

Office of Public and Indian Housing SEMAP (Section 8 Management Assessment Program) Certification

Technical Requirements

- Computer with Pentium processor or higher
- 100 Mb or larger hard drive
- 16 Mb or more RAM
- VGA Monitor
- 28.8KBps or higher modem connected to an outside telephone line or a direct connection to the Internet
- Operating system capable of Internet access
- Internet Browser: Netscape 4.0 or higher, Internet Explorer 4.0 or higher*

*It is possible to use the PIC to submit information by using either Netscape 3.2 or Internet Explorer 3.2. However, several features that enhance usability (for example, certain colors) are not available unless Netscape 4.0 or higher, Internet Explorer 4.0 or higher is used.

Setting up Internet Service

In order to obtain an Internet Service Provider in your area, you can look in the Yellow Pages of the telephone book under "Computers." Usually there is a section called "On-Line Access Providers" which will give you a list of companies in your area that can provide Internet access. It may be helpful to call two or three providers to compare prices and services. Only basic Internet service is needed to use the SEMAP system to submit SEMAP certifications.

In most cases, the Internet Service Provider will provide Internet browser software and will provide assistance for installing the software, configuring a modem, and accessing the Internet. You should ensure that the provider you select does, in fact, provide the browser software and provides some support. Once the browser software is installed, you will require a connection from your computer to a regular phone line to access the Internet. The Internet Service Provider may also be able to provide access through a constant "always on" connection to the Internet.

Upgrading Internet Browser

If you already have an Internet browser, but you need a newer version, you can upgrade your browser free of charge on the Internet. Check the Netscape or Microsoft home pages for information on downloading a newer version of your current browser.

If your public housing agency cannot meet the technical requirements, please contact your Field Office. Your Field Office may have additional suggestions for you such as using a computer at your local library or office services store.