and shall so be designated by the Mayor. The proceedings of the hearing shall be taped-recorded and maintained in a file labeled "In Confidence" along with the employees' file located within the Human Resources Department.

Should the employee not solicit an administrative review, for he/she has a right, within the time stipulated of 15 working days, the Mayor will have the discretion to impose the sanctions called for within the office notice.

Section 4: Right to Present Admissible Evidence and Dispute of Misconduct Allegations

Every employee, who has been charge with breach of the Code, will have the right to present evidence or testimony on his/her defense and to dispute any and all evidence that the Municipality might have against him/her which lead to the belief that the accused employee is guilty of violating the Code of Conduct and Ethics.

Section 5: Official Examiner of Disciplinary Matters Report

Upon conclusion of the administrative review, the Official Examiner of Disciplinary Matters shall consider all the evidence therein presented and decide whether to uphold the decision of the disciplinary sanction proposed or not in a written report to the Mayor or Human Resources Director.

Section 6: Final Letter and Right to Appeal

Once the Mayor or Human Resources Director adopts the final decision or recommendation made by the Official Examiner of Disciplinary Matters, the employee will be notified of said decision in writing. The adopted sanction will take effect as soon as the employee has been notified. It will be an indispensable requisite that the Mayor notify the employee aggrieved by the findings or conclusions of his/her right to appeal pursuant to existing State Law and Regulations before the Appeals Board of the Personal Administration System (J.A.S.A.P as it is known in Spanish). The employee may appeal in writing to the aforementioned Appeals Board within thirty (30) days following notification or letter of the final action taken.

**I. Sanctions or Disciplinary Actions**

The following disciplinary actions are hereby established and shall be imposed upon violators of the Code of Conduct and Ethics enumerated in this directive, and pursuant to the right of appeal as outlined in this chapter. These same actions can be

imposed on an employee only after it has been determined that the employee has breached the Code.

Where such a determination has been made the Mayor and/or Human Resources Director may impose one or more of the following sanctions on the employee:

- Verbal Warning;
- Written Warning;
- Termination of Employment;
- Suspension of employment and wages for a maximum period of thirty (30) days;
- Suspension of employment, with remuneration;

It should be noted that where the sanction imposed is a warning, either verbal or written, the Mayor's decision shall be final and said decision can only be revised by the Appeals Board for the Personal Administration System (J.A.S.A.P). The sanction involving the suspension of employment and wages or suspension with remuneration as well as termination of employment, the employee has a right to request an administrative review before the Official Examiner of Disciplinary Matters prior to the Mayor making a final determination.

## *XVII PHA'S POLICIES GOVERNING ELIGIBILITY, SELECTION, AND ADMISSIONS*

### 2561 Determination of Family Eligibility

Persons that are both interested and qualify under the subsidized housing program will be provided with the necessary applications, and will receive a briefing on the programs offered by the local PHA. Specific days of the week will be established to receive applications, so as to permit sufficient time to properly carry out the administrative requirements of the program in an acceptable manner, that is in compliance with existing regulations.

If during the application stage it can be determined, and it is obvious, that a family will not be eligible because of exceeding income limits due to few or too many household members for the voucher size authorized by the ACC, etc., no additional documents and materials will be requested from the family to avoid unnecessary waste of time and expenses. The family will be so advised, and the municipality will also notify the family in writing indicating the reasons and affording them an opportunity to request, within a reasonable amount of time, an informal hearing. However, the family will be encouraged to reapply should the circumstances change.

All information requested within this same form will be obtained at the interview with the applicant, and that which must be verified, will be verified by the appropriate Section 8 official assigned to the case.

People with applications not expected to be awarded vouchers upon completion of their files because their number in the waiting list is far higher than the number of available vouchers as per the ACC and the number of bedrooms which may be available will be so advised. If a date can be determined as to when the voucher can be issued they will in fact be told, otherwise, they will be advised that based on the date and time of the completed application, if the family was found to be eligible, and once there are additional vouchers, they will be notified of the same. The families will be informed that their applications are valid for one year only and in order to maintain their case file opened they must renew their application on a yearly basis. The PHA will inform the families accordingly in writing.

The records of cases where families have been determined ineligible or their contracts have been terminated, the PHA will retain these documents for three (3) years such as: (1) copy of the application, (2) notification letters, if applicable, (3) the applicant's response, if any, the record of any informal hearing, and statement of final disposition. Furthermore, records pertaining to eligible families and those under a lease, will be

maintained within the active file unless the family becomes ineligible or terminates its contract.

The application forms will contain both date and time of filling, and will be signed by the applicant or applicant's spouse and by the interviewer from the Municipal Staff which processed the family. Application forms will be reviewed by the Section 8 Director and properly identified with the Director's initials.

#### 2562 Verification Procedures

Once the family has filed an application and has provided evidence required to complement it, office personnel must verify with sources and references all basic information given by the applicant by means of a personal interview, telephone contact or by mail. When all information is verified and the family is determined eligible by a certification form which must be filled out by the Municipal staff in charge of the case, they will be placed on the waiting list.

An on-site visit will be conducted by the Inspector to verify the conditions under which the family is currently living to ascertain the accuracy of the information given by the prospective family. An evaluation of the housing unit will be accompanied by pictures. This will form part of the file.

After families complete their applications, except those that for obvious reasons will not qualify, a series of documents will be requested from them and they will be required to bring these documents within a period of 30 days. The family will be given a sheet outlining the necessary documents needed to complete their file. The municipal staff will go over the list and inform the family that, should they not be able to comply with the time set, their respective application will be withdrawn and case considered closed. To ensure that the family understands, the form will be signed by the family and the Municipal staff attending the family. A copy will be given to the family.

Should the family again be interested and the waiting list opened, they would be required to start by completing a new application based on the new date and time the position or number on the waiting list would then be determined. This same procedure will be used when a candidate family is summoned for a voucher issuance.

#### C. The following items will be requested from the applicant family and verified:

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 1. | <i>Family Composition</i>                         | <i>Birth, marriage and birth certificates, a family photograph, sworn statements, school records</i> |
| 02 | Special Medical Needs which require larger units. | Medical Certificates from certified physicians.  |
| 3. | Income from wages                                 | Verification forms from the employer.  |

- |     |   |  |
|-----|---|--|
| 4.  | Social Security                         | Verification from the S.S. office or through HUD's website.  |
| 5.  | State Disability and other pensions     | Verification forms from an employer.   |
| 6.  | Welfare payments                        | Verifications form from State Department of the Family agency.   |
| 7.  | Unemployment compensation               | Verifications form from State Agency (Form W-5).   |
| 8.  | Alimony and child support               | Court Records. A copy of the divorce decree as well as form from the appropriate State Agency "ASUME."   |
| 9.  | Family financial Assistance             | Letter form from a benefactor.   |
| 10. | Family type (Elderly or Disabled)       | From appropriate agency granting benefits and birth certificate.   |
| 11. | Full-time student status (18 or older). | A letter from school or college  |
| 12. | Scholarships-grants                     | A written confirmation from the source of benefits, as well as, a written confirmation from Education Institution as to cost. The net balance is the amount available for subsistence. |
| 13. | Income Interest and Dividends           | Verification from bank, or financial institution, bank passbooks, etc.   |

14. Assets

Written form from appropriate financial institution or source. In case of rental income, a written statement from the person paying the rent.

- |     |                     |   |
|-----|---------------------|---|
| 15. | Applicant Screening | A Certificate of Good Conduct from State Police Department this as per QHWRA of 1998.   |
| 16. | Other               | Any other document deemed necessary for the family applicant to qualify for the subsidized housing program under established HUD regulations. |

*D. Selection and Admission of Applicants*

*1. Admission of a family applicant*

*The PHA may admit an applicant for participation into its subsidized housing program as:*

- a. *Special admission.*
- b. *Waiting list admission*

2. Targeting

*In accordance with 24 CFR part 5, subpart F, section 5.607(b), not less than 75 percent of the families admitted to the Municipality of Vieques' subsidized housing program during the Municipality's fiscal year will be families whose annual income does not exceed the following amounts:*

- a. *30 percent of the area median income, with adjustments for smaller and larger families.*
- b. *A higher or lower percent of the area median income, if HUD determines a higher or lower percent is necessary because of usually high or low family incomes.*
- c. *Bearing this mind, the following definitions shall be used to define the families applying for the Tenant-based housing assistance program:*
  - 1. *Extremely-low income: A family whose annual income does not exceed 30 percent of the median income for the area, as determined by HUD, with adjustments for smaller and larger families.*
  - 2. *Low-income: A family whose annual income does not exceed 50 percent of the median income for the area, as determined by HUD, with adjustments for smaller and larger families.*

3. Conversion of Assistance

*Conversion of assistance for a participant in the Municipality of Vieques Certificate Program to assistance in the Housing Choice Voucher Program does not count as an "admission," and is not subject to targeting as set forth in Part V, section D of this plan.*

4. Inapplicability of Targeting

*Admissions of the following categories of families are not subject to targeting under Article XVII, subpart D of this plan:*

- a. *A low income family that is continuously assisted under the 1937 Act.*
- b. *A low-income or moderate-income family that is displaced as a result of the prepayment of the mortgage or voluntary termination of an insurance contract on eligible low-income housing as defined in 24 CFR part 5, section 248.101.*

5. *Use of Family's Income*

*The annual income (gross income) of an applicant family is used both for determination of income-eligibility under 24 CFR part 5, section 5.601(c) and for the Municipality of Vieques income targeting as set forth in Part V, sections D of this plan.*

6. *Administration of Waiting List*

- a. *Except for special admissions participants must be selected from the PHA waiting list. The PHA must select participants from the waiting list on a first-come, first-served basis, in accordance with this same plan, which includes Equal Opportunity.*
- b. *The PHA has agreed to cooperate fully with HUD, in respect to when HUD provides funding to the PHA for a special purpose such as desegregation, Family Unification, etc., including but not limited to including funding for specified families and/or a specified category of families. The PHA has further agreed to issue the required voucher.*

7. *Organization of the Waiting List*

*The PHA must maintain information that permits the PHA to select qualified participants from the waiting list in accordance with PHA admission policies. The waiting list should contain the following information:*

- a. *Applicant names*
- b. *Family composition (adults/children, age/sex)*
- c. *Date and time of application*
- d. *Qualification for any ranking preference or local preference*

- e. *Racial or ethnic designation of the head of household*
- f. *Programs for which the PHA feels that the family qualifies for and would be interested in participating in under the umbrella of the subsidized housing program being administered by the PHA. Should the family not be interested in participating in any special program, this will not affect the place and position of the family on the waiting list.*

8. Occupancy Standards

*Based on the family composition the subsidy to be paid will be based upon the size unit that the family is eligible to occupy. The following table will be used to determine unit size for the family:*

<i>Unit Size</i>	<i>MINIMUM NO. OF PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD</i>	<i>MAXIMUM NO. OF PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD</i>
<i>0 BR</i>	<i>-1-</i>	<i>-0-</i>
<i>1 BR</i>	<i>-1-</i>	<i>-2-</i>
<i>2 BR</i>	<i>-2-</i>	<i>-4-</i>
<i>3 BR</i>	<i>-4-</i>	<i>-6-</i>
<i>4 BR</i>	<i>-6-</i>	<i>-8-</i>

*A family may select a unit that is larger than the bedroom size authorized by the PHA but the family must pay the increased cost unless an owner is willing to accept a lesser rent.*

9. Opening the Waiting List

- a. *When the PHA opens a waiting list, it will publish a public notice informing all interested families and homeowners of the opening of a new waiting list. The public notice will state where and when to apply and/or to receive additional information on all aspects of the program.*

- b. *The PHA must provide the public notice publication in a local newspaper of general circulation, which should also include minority media.*
- c. *The public notice among other things must state any limitations if any, on who may apply.*
- d. *When the waiting list is open, the PHA must accept applications from families for whom the list is open, unless there is good cause for not accepting the application.*

10. *Closing the Waiting List*

- a. *The PHA at its discretion will determine that the existing waiting list does contain an adequate pool for use of available program funding may stop accepting new applications.*
- b. *However, even if the PHA is not otherwise accepting additional applications from those applicants who demonstrate a need beyond extraordinary circumstances and/or qualify under of the programs being offered by the PHA, said application will be accepted and so classified when placed on the waiting list.*
- c. *When a decision has been made to close the existing waiting list, the PHA will publish a public notice in a local newspaper of general circulation advising all interested persons, parties, and groups of the same.*

11. *Updating the Waiting List*

*The waiting list will be updated on an annual basis to ensure that it is current and accurate. This will be accomplished by the following procedure:*

- a. *A letter will be mailed to the applicant's last known address.*
- b. *The notice will inform the applicant family that a year has passed and information will be requested regarding their continued interest in maintaining a place on the waiting list.*

- c. *A time limit will be established in the notice, whereby, the applicant will be requested to pass by the Municipality's Section 8 Office to file an updated application. By visiting the Section 8 Office, the family has demonstrated interest as well as assured itself of continuing their position for one year on the waiting list.*
- d. *If the PHA fails to receive the applicant notice or renewed application of continuance within the time frame established by the Municipality for this purpose, the applicant's name will be removed from the waiting list.*
- e. *The applicant family will have 15 days to respond to the notice upon receipt of said notice. The PHA does not accept responsibility for any mail delay or non-deliverance by the US Post Office.*

*E. Selection Preferences*

*1. Local Preferences*

*According to the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998, federal preferences as we know them have been eliminated and in its place the local preferences based on the needs of the people will prevail.*

*In order to comply with the Federal law, the Municipality has agreed to give preference for selection of families on the waiting based on the following:*

- a. *Victims of Domestic violence;*
- b. *Families that will be broken up due to removal of young children by the State Family Department or families that will be united by the return of the children but do have decent housing;*
- c. *Involuntarily displaced;*
- d. *Homeless or living in substandard housing;*
- e. *Paying more than 50 percent of income for rent*

- f. *Single person with a disability or any member of the family applicant with a disability except under the provision set forth in Section 5, subsection E(2) of this administrative plan*
- g. *Single elderly person or family applicants with an elderly person.*
- h. *Other Preferences such as:*
  - 1. *Working families and those unable to work because of age or disability;*
  - 2. *Veterans and veterans' families;*
  - 3. *Those enrolled currently in educational, training, or upward mobility programs for participants who wish to enroll in our Family Self Sufficiency Program;*
  - 4. *Households that contribute to meeting income requirements - for participants who wish to enroll in our FSS and Homeownership Programs, respectively.*

*Additionally, the Municipality will further comply with Federal Regulations which state that not less than 75% of new families must have incomes at or below 30% of the area median income within the Municipality's fiscal year. All other admissions generally will be at or below 50% of the area median, or up to 80% for families that meet eligibility criteria as set forth by the Municipality.*

2. *Qualifying for a local Preference*

- *Victims Domestic Violence:* *An applicant qualifies for domestic violence if the applicant is living under conditions which threaten the well being, health and safety of the family by an abusive member.*
- *Maintaining families together:* *An applicant qualifies for this preference when a family is threaten by a State Child Welfare Agency with the removal of the children due to inadequate housing or child abuse. This will ensure that the children who remain with, or who are reunited with, their families are safe, secure and not subject to neglect as a result of homelessness or inadequate housing.*
- *Displacement:* *An applicant qualifies for this preference if:*

- a. *The applicant has been involuntarily displaced and is not living in standard, permanent replacement housing; or*
  - b. *The applicant will be involuntarily displaced within no more than six (6) months from the date of preference status certification by the family or verification by the PHA.*
- *Substandard Housing: An applicant qualifies for this preference if the applicant is living in substandard housing. An applicant that is homeless, living in overcrowded conditions or in a shelter for the homeless will be considered as living in substandard housing.*
  - *Rent Burden: An applicant qualifies for this preference if the applicant is paying more than 50 percent of family income in rent.*
  - *Certification of Preference: An applicant may claim qualification for a Local Preference by certifying to us as the PHA, that the family qualifies for a local preference. The PHA has agreed to accept this certification, unless we as the PHA verify that the applicant is not qualified for a local preference.*
  - *Verification of Preference: Before an applicant is admitted on the basis of the local preference, the applicant must provide information needed by us as the PHA in order to verify that the applicant qualifies for a local preference because of the applicant's current status. It is further agreed, that the applicant's current status must be determined without regard as to whether there has been a change in the applicant's qualification of a local preference between the certification and selection for admission, including a change from one local preference category to another.*
  - *Retention of Preference: The PHA has agreed, that if a Housing Choice Voucher Program applicant is currently receiving tenant-based assistance under the "HOME" program (24 CFR part 92), the PHA determines whether the applicant qualifies for the Housing Choice Voucher Program local preference based upon the situation of the applicant at the time the applicant began to receive tenant-based assistance under this same "HOME" program.*

- Persons with disabilities: No individual will be considered to be a person with disabilities for purposes of eligibility solely due to their drug or alcohol dependence.

3. Notice and Opportunity for a Meeting where the Local Preference is denied

If the PHA should determine that an applicant does not qualify for a Local Preference, the PHA must promptly give the applicant written notice of said determination. This notice must contain a brief statement of the reasons for the determination, and state that the applicant has the right to meet with a PHA representative in order to review the determination.

This same meeting may be conducted by any person or persons designated by the PHA, who may be an officer or employee of the PHA, including the person who made or reviewed the determination or a subordinate employee. Additionally, the applicant may exercise other rights if the applicant believes that he or she has been discriminated against on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or family status.

## XVIII RECENT RESULTS OF PHA'S AUDIT

The Municipality of Vieques has submitted to the HUD local office in Puerto Rico the findings of the most recent Single Audit which clearly demonstrated that the Municipality of Vieques was in full compliance with existing HUD regulations and there was no findings in the report.

## XIX SUMMARY

In order to be in compliance with 24 CFR Part 903 of HUD program regulations, the Municipality of Vieques has established the following standards and procedures to be carried out in furtherance of the plan.

Additionally, these same standards and procedures will ensure long-term compliance with the requirements of the programs involved, including but not necessarily limited to:

1. To provide low and very low income families the opportunity of choice and mobility in selecting where they want to live.
2. To maintain the essential elements of a private relationship between the tenant and the landlord on matters other than rent.

- 13 To develop strategies to coordinate the use of housing assistance under the Housing Choice Voucher Program with public and private resources, to enable families eligible to receive assistance under this same program to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency.

It should be noted, that the Section 8 Office within the Municipality of Vieques will implement the necessary management systems and oversight controls, so as to assure, that the individual programs included within this same Plan are:

- 01 Completed within a timely manner in compliance with HUD's requirements;
- 02 That they are indeed in total compliance with existing federal and state applicable regulations.

Once a year a physical audit will be accomplished which will include not only the accountability of funds, but also an audit of the management system used to carry out the mandate of the Tenant-based Housing Program. This same in-depth review on an on-going basis will serve to determine the effectiveness of individual programs based upon such data as:

- ✓ Families Assisted;
- ✓ Subsidies granted;
- ✓ Complaints resolved;
- ✓ FSS families that moved onto become first-time homeowners;
- ✓ Families from the Moderate Rehabilitation Program that transferred into the FSS Program and the success of those families.
- ✓ The effectiveness of communication by and between the various Municipal, State and Federal Agencies as well as with citizens.

Additionally, reviews will also serve to identify implementation problems or non-compliance with goals and objectives of the Plan, and how the resources were used to assist the maximum number of beneficiaries.

The use of this same data will assist the Mayor, members of the Municipal Assembly, interested citizens of the community, participants of the Tenant-based Housing Assistance Program recommend changes within our strategy due to perhaps changes in the population characteristics and housing market within the Municipality of Vieques.

In conclusion, the following areas will at a minimum, be reviewed in the monitoring process:

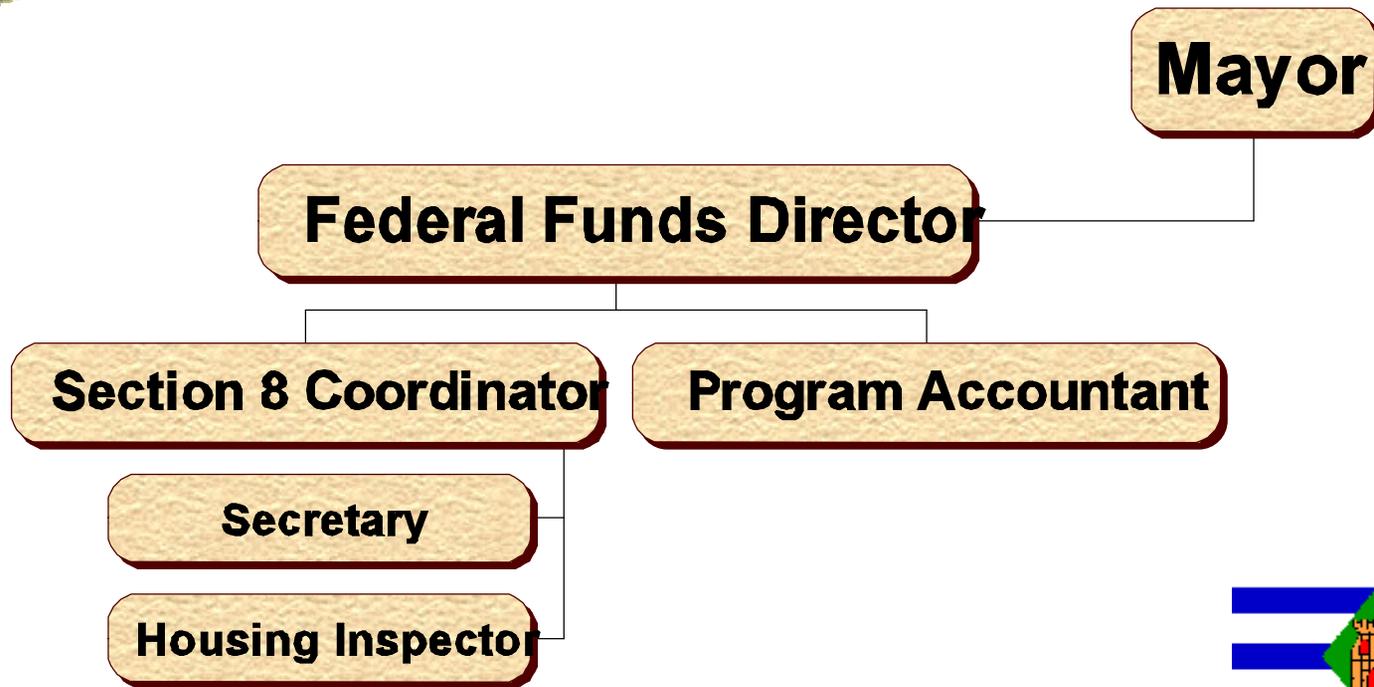
- Cash/Management System;
- Funds committed;
- Families serviced by income level (low, extremely low and moderate);
- Compliance with HQS, Quality control and Targeting as set forth in HUD regulations;
- Identify weakness and problem areas;
- Staff resources and performance;

The Municipality of Vieques feels rather strongly that procedures contained herein will effectively perform the necessary monitoring of all programs so as to assure that these same programs both initiated and developed are in total compliance with the applicable regulations promulgated by HUD.



# Municipality of Vieques

## Housing Choice Voucher Program Section 8





# Municipality of Vieques

## Housing Choice Voucher Program Section 8

The following programs are administered by the Municipality of Vieques

Federal Funds Office

Housing Choice Voucher

Family Self Sufficiency

Moderate Rehabilitation

