

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410-5000

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

February 14, 2003

Dear Executive Director:

This is to inform you that the Public Comment Sessions on the proposed rule for the Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS) have been postponed for the following reason.

The proposed PHAS rule will be accompanied by five grading notices that provide further information on how it would be implemented. It was originally the Department's intent to publish the rule and grading notices concurrently, so that they could be reviewed as a whole. However, when that was not possible, the Department scheduled the Public Comment Sessions to coincide with the release of the rule, so that we could solicit and consider your comments as soon as possible.

We have heard from some public housing agencies that they would prefer to hold their comments until they've had a chance to review the grading notices too. Therefore, the Department will postpone the public comment sessions until you have had the opportunity to consider them concurrently. To ensure that you have sufficient time for your review, we will extend the public comment period for Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS) proposed rule for an additional 60 days. We expect that the grading notices will be published in the near future in the Federal Register for public comment. When that happens, we will reschedule the remaining Public Comment Sessions.

The 12 PHAS Public Comment Sessions that are being postponed are:

Kansas City, KS	Denver, CO
Portland, OR	St. Paul, MN
Pittsburgh, PA	Lexington, KY
Jacksonville, FL	Dallas, TX
New York City, NY	Raleigh, NC
Providence, RI	Los Angeles, CA

I encourage you to review the PHAS proposed rule and send in your written comments. The proposed PHAS rule was published in the Federal Register on February 6, 2003. You may access it on the Internet at www.hudclips.org and click on "List New Documents." This is also the Internet site where you will be able to locate the five grading notices after they are published in the Federal Register. The address of HUD's Office of General Counsel is in the Federal Register under "Addresses." HUD will respond to all comments as part of the PHAS final rule process and final grading notices process.

When the remaining PHAS Public Comment Sessions are rescheduled, I will inform you through the issuance of an E-mail message to all public housing agencies. I look forward to receiving your comments on the PHAS proposed rule and the grading notices.

Sincerely,

Michael Liu