SECTION IV: SECTION 202 PROJECT RENTAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT (PRAC) PROJECTS

2	4.1 Purpose
3 4 5 6 7 8	Section 237 of the General Provisions – Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Pub. L. No. 115-141) authorized RAD conversion of Project Rental Assistance Contracts (PRACs) under Section 202(c)(2) of the Housing Act of 1959. This Section provides RAD program instructions to owners of these Section 202 Housing for the Elderly Capital Advance properties with PRACs. These properties are referred to as "202 PRAC Projects" unless otherwise noted.
10	While the Second Component of RAD does not have the broad statutory waiver authority that
11 12 13	the First Component does, the Second Component does provide that participation is subject to "requirements established by the Secretary." HUD has used this authority and standard regulatory waiver authority to develop alternative requirements, and to waive purely regulatory
14	provisions where necessary in order to fulfill the purposes of the Demonstration.
15	4.2 General Program Description
16	Under the Second Component of RAD, a 202 PRAC Project Owner may convert an eligible
17	PRAC to one of two forms of long-term Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)
18	Contracts: project-based vouchers (PBVs) or project-based rental assistance (PBRA). The
19	selection is the Project Owner's choice. At the time of conversion, Converting Projects will be
20	released from any outstanding obligations under the Capital Advance Agreement, the Capital
21	Advance Mortgage Note, the Capital Advance Program Regulatory Agreement, the Capital
22	Advance Program Use Agreement, and related or collateral documents associated with the
23	PRAC and the foregoing documents and will enter into an Elderly Housing Use Agreement,
24	which will be recorded as a restrictive covenant in first position on the Covered Project. The
25	Elderly Housing Use Agreement, described in more detail in Section 4.4.J, will restate any
26	PRAC obligations that survive the conversion. The Elderly Housing Use Agreement will have a
27	term of 20 years plus the balance of the term left on the Capital Advance Program Use
28	Agreement at the time of conversion. Any PRAC documents still in effect at the time of
29 30	conversion will be terminated immediately prior to execution of a new PBV or PBRA HAP Contract and the Elderly Housing Use Agreement.
31	Contract and the Elderry Housing Ose Agreement.
32	A. PBV Conversions. If the Project Owner requests to enter into a Section 8 PBV HAP
33	Contract, HUD will make a reasonable effort to find an eligible PHA with a Housing Choice
34	Voucher Program and with operational jurisdiction, that is willing to enter into and
35	administer the PBV HAP Contract with the Project Owner. After HUD determines that the
36	requirements of this Notice have been satisfied, the PHA that has agreed to administer the
37	PBV HAP Contract will have the resulting vouchers and budget authority added to its Annual

Contributions Contract (ACC). Contract rents will be established and adjusted according to the terms described in this Notice. Project Owner and the PHA will execute the HAP Contract effective at the expiration of the PRAC. The initial contract must be for a term of 20 years (i.e., the maximum allowable initial term under section 8(o)(13)(F) of the Act). Mandatory contract extensions of the initial term are governed by section 4.5.B. of this Notice. Unless specifically identified in this Notice, all regulatory and statutory requirements of the PBV program in 24 CFR part 983, and applicable standing and subsequent Office of Public and Indian Housing guidance, including related notices and handbooks, shall apply.

B. PBRA Conversions. If a Project Owner requests to enter into a Section 8 PBRA HAP Contract (subject to annual appropriations), the HAP Contract will be executed by HUD's Office of Housing. After HUD determines that the requirements of this Notice have been satisfied, the Project Owner and HUD will execute the HAP Contract to finalize the conversion. Contract rents will be established and adjusted according to the terms described in this Notice. The initial contract must be for a period of 20 years and will be subject to annual appropriations. At expiration, the initial contract shall be eligible for renewal under the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 (MAHRAA). Mandatory contract renewals are governed by section 4.6.C. of this Notice. The Covered Project shall be governed by 24 CFR part 880, as modified and as published in Appendix I of this Notice, the site and neighborhood standards in Appendix III of this Notice, as well as by applicable standing and subsequent Office of Housing guidance, including notices and handbooks.

4.3 Eligibility

Owners of 202 PRAC Projects that meet all eligibility requirements described below may request to convert assistance under the Second Component of RAD. HUD may, at its discretion and subject to the availability of staffing resources, prioritize processing and approval of conversions for projects that have immediate capital needs; funding from a 3rd party source; and/or are PBRA conversions.

4.3.1 Eligible Owners

A. Compliance with HUD Requirements. The Project Owner must be in good standing with HUD. If the current Project Owner is anticipated to remain in the ownership structure, the Project Owner must not have a history of non-compliance with program and contractual requirements, including maintaining units in a decent, safe, and sanitary condition. If a proposed conversion is in the context of an acquisition simultaneous with the conversion, the purchaser must provide evidence of successful experience owning and operating HUD

or other multifamily housing properties. Any change in Ownership will require Form HUD-2530 Previous Participation approval as described in Attachment 4A.

B. Fair Housing and Civil Rights Compliance. A Project Owner must certify it will comply with all fair housing and civil rights requirements including but not limited to those at 24 CFR § 5.105(a). Any outstanding fair housing or civil rights matters arising prior to conversion must be resolved to HUD's satisfaction prior to conversion, provided that all applicable legal processes have been satisfied. If HUD determines a conversion would fail to meet this standard, HUD will notify the Project Owner of its determination and any necessary actions. Fair housing or civil rights matters that arise after conversion will be addressed in accordance with applicable authorities.

Additionally, a Project Owner may be required to demonstrate that its proposed activities under RAD are consistent with any applicable VCA, conciliation agreement, consent order or consent decree, final judicial ruling, or administrative ruling or decision. HUD may terminate an approval if it determines that the terms of the conversion would be inconsistent with fair housing or civil rights laws or a fair housing or civil rights court order, settlement agreement, or VCA. Furthermore, if a project is subject to a VCA, conciliation agreement, consent order or consent decree, or final judicial ruling or administrative ruling or decision, it must ensure that the ownership agreement or other appropriate document makes the new Project Owner subject to the remedial provisions contained in such documents. It is the Project Owner's obligation to disclose such documents, etc., to the prospective Project Owner. The extent of the Project Owner's responsibilities, including whether the responsibilities are appropriately limited to the development, maintenance, or operation of the particular RAD project, must be appropriately documented. The Project Owner will follow any requirements for the modification of such VCA, conciliation agreement, consent order or consent decree, or final judicial ruling or administrative ruling or decision. If HUD is a party to such document, the RAD project will not close without HUD's express approval of the transfer of obligations to the new Project Owner.

4.3.2 Eligible Properties and Units

A. Eligible Properties and Units. A property is eligible for conversion if the property is currently receiving assistance through a PRAC that is in its renewal term. A property assisted by a PRAC in its initial term is also eligible for conversion but, depending on the age of the funds HUD has obligated to the contract, may have to time the conversion based on when funding can be transferred to support a conversion to a Section 8 contract. For a property assisted by a PRAC in its initial term, the Project Owner should confirm with HUD the necessary timing of its conversion. Properties that were previously assisted under a PRAC which has been terminated due to noncompliance are ineligible to participate under

this Notice. A Project Owner may include under the subsequent Section 8 HAP Contract no more than the number of units covered under the PRAC.

B. Physical Condition. For PBRA conversions, unless project plans address (or obviate, through transfer of assistance) all physical deficiencies identified in the most recent REAC Inspection report, the project must have a REAC score of 60 or above.

For PBV conversions, the Converting Project must qualify as "existing housing" in order to be eligible for conversion. This means that the PHA must ensure that the Converting Project's units substantially comply with HQS, as defined in the PHA's Section 8 administrative plan, prior to submission of the Conversion Plan (see Section 4.7.4 for more information on the Conversion Plan). Prior to entering into a PBV HAP Contract, the PHA must inspect the Converting Project proposed for conversion to ensure that the units fully comply with HQS, unless the PHA is using HOTMA non-life threatening and alternative inspection provisions. ¹

4.4 **General Requirements**

A. Applicability of PRAC Requirements. Until conversion and the effective date of a HAP Contract, properties continue to be subject to the requirements of the PRAC. Owners of 202 PRAC Projects are required to submit a project budget and any accompanying request for a Budget Based Rent Increase annually for renewal of the PRAC. HUD requires that Project Owners analyze project operating and capital needs as well as the efficacy of resident services at each renewal and request adjustments to the Operating Expense Amount accordingly.

B. Capital Needs Assessment (CNA). Each Converting Project is required to have a CNA and to demonstrate that both short-term and long-term capital needs can be addressed through the replacement reserve account (see paragraph C) and/or through financing (see paragraph D) as appropriate. The CNA contains two major components – the narrative (the description of each component and its age and condition) and the financial model (the 20-year schedule and associated determination of the Initial Deposit to Replacement Reserve, or IDRR, and the Annual Deposit to Replacement Reserve, or ADRR). The CNA must be completed or updated within 12 months of the submission of the Conversion Plan, except with HUD approval. Further, the CNA must be performed by a qualified, independent third-party professional as defined in Section 5.2.B.2 of the MAP Guide. The CNA must be prepared in accordance with the instructions at Appendix 5G of the MAP Guide although the use of a specific format is not required unless HUD requires a specific format for 202 PRAC budget-based rent increase requests. The CNA submitted for RAD must be consistent with any CNA submitted to a Multifamily Regional Center as part of the demonstration of project expenses

¹ See Notice PIH-2017-20

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for the most recent annual rent adjustment under the 202 PRAC, although it may include additional discretionary items. (As such, the CNA submitted for the purposes of demonstrating project expenses must meet the aforementioned standards.) The CNA will identify certain improvements for physical accessibility for persons with disabilities as well as design considerations that promote housing stability for an aging population. In further developing the scope of work, refer to Paragraphs E, F, and G regarding Accessibility Requirements, Design Considerations for Elderly Housing, and Healthy Housing and Energy Efficiency, respectively.

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C. Replacement Reserve. The Project Owner shall establish and maintain a replacement reserve in an interest-bearing account to aid in funding extraordinary maintenance and repair and replacement of capital items. The reserve must be built up to and maintained at a level determined by HUD to be sufficient to meet projected needs as identified in the CNA 20-year replacement schedule. The Project Owner must commit to repairing and replacing components generally in accordance with the schedule set forth in the CNA. HUD encourages Project Owners to evaluate the 20-year replacement needs of the property at the time of their annual PRAC renewal, prior to submitting a Conversion Plan.

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• For PBRA, 24 CFR § 880.602 applies, as amended (see Appendix I).

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instrument, as approved by HUD, where funds will be held by the mortgagee or, where there is no financing, by the Project Owner and may be drawn from the reserve account and used subject to HUD guidelines.

• For PBV, replacement reserves shall be maintained in a bank account or similar

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D. Financing and Repairs. If the CNA identifies repairs as critical, immediate or required within the first two years following conversion and the total of such repairs exceeds an average of \$5,000 per unit, if HUD determines that immediate repairs are necessary based on REAC scores of 59 or less or referrals to the Department Enforcement Center (DEC) related to physical conditions, or if there is outstanding noncompliance with accessibility requirements identified by the CNA, the Project Owner must demonstrate as a condition of closing that it has secured financing sources to address such needs and must agree to address such needs within a prescribed period following the conversion as part of the Work. Following conversion and the completion of any immediate repairs, HUD requires all Projects to either utilize available capital replacement reserves to address ongoing capital repair and replacement needs generally consistent with the CNA, or to periodically

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E. Accessibility Requirements. Federal accessibility requirements apply to all conversions. The laws that most typically apply to HUD-assisted housing undergoing rehabilitation include Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), the Fair Housing Act, and, in some cases, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Although the requirements

recapitalize as lifecycle improvements become necessary.

of each of these laws are somewhat different, Project Owners must comply with each law that applies. Section 504 and the ADA apply to new construction and additions as defined in 24 CFR § 8.22, substantial alterations and other alterations as defined in 24 CFR § 8.23 and to existing, unaltered facilities (24 CFR § 8.24), as well as any combination thereof. See also 28 CFR § 35.151(b) and 28 CFR § 36.402. Section 504 and the ADA also require structural modifications as reasonable accommodations. The Fair Housing Act applies to the design and construction of multifamily dwellings built for first occupancy after March 13, 1991. It also requires that Project Owners allow for structural alterations in housing generally as reasonable modifications when necessary for an individual with a disability to use and enjoy a dwelling, and under these authorities, Project Owners must ensure that reasonable modifications remain available to the resident after construction or alteration (e.g., accommodations are preserved through the course of the construction work or, if the resident is moved to a different unit as a result of construction, are installed in the new unit).

When a Project's rehabilitation meets the definition of a "substantial alteration" under 24 CFR § 8.23, the Project Owner must comply with all applicable accessibility requirements for new construction at 24 CFR § 8.22 under HUD's Section 504 regulations as well as the ADA. For some Projects, "other alterations" are made over time. If other alterations, considered together, amount to an alteration of an entire dwelling unit, the entire dwelling unit shall be made accessible, until five percent of the dwelling units in a project are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with mobility impairments (see 24 CFR § 8.23).

Project Owners are encouraged to use universal design principles, visitability principles, and active design guidelines in planning any construction. However, adherence to any of these principles or guidelines does not replace compliance with the accessibility requirements of Section 504, the ADA, and the Fair Housing Act.

F. Design Considerations for Elderly Housing. Quality housing is a platform for health and wellness. Health can be promoted through both supportive services (as described below) and through a physical living environment suitable for the needs of the anticipated residents. In the context of housing for the elderly, enhanced livability of the physical environment promotes housing stability and may prevent premature institutionalization in assisted living or nursing homes. A well-situated, well-designed physical space at the unit and building level can help seniors maintain independence and age in place longer. In addition to any required accessibility features under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the design and construction requirements of the Fair Housing Act, or Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Department strongly encourages Project Owners to incorporate design standards that address fall prevention, visitability, universal design, and electronic communication mechanisms when developing or rehabilitating housing and community facilities. Project Owners are expected to consider access to transportation and walkability to the surrounding community and neighborhood services when selecting sites for a transfer of

assistance. These design elements and siting decisions all serve to enhance the livability of housing for older adults and promote housing stability.

- G. Healthy Housing and Energy Efficiency. If systems and appliances are being replaced as part of the Work identified in the approved Conversion Plan, the Project Owner shall utilize the most energy- and water-efficient options that are financially feasible and that are found to be cost-effective. The use of Energy Star®, WaterSense® or Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP)-designated products and appliances, if any such designation is available for the applicable system or appliance, is presumed to be the minimum threshold for meeting such requirement.² Project Owners are strongly encouraged, for all Converting Projects, to scope rehabilitation and ongoing replacements that utilize the components that the CNA indicates will improve indoor air quality, prepare the property for known or anticipated natural hazards, generate utility cost savings for residents or common areas, and/or reduce overall environmental impact, where those components are determined to be cost-effective and consistent with healthy housing and energy efficiency principles and best practices.
 - **H. Existing Residual Receipts Balance.** Project Owners may apply any balance in the Converting Project's residual receipts as a source in the development budget to support conversion. Eligible conversion-related uses for these funds include pre-development, development, or rehabilitation costs of the Covered Project, or establishment of the replacement reserve or operating reserve.
 - I. Operating Reserve. The Project Owner shall establish and maintain a Project operating reserve account in an interest-bearing account to be used for project purposes, consistent with this paragraph. Withdrawals from the operating reserve do not require HUD approval. However, surplus cash distributions are prohibited during any period when the balance in the operating reserve is less than \$250 per unit. The Project operating reserve is separate and apart from the replacement reserve. The operating reserve must be used for the benefit of the project, including to provide working capital, to cover unexpected operating or capital expenses, to bridge periods of financial instability, to cover budget deficiencies arising from time to time as a result of delinquent receivables or other contingencies, or for other similar purposes determined by the Project Owner as beneficial to preserve the financial or physical stability of the Project. HUD will monitor the balance in the operating reserve when reviewing the Project Owner's annual financial statements. An operating reserve required by a third-party source of financing (e.g., a lender or a LIHTC-motivated equity investor) that meets or exceeds \$250 per unit satisfies the requirements of this Section and the Project Owner is not required to maintain a distinct operating reserve for this purpose.

² For Energy Star®, see http://www.energystar.gov/. For WaterSense®, see http://www.epa.gov/watersense/. For FEMP, see http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/.

- 275 J. Ownership and Control. Through the term of the Converting Project's Capital Advance 276 Use Agreement, HUD will require ownership or control of the Covered Project by a non-277 profit entity. A non-profit entity is an organization that has tax-exempt status under Section 278 501(c)(3) or Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or that is a non-profit 279 consumer cooperative and includes a non-profit entity that is affiliated with a public agency. 280 Subject to HUD review, non-profit entity ownership or control requirements may be satisfied 281 if a non-profit entity (or entities), directly or through an entity wholly owned by the non-282 profit entity (or entities) meets one or more of the following: (1) holds a fee simple interest in 283 the real property of the Covered Project; (2) is the lessor under a ground lease with the 284 Project Owner; (3) has the direct or indirect legal authority (via contract, partnership share, 285 agreement of an equity partnership, voting rights, or otherwise) to direct the financial and 286 legal interests of the Project Owner with respect to the RAD units; (4) owns 51 percent or 287 more of the general partner interests in a limited partnership or 51 percent or more of the 288 managing member interests in a limited liability company with all powers of a general 289 partner or managing member, as applicable; (5) owns a lesser percentage of the general 290 partner or managing member interests and holds certain control rights as approved by HUD; 291 (6) owns 51 percent or more of all ownership interests in a limited partnership or limited 292 liability company and holds certain control rights as approved by HUD; or (7) other 293 ownership and control arrangements approved by HUD. Note however, that prior to 294 conversion, the Converting Project must continue to meet the ownership requirements set 295 forth in the Housing Act of 1959, as amended.
- K. Elderly Housing Use Agreement. A Covered Project shall have an Elderly Housing Use
 Agreement. The Elderly Housing Use Agreement will:

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- Restrict the units covered under the HAP Contract, but not govern any other units at the Covered Project;
- Be recorded in a superior position to all other liens on the property that HUD
 determines could compromise the applicability or enforceability of the Elderly
 Housing Use Agreement. The Elderly Housing Use Agreement shall be recorded
 prior to any mortgage or security instrument, including an FHA-insured loan or a
 Risk-Share loan;
- Have a term equal to the remaining term of the Capital Advance Use Agreement plus 20 years but not to exceed 60 years from the commencement of the Capital Advance Use Agreement;
- Remain in effect even in the case of abatement or termination of the HAP Contract, although the Secretary may approve a modification or termination of the Elderly Housing Use Agreement to facilitate a transfer of assistance or if HUD determines it is necessary in order to address a demonstrated financial burden caused by insufficient Federal appropriations;

• Provide that, if the HAP Contract is terminated due to breach or non-compliance by the Project Owner, for all units previously covered under the HAP Contract, new tenants must meet the definition of "elderly family" in 24 CFR 5.403; and

- 1. Through the period equal to the remaining term of the Capital Advance Use Agreement, must have incomes at or below fifty percent (50%) of the area median income (AMI) at the time of admission and rents may not exceed thirty percent (30%) of fifty percent (50%) of AMI for an appropriate-size unit for the remainder of the term of the Elderly Housing Use Agreement; and
- 2. Thereafter and through the remainder of the Elderly Housing Use Agreement, must have incomes at or below eighty percent (80%) of the area median income (AMI) at the time of admission and rents may not exceed thirty percent (30%) of eighty percent (80%) of AMI for an appropriate-size unit for the remainder of the term of the Elderly Housing Use Agreement;
- Require compliance with all applicable fair housing and civil rights requirements, including the obligation to affirmatively further fair housing; and
- Prescribe potential remedies in the event of default, which remedies may include, without limitation, civil money penalties, injunctive relief, specific performance, the right to take possession subject to non-disturbance of subordinate lienholders, the right to appointment of a receiver, the right to require a transfer of the Covered Project with consent of mortgage lienholders, the right to transfer the HAP Contract, and any other remedy available at law or in equity.
- L. Restriction on Net Proceeds from Refinance or Sale. The proceeds from any refinance or sale of the Covered Project, net of funds described below, that occurs during the period equal to the remaining term of the original Capital Advance Use Agreement will be restricted to benefit the Covered Project or residents at the Covered Project (e.g., capital improvements, service delivery, or any uses set forth in a HUD-approved sources and uses statement other than acquisition) or to other Affordable Housing Purposes. For purposes of this paragraph, proceeds of a refinancing include all commercial or subsidized loan proceeds, equity investments and grants received by or invested in the Project Owner after deduction of funds used for repayment of commercial first mortgage debt secured by the Covered Project. For purposes of this paragraph, proceeds of a sale include all cash or other direct or indirect consideration paid to or on behalf of the seller of a Covered Project after deduction of funds used for repayment of commercial first mortgage debt secured by the Covered Project. In addition, in the context of an arms-length sale to an unrelated third party, net proceeds of a sale shall be determined after deduction of the following:
 - The seller's payment of real estate or transfer taxes and fees, recording fees, real estate brokerage fees, and reasonable third-party transaction costs associated with the sale;
 - Any unrecovered (i.e., not previously drawn) seller equity in the Covered Project. Seller equity shall be calculated as a pro-rata portion of the original Capital Advance

- Note corresponding to the term of the Capital Advance Use Agreement that has elapsed;³ and
- Paydown of any Identity of Interest (IOI) loans or advances that were used to address the needs of the project or residents of the project.

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M. Environmental Reviews. Under Federal environmental review requirements, proposed RAD Projects are subject to environmental review. Environmental documents are required to be submitted as part of the applicant's overall Conversion Plan. A Conversion Plan cannot be approved by HUD if the Project plan does not meet environmental review requirements. Please see Attachment 4A for a discussion of the environmental review requirements applicable to PRAC conversions, including conversion transactions that will not result in the alteration of the physical condition of the Project.

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N. Relocation and Right to Return. Any person who is legally on the lease or otherwise in lawful occupancy at the Converting Project at or after the time of submission of the Conversion Plan has a right to remain in or, in the event that rehabilitation will result in the relocation of residents, a right to return to an assisted unit at the Covered Project. Any relocation as a direct result of acquisition, demolition, or rehabilitation is subject to requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (URA) which are found at 49 CFR part 24. Proper notices including the General Information Notice (GIN), when applicable, must be sent in accordance with URA regulations and other applicable relocation regulations. Additionally, relocation and one-forone replacement requirements under section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 may apply when CDBG or HOME funds are used in connection with a RAD conversion. Section 104(d) requirements are found at 24 CFR part 42, subpart C, and program-specific relocation requirements for CDBG and HOME projects are found at 24 CFR 570.606 and 24 CFR 92.353, respectively. The applicability of URA or section 104(d) requirements to a RAD conversion is fact-specific and must be determined in accordance with the applicable URA and section 104(d) regulations. Permanent involuntary displacement of residents may not occur as a result of a Project's conversion of assistance. If proposed plans for a Project would preclude a resident from returning to the Covered Project, the resident must be given an opportunity to comment and/or object to such plans. If the resident objects to such plans, the Project Owner must alter the Project plans in order to house the resident in the Covered Project. If a resident agrees to the plans which would

³ For example, if a property with an original Capital Advance Note of \$10 million is sold as part of the proposed conversion 20 years into the original 40 year Capital Advance Use Agreement term, the Project Owner would have accrued \$5 million in seller equity (20 years ÷ 40 year × \$10 million) that would be unrestricted at sale. If the property were subsequently re-sold 10 years later the maximum seller equity potentially available at that time would be \$7.5 million. However, if \$3 million in seller equity had been drawn at the original conversion, the maximum unrecovered seller equity available at the subsequent sale would be \$4.5 million.

preclude the resident's return, the Project Owner must ensure that the resident's decision is fully informed, voluntary, and well documented. To be fully informed, at a minimum the resident must be notified in writing of a) his or her right to return; b) his or her right to object to plans which would preclude the resident from returning; c) the Project Owner's obligation to accommodate the resident's right to return; and d) a description of the short and long-term implications of both the right to return arrangements (e.g., temporary relocation) and the resident's options if the resident agrees to such plans. The resident must be provided counseling regarding the resident's rights and options. To be voluntary, a resident must be informed of their right to return, potential for relocation, and temporary and permanent housing options 30 days before making a decision. In addition, under the URA regulation, residents must be provided notice of relocation at least 90 days before the relocation. The Project Owner cannot employ any tactics to pressure the resident into relinquishing his or her right to return or accepting permanent relocation assistance and payments. To be well documented, evidence of a resident's decision must be retained by the Project Owner. At a minimum such evidence must include copies of notices informing the resident of their options, records of any counseling or assistance provided, and the resident's informed, written consent, including an acknowledgement that acceptance of such assistance terminates the resident's right to return to the Covered Project. If the resident agrees to the Project Owner's plans, the permanent relocation is considered voluntary, but must include, at a minimum, any relocation assistance and payments required under the URA and Section 104(d), as applicable. The Project Owner may not propose or request that residents waive their rights or entitlements to relocation assistance under the URA or Section 104(d).

O. Site Selection and Neighborhood Standards. Where a Project Owner is planning to convert assistance under RAD, the Project Owner must comply with all applicable site selection requirements, including those of 24 CFR § 983.57 for PBV (except as waived in Section 4.5.E) and Appendix III of this Notice for PBRA, and of the Fair Housing Act and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, including implementing regulations at 24 CFR § 1.4(b)(3), and of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, including implementing regulations at 24 CFR § 8.4(b)(5).

P. Change in Unit Configuration. Project Owners may change the unit configuration in conjunction with conversion (e.g., converting efficiency units to one-bedroom units). However, the Project Owner must ensure that the change in bedroom distribution will not result in the involuntary permanent displacement of any resident (see Section 4.4.M on Relocation and Right to Return), will not result in a reduction in accessible units below the minimum percentage, and will not, except with HUD approval, result in a reduction in the number of assisted units by the greater of 5% or five units. The Project Owner must also ensure that a change in unit configuration does not result in discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or familial status.

Q. Transfer of Assistance (TOA). In order to facilitate the financing, development, and preservation of decent, safe, and sanitary affordable housing, there are three scenarios under which assistance converted pursuant to RAD may be transferred from the existing Project (for the purposes of this paragraph, transfer of assistance does not include transfers to an adjacent site): (1) the Project Owner requests assistance to be transferred as part of the conversion from a Converting Project to another Project; (2) post-conversion, the Project Owner requests a partial or full transfer of assistance to another Project; or (3) as a result of a default of the HAP Contract, HUD terminates the HAP Contract but seeks to preserve the assistance at another Project with another Project Owner.

HUD will ascertain that assistance does not transfer to neighborhoods with highly concentrated poverty based on the criteria formulated for transfers under section 8(bb) of the Act.⁴ Further, HUD will consider whether conversion on-site is economically non-viable; whether the Converting Project is physically obsolete or severely distressed; how the transfer would affect the Converting Project's residents; and all applicable fair housing and civil rights requirements.⁵ Project Owners are strongly encouraged to request HUD approval of the proposed site prior to submission of the Conversion Plan.

For PBV transfers of assistance to a new site, the PRAC contract will remain in effect at the original site and will not be terminated until the units at the new site are ready for occupancy and the HAP Contract is executed. For PBRA transfers of assistance, the HAP Contract can be executed at the closing of the construction financing and the Project Owner may use the Section 8 Pass-Through to provide for the continued flow of subsidy during the construction period.⁶

After initial conversion, in general, a Project Owner may only request a transfer of assistance after 10 years from the effective date of the initial HAP Contract. A Project Owner may

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⁴ The analysis can be found in Section VIII B.1 of Notice H-2015-03, "Transferring Budget Authority of Project-Based Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Contract under Section 8(bb)(1) of the United States Housing Act." A copy of the criteria is available at www.hud.gov/rad. At a minimum, projects that are located in neighborhoods that meet the 8(bb) criteria satisfy the requirement under this Notice that transfers not occur to neighborhoods of concentrated poverty. HUD may modify these criteria as appropriate to fit the purposes of RAD and will post the applicable criteria at www.hud.gov/rad.

⁵ For example, any transfers of assistance must comply with requirements detailed in this Notice on Site and Neighborhood Standards (see Section 4.4.O), Changes in Unit Configuration (see Section 4.4.P), and Accessibility Requirements (see Section 4.4.E). For PBV conversions, PHAs will be responsible for this determination.

⁶ As fully described in Handbook 4350.1, under Section 8 Pass Through, Project Owners with residents under a project-based Section 8 HAP Contract whose unit was rendered uninhabitable may temporarily lease a unit in another building, which is habitable, under UPCS. The Project Owner can sign a temporary lease on behalf of the displaced Section 8 resident (i.e., a master lease) and begin to voucher for the contract rent for that temporary unit.

submit a transfer request sooner if it is needed as a result of eminent domain proceedings, natural disasters, unforeseen events, or as otherwise approved by HUD (for example, if HUD provided approval of a future transfer prior to conversion). HUD may consider, and approve with such conditions as HUD determines appropriate, a partial or complete transfer of assistance to a new location if the new location complies with applicable site selection standards. If applicable, any lender to and/or investor in the Covered Project must also approve the transfer of the assistance. Substantially all units covered by the initial HAP Contract must remain or be replaced as a result of the transfer. Residents of the original location at the time of the transfer request shall not experience a loss of rental assistance. PBV-assisted families living at the property upon termination of a PBV HAP Contract have a statutory right to receive a tenant-based voucher and to certain tenancy protections. (A family may voluntarily decline the tenant-based voucher and accept a PBV unit at the new location but may not be required to do so.) Termination of a PBV contract is not cause for issuance of additional tenant-based voucher assistance from HUD. PHAs and owners contemplating RAD PBV transfers after conversion must take the PBV families' right to tenant-based voucher assistance into consideration and ensure that there will be sufficient resources available to the PHA to both effectuate the transfer and meet the PHA's obligation to provide tenant-based vouchers to those families that wish to receive them. Subject to the availability of appropriations, PBRA-assisted families living at the property upon termination of a PBRA HAP Contract that meet the eligibility requirements for voucher assistance may receive tenant-based tenant protection vouchers (TPVs) in the event the termination of the original PBRA HAP Contract qualifies for issuance of such vouchers.

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In the event that a transfer of assistance is approved, the underlying Elderly Housing Use Agreement will be transferred to the new Project and HUD will release the Elderly Housing Use Agreement on the original site corresponding to the units transferred.

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R. Davis-Bacon prevailing wages. Execution of a HAP Contract through RAD that provides rental assistance to previously-assisted units does not trigger Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements (prevailing wages, the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, and implementing regulations, rules, and requirements). However, to the extent that construction or rehabilitation is performed on nine or more units that were not previously rent assisted or rent restricted and will be newly assisted as a result of the conversion transaction (including, without limitation, through transfer of assistance), such construction or rehabilitation is

⁷ See the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016 (HOTMA) and HUD's implementation notices including the "January 18, 2017 HOTMA implementation notice, 82 Fed. Reg. 5458," and the "July 14, 2017 technical correction and clarification notice, 82 Fed. Reg. 32461." Also see Notice PIH 2017-21. Pursuant to applicable Housing Choice Voucher program requirements, upon PBV HAP Contract termination the family must be given the option to remain in their unit with HCV assistance if the unit remains rental housing, the rent is

subject to Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements. In such cases, Davis-Bacon applies to a PBRA conversion to the same extent it would apply if the conversion were a PBV conversion.

S. Supportive Services for the Elderly. A Service Coordinator and/or the availability of Supportive Services for the elderly plays a critical role supporting the physical and mental health and wellness of residents and the delivery of cost-effective long-term community-based housing for this population. HUD encourages Project Owners to evaluate the service provision at the time of their annual PRAC renewal, prior to submitting a Conversion Plan. Each project will be required to demonstrate that the needs of residents are adequately met either through a Service Coordinator (full-time or part-time) funded through the annual project budget or through another service coordination/service provision arrangement. Project Owners must describe how the proposed supportive services provided by the Project or otherwise available to residents will meet the identified needs of the anticipated residents as they age. Project Owners must further describe how the identified supportive services will be provided or otherwise made available on a consistent, long-term basis to support residents. These commitments will be incorporated into terms of the Elderly Housing Use Agreement and/or HAP Contract at closing.

T. Provision of Services. For properties that have submitted an Initial Submission of Interest to HUD (i.e., prior to conversion), HUD may approve service costs to be paid from Section 202 project rental assistance up to \$27 per unit per month if it is necessary to provide effective supportive services for the elderly. This adjustment to the PRAC contract shall be subject to the availability of funding in the Housing for the Elderly account. Accordingly, conditioned on the project's successful conversion, HUD is waiving and providing an alternative requirement to 24 § CFR 891.225, which limits the eligible service costs that can be paid from project rental assistance to \$15 per unit per month. This rent adjustment would become effective immediately prior to the conversion (following Conversion Plan Approval and following release of all Closing documents from escrow to permit the Closing) and would be rescinded if the conversion does not occur. Following conversion, the Project Owner is required to maintain provision of services in accordance with this paragraph.

U. Lead Based Paint Hazards. For properties built before 1978 and in the infrequent case that a child under age 6 resides in one or more units:

• The Lead Disclosure Rule and the Lead Safe Housing Rule (specifically, 24 CFR part 35, subparts A, B, H, and R) apply to each such unit, any common areas servicing such units, and exterior painted surfaces associated with such units or common areas.

⁸ PRAC renewals and rent adjustments are funded from the Housing for the Elderly account. Renewal of ongoing PRAC contracts including inflationary adjustments to core operating expenses will be prioritized over mid-cycle rent increases that enhance services and replacement reserves for converting properties.

- 528 (These covered areas must have a risk assessment conducted and any lead-based paint 529 hazards identified controlled and cleared, with affected tenants getting disclosure 530 and/or notification of these activities, as applicable; see also the MAP Guide section 9.5.A, Lead-Based Paint.)
 - If occupancy rule exceptions are made to allow children under age 6 to reside (such as in accordance with the Living Equitably: Grandparents Aiding Children and Youth Act of 2003, P.L. 108-186), the general exemption of the property from the lead safety rules is not available and they apply to the entire property.

V. Completion Certification. HUD may require a certification or evidence of completion of any requirements the Project Owner is required to complete following the conversion of assistance.

4.5 Special Provisions Affecting Conversions to PBVs

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Certain PBV statutory provisions have been waived or altered consistent with the authority Congress has provided for Second Component conversions. In these cases, HUD also notes the corresponding regulatory provisions that are waived or altered. Additionally, HUD has waived certain regulatory provisions (that are not statutorily based) and established alternative requirements in order to prevent displacement of certain residents and otherwise serve the purposes of this Demonstration. All other regulatory and statutory requirements of the PBV program in 24 CFR part 983 and section 8(o)(13) of the Act and applicable standing and subsequent Office of Public and Indian Housing guidance, including related notices and handbooks shall apply, including resident choice, environmental review, and non-discrimination and equal opportunity requirements.

The modified or alternative requirements that pertain solely to 202 PRAC Projects converting assistance to PBV under the Demonstration are described below.

- Please note that while in this Notice HUD prescribes requirements for converting 202 PRAC Projects to PBV, the conversion of project subsidy from its current PRAC account to a PBV contract will result in added complexity to the closing of the transaction (as compared to PRAC conversions to PBRA) and may cause unforeseen delays.
- **A. Initiation of Contract.** The HAP may only be effective at the expiration of the PRAC. Further in order to provide sufficient time for HUD to transfer funds across appropriated accounts and then to subsequently obligate new funding to a PHA's Housing Choice

Voucher ACC, all closing conditions must be satisfied, and all transaction documents executed and held in escrow, 90 days before the PRAC expiration.⁹

- **B.** Length of Contract. Section 8(o)(13)(F) of the Act provides, in part, that the HAP Contract may have an initial term of up to 20 years. In addition, 24 CFR § 983.205(a) provides the PHA with discretion to set the contract term, for a minimum period of one year and a maximum period of twenty years. By choosing to participate in RAD, the PHA and the Project Owner agree to an initial HAP Contract term of 20 years. A PHA may enter into an extension of the initial HAP Contract term with the Project Owner at any time during the initial term. The PBV HAP Contract during the initial and any extended term is subject to the requirement for sufficient annual appropriated funding.
- C. Mandatory Contract Extension. Section 8(o)(13)(G) of the Act provides, in part, that the extension of any PBV HAP Contract is at the discretion of the PHA. The regulatory provisions governing PBV HAP Contract extensions are contained in 24 CFR § 983.205(b). By choosing to participate in RAD, the PHA agrees to offer, and the Project Owner agrees to accept, each extension of the initial HAP Contract term during the term of the Elderly Housing Use Agreement so that the contract could expire no earlier than the expiration date of the Elderly Housing Use Agreement. As indicated in Section 4.5.A, the PBV HAP Contract during the initial and any extended term is subject to the requirement for sufficient annual appropriated funding. The contract extension(s) shall be for the prescribed number and mix of units but may, upon request of the Project Owner and subject to HUD approval, be on one or more transfer of assistance sites in lieu of the project site subject to the expiring contract.
- **D. PBV Percentage Limitation.** Per the RAD statute, Section 8(o)(13)(B) of the Act (and, by extension, 24 CFR § 983.6) does not apply and Covered Projects do not count against the percentage limitation applicable to the PBV program. As a result, a PHA that is administering RAD PBV assistance does not take the RAD PBV into consideration when calculating the percent limitation for any non-RAD PBV actions that are subject to the percent limitation. In other words, RAD PBV is excluded from both the numerator and the denominator when calculating the percent that may be project-based for non-RAD PBV.
- **E.** Cap on the Number of PBV Units in Each Project. There is no cap on the number of units that may receive RAD PBV assistance in each project because under the HOTMA

⁹ In addition to statutory limitations, HUD must structure the conversion in this manner in order to ensure that there are not delays between when the PHA has subsidy obligations under the HAP contract and when funds are obligated to the PHA's HCV program and to ensure that the funding provided is adequate.

¹⁰ For example, if the Elderly Housing Use Agreement required a minimum affordability period of 39 years, the PHA and Project Owner would enter into an initial 20-year HAP contract and, because the Elderly Housing Use Agreement would still be in effect at the end of the 20 year term, must subsequently agree to extend the contract for at least 19 additional years.

Implementation Notice, units exclusively serving elderly families are excepted from the project cap.

F. Site Selection –Compliance with PBV Goals, section 8(0)(13)(C)(ii) of the Act and 24 CFR § 983.57(b)(1) and (c)(2). HUD waives these provisions having to do with deconcentration of poverty and expanding housing and economic opportunity, for the existing site.

G. Owner Proposal Selection Procedures, 24 CFR § 983.51. Projects are selected in accordance with program requirements detailed in this Notice. HUD is waiving 24 CFR § 983.51. For purposes of RAD, the date of PBV proposal selection shall be the date on which the Project Owner submits a Conversion Plan. With respect to site selection standards, HUD requires compliance with the site selection standards as set forth in this Notice.

H. Initial Contract Rent Setting. Consistent with the requirements of section 8(o)(13)(H) of the 1937 Act and 24 CFR part 983, Subpart G, the initial contract rents will be the lower of: (a) the approved PRAC rents determined by HUD;¹¹ (b) the reasonable rent (as defined under 24 CFR § 983.303); (c) an amount determined by the PHA, not to exceed 110 percent of the applicable FMR (or applicable exception payment standard, or rent cap approved in an MTW Plan), minus any utility allowance; or (d) the rent requested by the Project Owner.

With HUD approval, Project Owners and the PHA administering the contract may adjust subsidy amounts across multiple Projects proposed for conversion in order to modify initial contract rents that would be established in the HAP Contracts, as long as the subsidy adjustments do not exceed the aggregate subsidy for all of the Projects that the Project Owners has submitted for conversion under RAD and as long as the rents do not exceed applicable rent limits described in 24 CFR part 983 subpart G. This use, which HUD refers to as "bundled" rents, is permissible when multiple Project Owners in mutual agreement submit Conversion Plans for two or more Projects. There is no limit to the number of Projects that Project Owners may bundle. The conversion of the donor Project must close prior to or simultaneous with the conversion of the recipient Project. For example, assume that when Project Owners are considering bundling two identical Projects, both consisting of 100 units. In Project A, the contract rent is \$500; and in Project B, the contract rent is \$600. The Project Owners could bundle the two projects such that the initial contract rents for both projects will be \$550.

I. Re-Determined Rents. The Project Owner may request an increase in rent at the anniversary

¹¹ PRAC rents are the "Operating Expense Amounts" listed in Part I of the PRAC, Exhibit 1, as adjusted pursuant to rent "bundling" described in this subsection G. If PRAC rents have been temporarily increased in accordance with an approved plan with the Multifamily Regional Center, the PRAC rents used for the purposes of setting initial contract rents at conversion will be adjusted downward.

- date of the HAP contract by written notice to the PHA in accordance with 24 CFR § 983.301(b)(2). Under the PBV regulations, a Project Owner may request an adjusted rent level below the PBV rent caps. As a condition of converting to PBV under RAD, the Project Owner agrees to never request a rent increase in excess of the OCAF-adjusted rent. This OCAF limitation is in addition to the existing PBV rent limitations in 24 CFR § 983.301(b) more generally. All other PBV provisions governing the redetermination of rent to the Project Owner apply.
- J. **Distributions.** As an alternative requirement, distribution of surplus cash is prohibited unless the Project operating reserve is funded at no less than \$250 per unit and the replacement reserve is funded at a level prescribed by any conversion agreements.

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- K. No Rescreening of Tenants upon Conversion. Pursuant to the RAD Statute, at conversion, current households cannot be excluded from occupancy at the Covered Project based on any rescreening, income eligibility, or income targeting. With respect to occupancy in the Covered Project, current households in the Converting Project will be grandfathered for application of any eligibility criteria to conditions that occurred prior to conversion but will be subject to any ongoing eligibility requirements for actions that occur after conversion.¹³ Post-conversion, the tenure of all residents of the Covered Project is protected pursuant to PBV requirements regarding continued occupancy. For example, a unit with a household that was over-income at time of conversion would continue to be treated as an assisted unit. Thus, 24 CFR § 982.201, concerning income eligibility and income targeting of tenants at initial occupancy, will not apply for current households. Once the grandfathered household moves out, the unit must be leased to an eligible family. Income eligibility requirements associated with new sources of financing, such as Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, do not supersede this prohibition on rescreening, and the Project Owner may be required to exclude Section 8 units occupied by ineligible households from being covered by the new financing's restrictions.
 - L. Under-Occupied Units. If a family is in an under-occupied unit under 24 CFR § 983.260 at the time of conversion, the family may remain in the unit until an appropriate-sized unit becomes available in the Covered Project. When an appropriate sized unit becomes available in the Covered Project, the family living in the under-occupied unit must move to

¹² OCAFs are calculated and published each year by HUD in the Federal Register and are applied to the portion of a contract rent that is not committed to debt service in order to calculate the contract rent for the project in the following fiscal year.

¹³ These protections (as well as all protections in this Notice for current households) also apply when a household is relocated to facilitate new construction or repairs following conversion and subsequently returns to the Covered Project.

¹⁴ A household is considered to be remaining in the unit during any period of temporary relocation to permit rehabilitation of the Covered Project.

the appropriate-sized unit within a reasonable period of time, as determined by the PHA. In order to allow the family to remain in the under-occupied unit until an appropriate-sized unit becomes available in the Covered Project, 24 CFR § 983.260 is waived.¹⁵

M. Occupancy Requirements. In accordance with the RAD statute, as amended by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Pub. L. No. 115-141), Section 202 PRAC projects converting assistance under RAD must continue to serve elderly persons. Accordingly, in addition to income-eligibility and income targeting requirements in 24 CFR 982.201, new admissions must meet the definition of "elderly family" in 24 CFR 5.403. See Section 4.5.K regarding the treatment of current households.

4.6 Special Provisions Affecting Conversions to PBRA

For 202 PRAC Projects converting assistance to PBRA, 24 CFR part 880 ("Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program for New Construction"), as modified and as published in Appendix I of this Notice, the site and neighborhood standards in Appendix III of this Notice, and applicable standing and subsequent Office of Housing guidance¹⁶ will apply, except for the provisions listed below. Where applicable, reference is made to the affected statute and/or regulation.

A. Initiation of Contract. The HAP effective date will typically be the first day of the month, that begins at least 30 days after all closing conditions have been satisfied and documents executed and recorded, as applicable. For example, for a closing that occurs on May 28th, a HAP effective date will typically be July 1. This timing will enable a smooth transition from vouchering for payments under the PRAC to vouchering under the new HAP.

B. Length of Contract. Pursuant to the RAD statute, Covered Projects shall have an initial HAP Contract term of 20 years. Accordingly, section 8(d)(2)(A) of the Act, which establishes a maximum term of 15 years for "an existing structure," does not apply. Additionally, 24 CFR § 880.502, which imposes maximum contract terms for New Construction Projects consistent with statutory authority that was repealed in 1983, does not apply.

¹⁵ As the later enacted statute, the RAD Statute, as amended by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Pub. L. No. 115-141) to prohibit conversion under the Second Component from being the basis for re-screening, termination of assistance, or eviction of a family in the Converting Project, overrides the last sentence of section 3(b)(3)(A) of the Act. Absent this override, the latter provision would prohibit occupancy of an assisted unit of two or more bedrooms by a single person who is not elderly, disabled, a displaced person, or the remaining member of a tenant family, and any such unit occupied by such a person could not be included in the HAP Contract. Accordingly, 24 CFR § 5.655(b)(5) shall not apply.

¹⁶ Examples of Office of Housing guidance include handbooks such as "Occupancy Requirements of Subsidized Multifamily Housing Programs" (4350.3) and "Multifamily Asset Management and Project Servicing" (4350.1).

adjusting contract rents.

HAP Contract, the HAP Contract is eligible for renewal under section 524 of MAHRAA, subject to the terms and conditions applicable at the time of renewal and the availability of appropriations for each year of such renewal. By choosing to participate in RAD, the Project Owner agrees to accept each offer to renew the HAP contract during the term of the Elderly Housing Use Agreement so that any renewal of the HAP contract could expire no earlier than the expiration of the Elderly Housing Use Agreement, but not to exceed a term of 20 years for any given renewal.¹⁷ The renewal contract(s) shall be for the prescribed number and mix

C. Mandatory Contract Renewal. Pursuant to the RAD Statute, after the initial term of the

- of units but may, upon request of the Project Owner and subject to HUD approval, be on one or more transfer of assistance sites in lieu of the project site associated with the expiring contract.
- **D.** Initial Contract Rent Setting. The initial contract rents will be the lower of (a) the approved PRAC rents¹⁸ or (b) 120% of the applicable FMR (consistent with the requirements of Section 8(c)(1) of the Act), less any utility allowances. A Project Owner may request that HUD use the SAFMR in place of the FMR in the computation of the rent cap. To implement this provision HUD is implementing an alternative requirement to 24 CFR §888.113(h) so as to permit the use of a Small Area FMR by project for initial contract rent setting and when
 - With HUD approval, Project Owners may adjust subsidy across multiple Projects proposed for conversion in order to modify the initial contract rents that would be established in the HAP Contract, as long as the Project Owners do not exceed the aggregate subsidy for all of the Projects the Project Owners have submitted for conversion under RAD and the rents do not exceed 120% of FMR (or SAFMR, as applicable). This use, which HUD refers to as "bundled" rents, is permissible when Project Owners in mutual agreement submit Conversion Plans for two or more Projects. There is no limit to the number of Projects that Project Owners may rent bundle together. The conversion of the "donor" Project must close prior to or simultaneously with the conversion of the "recipient" Project. For example, assume that two Project Owners are considering bundling two identical Projects, both consisting of 100 units. In Project A, the contract rent is \$500; and in Project B, the contract rent is \$600. The

¹⁷ For example, if the Elderly Housing Use Agreement required a minimum affordability period of 39 years, the HUD and Project Owner would enter into an initial 20 year HAP contract and, because the Elderly Housing Use Agreement would still be in effect at the end of the 20 year term, at the end of the term, HUD would offer and a Project Owner must request a contract renewal covering at least 19 additional years.

¹⁸ PRAC rents are the "Operating Expense Amounts" listed in Part I of the PRAC, Exhibit 1, as adjusted pursuant to rent "bundling" described in this subsection C. If PRAC rents have been temporarily increased in accordance with an approved plan with the Multifamily Regional Center, the PRAC rents used for the purposes of setting initial contract rents at conversion will be adjusted downward.

Project Owners could bundle the two projects such that the initial contract rents for both Projects will be \$550.

HUD may, in limited circumstances, modify the PRAC Rents separate from the annual contract renewal process and prior to conversion, given the project budget, and subject to the availability of funding in the Housing for the Elderly account. For example, if a CNA was not available at the time of the most recent PRAC renewal, a rent adjustment to appropriately update reserve for replacement deposits could be requested in the middle of the contract year, ahead of conversion.

E. Method of Adjusting Contract Rents. Contract rents will be adjusted by an OCAF at each anniversary of the HAP Contract, subject to (a) the availability of appropriations for each year of the initial term of the HAP Contract, and (b) the Maximum Rent, as defined below.²⁰

The Maximum Rent is the higher of 120% of FMR or SAFMR (less utility allowances) or the market rents, as demonstrated by an RCS procured and paid for by the Project Owner. Where an RCS has been used to justify an OCAF adjusted rent that exceeds 120% of the FMR, the RCS will remain valid for five years, the Maximum Rent will not apply for the next four annual rent adjustments, and rents will be adjusted only by the OCAF. The applicable FMR used for SRO units shall be the zero-bedroom (efficiency) FMR. Further, where HUD has approved the use of SAFMR by project, the SAFMR will continue to serve as the applicable FMR when determining the rent cap.

F. Distributions. Covered Projects will not be subject to any limitation on distributions, contingent on satisfaction of program requirements and the availability of surplus cash as determined by year-end audited or certified financial statements, and subject to the provisions of this paragraph. To implement this provision, HUD will not apply 24 CFR § 880.205, which, among other provisions, establishes certain limitations on distributions for profit-motivated owners and authorizes HUD to require not-for-profit and certain for-profit owners to establish a residual receipts account. As an alternative requirement, in addition to standard PBRA requirements that must be satisfied prior to calculating surplus cash, distribution of surplus cash is prohibited unless HUD is able to verify on the annual financial statement that the Project operating reserve is funded at no less than \$250 per unit. HUD may also impose restrictions on distributions of surplus cash on a given project as a potential remedy if HUD determines the Project Owner is in violation of the HAP Contract or Elderly

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¹⁹ PRAC renewals and rent adjustments are funded from the Housing for the Elderly account. Renewal of ongoing PRAC contracts including inflationary adjustments to core operating expenses will be prioritized over mid-cycle rent increases that enhance services and replacement reserves for converting properties.

²⁰ OCAFs are calculated and published each year by HUD in the Federal Register and are applied to the portion of a contract rent that is not committed to debt service in order to calculate the contract rent for the project in the following fiscal year.

Housing Use Agreement.

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G. No Rescreening of Tenants upon Conversion. Pursuant to the RAD Statute, at conversion, current households cannot be excluded from occupancy at the Covered Project based on any rescreening, income eligibility, or income targeting. With respect to occupancy in the Covered Project, current households in the Converting Project will be grandfathered for application of any eligibility criteria to conditions that occurred prior to conversion but will be subject to any ongoing eligibility requirements for actions that occur after conversion.²¹ Post-conversion, the tenure of all residents of the Covered Project is protected pursuant to PBRA requirements regarding continued occupancy. For example, a household that would not be income eligible for initial occupancy of a Section 8 unit at the time of conversion would still be placed on a Section 8 lease and eligible for assistance under the provisions governing continued occupancy. Thus, the first clause of section 8(c)(4) of the Act and 24 CFR § 880.603(b), concerning determination of eligibility and selection of tenants for initial occupancy, will not apply for current households. Once the grandfathered household moves out, the unit must be leased to an eligible family. Income eligibility requirements associated with new sources of financing, such as Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, do not supersede this prohibition on rescreening, and the Project Owner may be required to exclude Section 8 units occupied by ineligible households from being covered by the new financing's restrictions.

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H. Under-Occupied Units. If at the time of conversion, an eligible family assisted under the PRAC is occupying a unit that is larger than appropriate because of the family's composition, the family may remain in the unit until an appropriate-sized unit becomes available in the Covered Project. When an appropriate sized unit becomes available in the Covered Project, the family living in the under-occupied unit must move to the appropriate-sized within 30 days. In order to allow the family to remain in the under-occupied unit until an appropriate-sized unit becomes available in the Covered Project, HUD is waiving the portion of 24 CFR § 880.605 that assumes the unit has become under-occupied as the result of a change in family size.²³

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²¹ These protections (as well as all protections in this Notice for current households) also apply when a household is relocated to facilitate new construction or repairs following conversion and subsequently returns to the Covered Project.

²² A household is considered to be remaining in the unit during any period of temporary relocation to permit rehabilitation of the Covered Project.

²³ As the later enacted statute, the RAD Statute, as amended by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Pub. L. No. 115-141) to prohibit conversion under the Second Component from being the basis for re-screening, termination of assistance, or eviction of a family in the Converting Project, overrides the last sentence of section 3(b)(3)(A) of the Act. Absent this override, the latter provision would prohibit occupancy of an assisted unit of two or more bedrooms by a single person who is not elderly, disabled, a displaced person, or the remaining member of a tenant family, and any such unit occupied by such a person could not be included in the HAP Contract. Accordingly, 24 CFR § 5.655(b)(5) shall not apply.

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I. Occupancy Requirements. In accordance with the RAD statute, as amended by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Pub. L. No. 115-141), Section 202 PRAC projects converting assistance under RAD must continue to serve elderly persons. Accordingly, in addition to income-eligibility and income targeting requirements in 24 CFR 5.653, new admissions must meet the definition of "elderly family" in 24 CFR 5.403. See Section 4.5.K regarding the treatment of current households.

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J. UPCS (REAC) Inspections. Under current regulations at 24 CFR part 5, subpart G, a unit covered under a PBRA HAP Contract must meet the UPCS before assistance can be paid on behalf of a household. Under RAD, only after the PBRA HAP Contract is executed and any proposed Work is completed, HUD will order a REAC inspection of the Project to ensure conditions meet the UPCS. HUD is waiving and establishing this alternative requirement to 24 CFR part 5 subpart G.

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4.7 Conversion and Processing Requirements

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- As discussed in further detail below, the conversion of a PRAC Project will generally entail:
- An Initial Submission of Interest to HUD
 - Resident Notification and Consultation
 - Selection of PHA (PBV conversions only)
 - Conversion Plan Submission, RAD Approval, and Closing

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4.7.1 <u>Initial Submission of Interest to HUD</u>

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- Prior to submitting a Conversion Plan, a Project Owner must make an initial submission to HUD indicating the Project Owner's interest in conversion under this Notice. The submission must include:
 - Project name;
- Project address;
 - Project Owner's name;
 - Project Owner's contact information;
 - The PRAC Contract number(s);
- PRAC Contract expiration date(s);
- Total number of units covered under the PRAC Contract(s), by bedroom size; and
- Conversion Type (PBV or PBRA).

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HUD has developed an electronic form submission for Project Owners to make the initial submission. To access the electronic submission template, Project Owners must request access to

the RAD Resource Desk at <u>www.radresource.net</u> where users will be prompted to provide the information listed above.

- HUD will provide the Project Owner a confirmation of successful submission. HUD will use the initial submission in order to:
 - 1. Assign a Transaction Manager, who will make contact to discuss the conversion process and the Project Owner's goals for the Project; and
 - 2. For PBV conversion, initiate the process to identify a PHA willing to administer the new PBV contract.

There is no fee associated with the initial submission. HUD will take no adverse action against a Project Owner who makes an initial submission but does not later submit a Conversion Plan.

4.7.2 PHA Administration of the PBV Contract

A. Selection of a PHA. For PBV conversions only, HUD will need to identify a PHA able and willing to administer the PBV contract, and the PHA would need to agree to accept the responsibility. Within 30 days of the initial submission, HUD will identify an eligible PHA and request that the PHA provide written consent to administer the PBV contract or decline the request within 30 days of HUD's request. HUD will communicate the PHA's response to the Project Owner. Applicants must wait until a PBV HAP Contract administrator has been identified before submitting their Conversion Plan, as the PHA who will act in this capacity must be identified in that plan. If no PHA consents to enter into the PBV contract, the Project cannot convert to PBV, and the Project Owner may consider conversion to PBRA instead.

B. Role of Administering PHA. The PHA that agrees to administer the PBV contract is responsible for administrative duties described in 24 CFR part 983 and this Notice. Prior to conversion, the PHA's key roles include:

1. Pre-Selection Inspection. The PHA must ensure that the units substantially comply with HQS, as defined in the PHA's Section 8 administrative plan, prior to submission of the Conversion Plan.

2. Initial Contract Rent Setting. The PHA will determine that the initial contract rents do not exceed the rent caps described in Section 4.5.G.

3. HQS Inspections. Prior to entering into a PBV HAP Contract, the PHA must inspect the Converting Project proposed for conversion to ensure that the units fully comply with HQS,²⁴ unless the PHA is using HOTMA non-life threatening and alternative

²⁴ Please note that under PBV, the standard HQS requirements related to lead-based paint under 24 CFR 982.401 do not apply. Instead, if the property was constructed before 1978 and one or more units has a child under age 6 residing, the PHA must ensure that the HQS requirements for lead safety at 24 CFR 983.101(c)(2) are met in those

inspection provisions. ²⁵

875 4.7.3 Resident Notification and Consultation

Resident Notification. For all conversions, a Project Owner is required to notify residents in writing of its intent to participate in RAD and is required to hold at least two meetings with residents.²⁶ The Project Owner must have at least one resident meeting within 30 days prior to submission of the Conversion Plan and at least one resident meeting after submission of the Conversion Plan but prior to conversion. The Notification letter must:

1. Be delivered to all Converting Project residents, including each PRAC–assisted household, as well as posted in the Converting Project office or other common area, and at no fewer than three prominent locations on the Converting Project site;

2. Include the date and time of the resident briefings;

 3. Include an estimated date of conversion to either a PBV or PBRA HAP Contract;

4. Include a description of any proposed change in ownership, rehabilitation, construction, or transfer of assistance associated with the conversion;

 5. State the Project Owner's plan for relocation, if applicable, as a result of rehabilitation or construction, including the expected length of the relocation, the temporary nature of the relocation, the household's right to return, and the Project Owner's responsibility for covering relocation costs; and

6. Supply information on the method to submit comments to the Project Owner and provide for a 30-day comment period.

The Project Owner must conduct two resident meetings with all affected residents and provide the residents with an opportunity to comment on the conversion. The purpose of the resident meeting is to provide residents with greater detail related to the conversion, including rehabilitation plans (if applicable), relocation (if applicable), and PBV or PBRA program rules that may differ from PRAC rules. The Project Owner must hold an additional meeting when there has been a material change that was not already discussed in a previous meeting.

When providing resident notifications and conducting resident meetings, the Project Owner must use effective communication for persons with hearing, visual, and other communication-related disabilities consistent with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and, as applicable, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Effective communication includes, but is not limited to, providing written materials in appropriate alternative formats (e.g., Braille, large type), as

units, common areas servicing those units, and exterior painted surfaces associated with such units or common areas (or the whole property if there are children under age 6 residing in numerous units).

²⁵ See Notice PIH-2017-20 for guidance on HOTMA non-life threatening and alternative inspection provisions.

²⁶ Sample resident notification letters are available at www.hud.gov/rad.

needed, and providing sign language interpreters and assistive listening devices at resident meetings, as needed (24 CFR § 8.6). Additionally, resident meetings must be held in facilities that are physically accessible to persons with disabilities. Where physical accessibility is not achievable, a Project Owner must use alternative methods to meet with qualified individuals with disabilities, such as holding meetings at an alternate accessible site or offering in-home meetings. Such meetings must be provided in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities in a setting that enables individuals with disabilities to interact with nondisabled persons to the fullest extent possible (28 CFR part 35, Appendix B).

Additionally, the Project Owner must provide meaningful access to its programs and activities for persons who have a limited ability to read, speak, or understand English. For Projects undergoing RAD conversion, the Project Owner must provide language assistance to residents of the Project who are Limited English Proficient (LEP) to ensure that they have meaningful access to RAD resident notifications and meetings. Such language assistance may include, but is not limited to, providing written translation of notices regarding the plans for the Project and relocation and oral interpretation at resident meetings. For guidance on providing language assistance to persons with LEP, please see Final Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons (72 FR 2732).

The Project Owner must submit a copy of all comments received with their Conversion Plan, along with a description of how the residents' comments will be addressed in the conversion. HUD will consider all resident comments and the Project Owner's plan to address the comments before approving the Conversion Plan. If more than 50 percent of written resident comments disapprove of the conversion of assistance, HUD will contact the Project Owner to discuss options for proceeding with the conversion request or may decline the request.

Upon Conversion Plan approval, the Project Owner must notify each affected family that the Project has been approved.

4.7.4 Conversion Plan Submission, RAD Approval, and Closing

A. Conversion Plan Submission. The Project Owner must submit to HUD through the RAD Resource Desk a complete Conversion Plan that satisfies all RAD program requirements. (See Attachment 4.A for Conversion Plan Requirements.)

HUD will review the Conversion Plan and Notify the Project Owner of HUD's determination to approve or reject the plan or to request additional information. HUD's decisions regarding the acceptance of the Conversion Plan will be made in HUD's sole discretion. If HUD determines that a Conversion Plan is not feasible or that the requirements of the Conversion Plan as set forth in Attachment 4A have not been met, then the Project Owner may either

make corrections that satisfactorily address HUD's concerns or appeal the decision. If a Conversion Plan is disapproved, HUD's letter of disapproval will discuss changes, if any, that would result in an acceptable Conversion Plan.

B. RAD Approval. If the Conversion Plan satisfies the requirements of this Notice, HUD will issue an approval letter to the Project Owner. The approval letter will outline the key components of the planned RAD conversion and will discuss the conditions that need to be satisfied in order to close the conversion. Once the approval letter is issued, HUD expects that the RAD conversion will close in a timely manner. The approval letter will allow 90 calendar days (from the date the approval letter is issued to the Project Owner) in which to close the RAD conversion transaction, unless extended by HUD. The Project Owner will need to work diligently to achieve closing within the timeframe required under this Notice in order to avoid rescission of the RAD approval.

C. Closing. Upon conversion, units whose assistance has been converted pursuant to RAD will be removed from the 202 PRAC program. Converting Projects will be released from any outstanding obligations under the Capital Advance Agreement, the Capital Advance Mortgage Note, the Capital Advance Program Regulatory Agreement, the Capital Advance Program Use Agreement, and related or collateral documents associated with the PRAC and the foregoing documents. The 202 PRAC will be terminated (or for PBV conversions, the 202 PRAC will expire without renewal), the Section 8 HAP Contract will be executed and the Project Owner will enter into an Elderly Housing Use Agreement, which will be recorded as a restrictive covenant in first position on the Covered Project. The effective date identified in the HAP Contract is the date the Project will cease to operate as a 202 PRAC Project and begins to operate under Section 8 requirements.

4.8 Additional Information

For additional information on this section of the Notice, please check <u>www.hud.gov/rad</u> or email questions to RAD2@hud.gov.

Attachment 4A: Conversion Plan Requirements and Feasibility Benchmarks for

PRAC Conversions

- A Conversion Plan will not be reviewed until all required documentation is submitted electronically to the RAD Resource Desk at www.radresource.net. HUD will complete an initial review for document completeness within five business days of submission and will notify the Project Owner of deficiencies. Once HUD has determined that all required documents appear to
- have been received, HUD will review the submission.

HUD's purpose in reviewing the Conversion Plan is to ensure the long-term physical and financial viability of the Covered Project in providing quality, supportive housing to elderly residents. HUD reserves the right to reject any Conversion Plan if the information provided is not complete, accurate, or in compliance with the submission requirements listed below. If a Conversion Plan fails one or more feasibility benchmarks, HUD may, in its sole discretion, still accept the Conversion Plan if HUD determines that the Conversion Plan is consistent with the long-term physical and financial viability of the Covered Project, and/or the Project Owner has demonstrated through historical data or other means that the Project Owner can satisfactorily maintain and manage the Covered Project as presented in the Conversion Plan. HUD will not accept the Conversion Plan if the Covered Project does not meet environmental review requirements, as described below.

Below are all the required components of a complete Conversion Plan and the requirements of each component. Additional guidance in preparing the Conversion Plan is available in the PRAC Processing Guide located at http://www.radresource.net/mf_library.cfm.

A. Conversion Overview. A narrative summary of the Covered Project and the Project Owner's conversion goals. Include details such as a description of the physical Project, Project history, identification of immediate capital needs of the Project, identification of other properties to be held within the same ownership entity, anticipated financing that will be obtained to meet the capital needs, anticipated relocation, how the conversion of assistance will impact residents, and circumstances such as new construction, Transfer of Assistance, scattered site, and reconfiguration of units.

B. Proposed Units. The Project Owner must provide the number of units by bedroom size proposed to be covered by the HAP Contract. If a reconfiguration of units is proposed, the Project Owner must submit a narrative explanation of the proposal, including a description of the units to be removed and an explanation of why the Project can better serve assisted residents at the reduced number. Discussion of the proposed units can be included in the Conversion Overview.

1020 C. PRAC Contract. Submit a copy of the fully executed current PRAC Contract including all 1021 exhibits.

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D. Statement of Compliance with Fair Housing and Civil Rights. The Project Owner must submit a written statement certifying that it does not have any outstanding fair housing or civil right matters and that the proposed RAD conversion is consistent with any applicable remedial order or agreements, as described in section 4.3.1.B. of this Notice.

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E. Resident Notification. The Project Owner must provide proof of written notification informing residents of the intent to participate in RAD. Include a PDF attachment of all comments received from residents as described in Section 4.7.3. Project Owners must provide a certification that they have held the required meetings with residents and have provided residents with a reasonable time period to submit comments on the conversion. The Project Owner must also provide a description of how the residents' comments will be addressed in their plan for conversion.

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1036 F. Capital Needs Assessment. A CNA is required in order to identify the short-term and long-1037 term capital needs of the property, which will factor into the Scope of Work and both the 1038 Initial and Annual Deposits to the Replacement Reserve. See Paragraph 4.4.A. for additional 1039 information on CNA requirements.

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G. Initial Contract Rent Setting.

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1. For PBV conversions, submit evidence that the Project Owner's proposed rents are in accordance with the PHA's rent setting. See Section 4.5.G for additional information on Initial Contract Rent Setting for PBV.

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2. For PBRA conversions, the rents cannot exceed the limits set forth in Section 4.6.C

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- H. Scope of Work. The Conversion Plan must include a Scope of Work that accompanies the 1048 CNA. The Scope of Work must:
- 1049 1. Identify and address all repairs identified in the CNA as critical, immediate or required 1050 within the first two years following conversion when the total of such repairs exceeds 1051 \$5,000 per unit (including all items identified in the CNA as not functioning at the time 1052 of the CNA site visit). Briefly discuss any differences between the proposed Work and 1053 the conclusions and recommendations of the CNA provider; any additional scope items 1054 not identified in the CNA; and the Project Owner's choices for replacement components.
- 2. If the most recent REAC Inspection score is below 60, or the property has been referred 1055 1056 to DEC due to physical deficiencies, the scope of work must address all physical deficiencies identified. 1057
 - 3. Identify replacement quantities and costs. Rehabilitation estimates must be based on reasonable market estimates of actual costs, confirmed either by cost estimating

1060 completed by the architect/engineer, or through actual competitive bids for major rehabilitation or construction items, in compliance with HUD requirements.

- 4. Include a summary of environmental issues and corresponding remediation activities known at that time, and a summary of accessibility features that are required pursuant to applicable accessibility standards and other accessibility requirements. Other accessibility requirements include, but are not limited to, physical features that need to be provided as reasonable accommodations for qualified persons with disabilities. The scope of work should also include design features necessary for elderly housing (see Section 4.4.F) and a description of how those features will promote housing stability for an aging population.
- 5. Include a construction contingency of 10 percent (HUD may require a higher contingency on a case-by-case basis) if the Project Owner plans to obtain new financing simultaneous with the Conversion.
- 6. Include a reasonable timeline for completion of all rehabilitation items acceptable to HUD, from the date of Conversion Closing and any financing, depending on the scope of rehabilitation needed.

For Conversions using FHA financing, conventional debt, or equity sources of financing, submit a copy of the Scope of Work included with the FHA Application for Firm Commitment, or submitted to the lender, equity provider (including LIHTC, historic tax credit or Opportunity Zone equity providers), LIHTC allocating agency or comparable funding source.

I. Environmental Review. HUD cannot approve an applicant's Conversion Plan submission unless and until the required environmental review has been completed for the applicant's proposed conversion project and found to meet environmental review requirements. The following describes the submission and approval steps for securing a completed environmental review.

A RAD transaction will either be reviewed under 24 CFR Part 50 ("Part 50 Reviews") or 24 CFR Part 58 ("Part 58 Reviews"). Part 50 applies when HUD conducts the environmental review, and Part 58 applies when a Responsible Entity (RE) conducts the environmental review. The following table shows which review protocol a transaction will follow, along with who will conduct the review:

Description	Type of Environmental Review	Reviewer
PBRA Non-FHA	Part 50	RAD Transaction Manager
PBRA FHA Non-Risk Share ²⁷	Part 50	FHA Production
PBRA FHA Risk-Share	Part 50	Transaction Manager
PBV FHA Non-Risk Share	Part 50	FHA Production
PBV Non-FHA	Part 58	Responsible Entity
PBV FHA Risk-Share	Part 58	State Housing Finance
		Agency or Responsible
		Entity, as applicable ²⁸

Under limited circumstances, per 24 CFR 58.11(c), an Awardee with a non-FHA PBV transaction may request HUD to undertake the environmental review under Part 50 if a suitable RE cannot be found or if the local government was not a direct recipient of the funds and refuses to accept responsibility or when HUD determines the local government does not have capacity to act as an RE.²⁹ This request must be made in writing and submitted to HUD no later than at the time of the Conversion Plan submission.

For multi-phase developments, the environmental documents submitted with the Conversion Plan during the first phase must be submitted for the entire site (i.e. all of the phases of the multi-phase development) and the environmental review conducted during the first phase will cover the entire site.

Requests to transfer assistance from the Converting Project to a new location are subject to environmental review.

For transactions receiving funding from other HUD programs (i.e. HOME, CDBG, non-RAD PBV), HUD encourages all parties to complete and adopt one review for all programs, even if these programs' environmental reviews are conducted under a different review protocol (Part 50, Part 58). In cases where two Part 58 programs are combined, HUD encourages applicants to work with the Responsible Entity or Entities to see if environmental reviews

²⁷ Section 542(c) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 enables HUD and State and local housing finance agencies (HFAs) to provide new risk-sharing arrangements to help those agencies provide more insurance and credit for multifamily loans known as the FHA Risk Sharing Program.

²⁸ Housing Finance Agencies can act as the Responsible Entity for Housing's Risk Share Programs if the HFA is a regular part of the state government or if the HFA is a state instrumentality that has been approved by the governor. If the HFA does not meet either criteria, it must request another department of the state to act as Responsible Entity. An instrumentality of a city or county government cannot act as a Responsible Entity for the Risk Share Program. Please contact HUD if you have any questions about whether an HFA can act as the Responsible Entity.

²⁹ These circumstances are considered on a case-by-case basis only. Please work with your Transaction Manager to determine suitability.

can be combined. However, this is solely the Responsible Entities' determination. In cases where a Part 50 program and a Part 58 program are combined, HUD may determine that it will perform one Part 50 environmental review for both programs under 24 CFR 58.11 if performing an additional Part 58 environmental review is not feasible in the time allotted. HUD must ensure that the Part 50 review considers the full scope of all activities and funding associated with all programs. When one review is used for both programs, the Approving Officials for both programs must certify the review.

For all Part 50 reviews, the applicant must submit reports and documentation to HUD in accordance with 24 CFR Part 50, as discussed in Chapter 9 of the MAP Guide, except as follows:³⁰

- 1. For PBRA conversions (or where HUD has determined to conduct the PBV environmental review under Part 50) without FHA insurance and without any rehabilitation, construction, or demolition, 31 HUD conducted a tiered review of program-wide and site-specific compliance. HUD has made program-wide compliance determinations for most of the applicable environmental laws and authorities, and will complete a site-specific compliance review of the following:
 - **A.** Coastal protection pursuant to the Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 3501);
 - **B.** Flood insurance and floodplain management pursuant to the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 4001-4128 and 42 U.S.C. 5154a), Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a), and 24 C.F.R. Part 55;
 - C. Contamination pursuant to 24 C.F.R. 50.3(i) (HUD Standard).

Additionally, while Historic Preservation (National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 & 110; 36 CFR Part 800) is not included in the tiered review, for conversions that entail no physical activities or only activities that are limited to maintenance as defined in HUD Notice CPD-16-02, HUD has no further obligations under Section 106. HUD is not required to contact SHPO, THPO, and/or other interested parties or the public.³²

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/hudclips/guidebooks/hsg-GB4430. Additional guidance on environmental review requirements is available on the HUD Environmental Review website, at https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/.

³⁰ The MAP Guide is available at

³¹ This is further defined as those transactions that do not anticipate any reasonably foreseeable repairs or other physical activities beyond maintenance, as defined in HUD Notice CPD 2016-02.

³² This Determination is detailed in the "Determination of 'No Potential to Cause Effects' under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Projects Limited to Maintenance

Project Owners will be required to submit documentation to facilitate HUD's sitespecific review.

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2. For all non-FHA PBRA conversions (or where HUD has determined to conduct the PBV environmental review under Part 50) that do not meet the requirements under paragraph 1 above, the Project Owner or vendor will follow the guidelines in Chapter 9 of the MAP guide. Project Owners or vendors will upload all applicable documentation directly into HEROS at the time of Conversion Plan submission. The following exceptions to the MAP Guide apply:

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- In lieu of a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) in accordance with ASTM E 1527-13 (or the most recent edition), ³³ except for conversions involving substantial rehabilitation or new construction activities. Awardees may submit a more limited report on potential sources of contamination. Where a Phase I ESA is not required (i.e., projects without any associated substantial rehabilitation³⁴ or new construction), the Awardees can submit a "transaction screen" in accordance with ASTM E 1528-14 (or the most recent edition). A transaction screen will identify potential environmental concerns based on questionnaires, owner/occupant inquiry, site visit, government records inquiry and historical sources inquiry. The transaction screen must be prepared by a qualified professional, in accordance with 24 CFR 50.3(i)(4). As the definition of preparer in ASTM E 1528-14 does not meet this requirement, the professional must have either (a) a science degree and at least one year of practical environmental assessment experience in the field, or (b) three years of practical environmental assessment experience in the field performing site assessments for site contamination. If any potential environmental concerns are identified, an ASTM Phase ESA in accordance with ASTM E 1527-13 (or the most recent edition) must be provided.
- Awardees may submit a Phase I ESA that is up to 5 years old upon submission; however, it must be updated by a Transaction Screen that is up to 1 year old upon submission.

Activities and Carried Out Under 24 CFR Part 50. https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3865/no-potential-to-cause-effects-to-historic-properties-memos/

³³ The Transaction Screen does not meet the standard for "All Appropriate Inquiries" for CERCLA liability protection, as noted in ASTM E 1528-14 Section 4.2.1.

³⁴ Substantial rehabilitation is any rehabilitation that does not meet the conditions in 24 CFR § 50.20(a)(2) for exclusion from review under the National Environmental Policy Act. Applications to RAD for conversion assistance involving substantial rehabilitation or new construction will always require a Phase I ESA in accordance with ASTM E 1527-13.

When HUD conducts the environmental review under Part 50, PHAs (or their vendors) must submit environmental reports and documentation³⁵ for HUD review into the HUD Environmental Review Online System (HEROS), where HUD will complete its review.

HUD staff will review the submissions and may require additional information in order to complete their review. HUD's review will result in a determination, which may stipulate the rejection of the site for this demonstration or may require the completion of mitigation measures. The RAD approval will include any conditions required to carry out any and all mitigation measures as may result from the environmental review. Any conditions or mitigation that cannot be satisfied before Closing will survive Closing.

When a Responsible Entity (RE) completes an environmental review under Part 58, the Conversion Plan must include either Form 7015.16 or a letter with the Responsible Entity's (RE's) finding of exempt activity in order to consider the environmental review to be complete. The RE should use HUD recommended formats to document the environmental review record.³⁶ The PHA should submit an environmental report to the RE, in such form as prescribed by the RE, to enable the RE to complete their analysis. Once the review is completed, the PHA must submit *either*:

• Form HUD-7015.15, Request for Release of Funds (RROF), to their local PIH field staff.³⁷ After the PIH Field Director approves the RROF, the Director sends a completed HUD Form 7015.16 to the PHA, approving the release of funds. The PHA must submit proof of the completed Form 7015.16 (either a copy of the paper form or a screenshot of the completed screen in HEROS) to HUD; or

• If form HUD-7015.15 is not required because the project converts to Exempt under 24 CFR § 58.34(a)(12), the PHA must submit the RE's finding of exempt activity with their RAD Conversion Plan. A finding of exempt activity is a statement of the result of the RE's environmental review and is required even when form HUD-7015.15 is not required. A letter from the RE indicating that the project converts to Exempt under 24 CFR § 58.34(a)(12) is sufficient.

³⁵ PHAs and providers should take care to respond to all applicable laws and authorities and MAP-specific requirements when providing documentation for environmental review. For all maps, please clearly indicate where the project site is located. Information about HEROS and how to register can be found at https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/housing/#heros

³⁶ HUD recommended formats are available at https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3139/part-58-environmental-review-cest-format/ and https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3140/part-58-environmental-assessment-form/.

³⁷ Form HUD-7015.15 is available at https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/2338/hud-form-701515-request-release-funds-certification/.

Additionally, except for properties <u>without any rehabilitation</u>, <u>construction</u>, <u>or</u> <u>demolition</u>, ³⁸ the PHA must submit either a) a statement declaring that the RE examined radon or b) where the RE had not examined radon as part of its review, either a Radon Report consistent with the requirements of the Section 9.5.C of the MAP Guide (or successor provision) for HUD to review or a statement that the property is exempt from submission of a Radon Report per the MAP Guide.

J. Accessibility and Relocation Plan Checklist. All Project Owners shall complete and submit the Accessibility and Relocation Plan Checklist provided by HUD on the RAD Resource Desk. The checklist shall include a certification that the relocation plan complies with all applicable HUD requirements, including the URA as well as applicable accessibility standards, including but not limited to those under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its implementing regulations (24 CFR § 8.23). The cost of accessibility improvements and relocation must be fully funded in the Development Budget. Project Owners are encouraged to use HUD's guidance on relocation planning for persons with disabilities in HUD Handbook 1378.0, Exhibit 3-1 and the RAD Fair Housing and Civil Rights Notice.

K. Proposed Financing

1234 1. For all conversions using financing, the following must be addressed:

- a. Provide a brief discussion of conditions/milestones to be satisfied prior to closing including any known impediments to closing within the timeframe required under the Notice;
- b. Estimated closing date(s) for all proposed financing;
- c. For each proposed loan, equity contribution, or grant, the Conversion Plan must include a recent lender, investor or grant commitment letter, dated no more than 60 days prior to Conversion Plan submission, with key terms identified (including amount, repayment terms, interest rate, amortization, maturity, prepayment restrictions, and pay-in schedule) from all financing provider(s);
- 2. For conversions not using FHA financing or equity sources, the following requirements must be addressed in addition to the requirements set forth in Attachment 4A, Section K.1 above:
 - a. Permanent debt financing with monthly payment amounts not conditioned on the availability of cash flow (i.e., "hard" debt) on Covered Projects must:
 - i. Be at a fixed rate of interest, for a fixed term, fully amortized over no more than 40 years;

³⁸ This is further defined as those transactions that do not anticipate any reasonably foreseeable repairs or other physical activities beyond maintenance, as defined in HUD Notice CPD 2016-02.

- ii. Not have a balloon payment until after the earlier to occur of a) expiration of the term of the HAP Contract or b) 17 years from the date of the permanent debt financing; and iii. Not have a debt service coverage less than the higher of 1.11 or lender
 - iii. Not have a debt service coverage less than the higher of 1.11 or lender requirements.
 - b. All subordinate (or secondary) financing must be disclosed and then approved by the first-mortgage lender;
 - c. The terms for all seller take-back financing must also be disclosed;
 - d. If project revenue or existing reserves will be a source of funding, submit evidence of the current account balances.

1262 L. Development Budget (Sources and Uses of Funds). All Project Owners must submit a
 1263 Development Budget.

- 1. For Conversions using FHA financing or equity sources of financing, submit a copy of the Development Budget included with the FHA Application for Firm Commitment, or submitted to the lender, equity provider (including LIHTC, historic tax credit or Opportunity Zone equity providers), LIHTC allocating agency or comparable funding source. The Project Owner must submit the FHA Application for Firm Commitment review before the RAD conversion is submitted to the Office of Recapitalization. Include a Subsidy Layering Review (SLR) if one has been performed by another agency. If no SLR is provided, HUD will complete an SLR whenever multiple federal sources are proposed.
- 2. For all other Conversions with new financing:

- a. Include a reasonable, balanced, and comprehensive presentation of both construction period and permanent sources and uses of funds, which development budget must be consistent with the development budget submitted to the lender, equity provider (including LIHTC, historic tac credit or Opportunity Zone equity providers), LIHTC allocating agency or comparable funding source.
- b. Identify existing loans or debt that will be paid off at the closing, if applicable.
- c. Include a binding commitment letter with respect to any new source of financing or sources of equity.
- d. Include a construction contingency of 10 percent (HUD may require a higher contingency on a case-by-case basis) if the Project Owner plans to obtain new financing simultaneous with the Conversion.
- e. Demonstrate that any Identity of Interest (IOI) loans or advances will be converted to unsecured Surplus Cash Notes (Project's cash remaining, after debt service, project operational costs and other permitted payments) unless otherwise approved by HUD.
- f. If applicable, identify the initial operating deficit during the construction period and how that deficit will be funded, such as an operating deficit escrow or similar fund.

- g. Include a Subsidy Layering Review (SLR) if one has been performed by another agency. If no SLR is provided, HUD will complete a SLR whenever multiple federal sources are proposed.
- **M. Proposed Development Team.** The Project Owner must identify the proposed legal entity that will own the Covered Project following conversion, the proposed management agent following conversion, and the "principals" of both entities. In addition, the Project Owner shall provide the following:
 - For all conversions with a proposed change in ownership entity, the new Project Owner must provide evidence of successful experience owning and operating HUD or other multifamily housing properties. New Project Owners may be required to demonstrate that the criteria specified in <u>HUD Handbook 4350.1</u>, <u>Chapter 13</u>, <u>Change in Ownership:</u> <u>Transfer of Physical Assets</u> have been met in part or in whole.
 - 2. For PBRA conversions with a proposed change in ownership entity or a material proposed change in ownership of the existing ownership entity, the new Project Owner must submit evidence that all new principals have a Previous Participation Certification in the Active Partners Performance System (APPS) (formerly referred to as Form HUD-2530) and are not be debarred, suspended, or subject to a Limited Denial of Participation.
 - 3. For all conversions with a proposed change in management agent the new agent must provide evidence of successful experience managing and operating HUD or other multifamily housing properties.
 - 4. For all conversions in which Work is proposed, the Project Owner must submit the identity of the general contractor or construction manager or a statement that the Project Owner will be managing construction directly, together with evidence of the general contractor's, construction manager's or Project Owner's recent and successful experience with similar rehabilitation or construction projects.

N. Operating Pro Forma. The Operating Pro-Forma must:

- 1. For all FHA transactions or Conversions using equity sources of financing:
 - a. Provide a copy of the Operating Pro Forma that was submitted with the FHA Application for Firm Commitment or submitted to the lender, equity provider (including LIHTC, historic tax credit or Opportunity Zone equity providers), LIHTC allocating agency or comparable funding source.

2. For all other Conversions:

- a. Provide a 20-year Operating Pro Forma in an owner-provided template,
- b. Include an attached discussion of the extent of energy and water savings that are anticipated as a result of the rehabilitation or construction and the basis for those estimates. The discussion must explain to what extent anticipated savings in utility costs have been included in the pro forma operating expenses.

1330 c. Include columns capturing the average amount for the past three years for all line 1331 items listed in the Pro Forma. Provide explanations and/or supporting documentation for any major deviations of the historical average from the year 1 data entered on the 1332 1333 Pro Forma. 1334 d. Ensure the Pro Forma complies with at least the following feasibility benchmarks unless otherwise approved by HUD: 1335 1336 **Revenue:** 1337 i. Rents shall not exceed the amounts permitted under program rules; 1338 ii. All other sources of income must not exceed the average for the last three 1339 years (other income should not include interest income on the replacement reserve account, which must remain in the reserve and is not available for 1340 1341 other purposes); 1342 Vacancy loss shall be no less than the greater of the average over the past iii. 1343 three years or 3 percent; 1344 Allowance for bad debt should be not less than the greater of the average iv. 1345 over the past three years or 2 percent; 1346 **Expenses:** 1347 i. 1348 1349 ii. 1350 1351

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- All operating expenses shall be reasonable, with decreases justified and generally no less than 85 percent of the average for the last three years;
- The ADRR should be equal to that amount which, if deposited annually, will be sufficient to fund all capital needs, as identified in the CNA, arising during the first 20 years and otherwise not addressed upfront in either the rehabilitation or an initial deposit to the replacement reserve account. The Project Owner should use reasonable estimates for inflation but in doing so the rate for escalating the increase in repair costs should not exceed the rate of interest on reserve deposits by more than 1%. HUD may consider alternative arrangements with respect to the Initial Deposit to the Replacement Reserve (IDRR) if risks to the Covered Project can be adequately mitigated. The ADRR must be sufficient to maintain a minimum balance at the end of each year during the initial 20-year HAP Contract term in accordance with the HUD MAP Guide Appendix 5g, Section VII.C.3D, Minimum Balances; and
- iii. For non-leveraged transactions, the stabilized cash flow should not be less than \$12 per unit monthly. For leveraged transactions, the debt-coverage ratio should not be less than 1.11 over a ten-year period using 2% growth in revenue and 3% growth in expenses.
- O. Supportive Services and Design. Applicants must describe how the proposed supportive services meet the identified needs of the anticipated residents, both initially and as they age, and how the identified supportive services will be provided on a consistent, long-term basis

to support residents. The conversion plan also must discuss how current property design features and/or modifications planned in conjunction with the conversion provide a physical living environment suitable for meeting the needs of elderly residents and facilitating prolonged independent living. Relevant building design features may include, but are not limited to, those focused on fall prevention and visitability, universal design, and electronic communication mechanisms.

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P. Market Study. A market study or net demand analysis may be required if the project is currently experiencing a high vacancy rate or if the Project Owner is requesting a reconfiguration of units. The Project Owner should consult with the Transaction Manager to determine if a market study is necessary before procuring one.

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Q. Certification of Compliance with Site and Neighborhood Standards. The Project Owner (for PBRA) or the PHA (for PBV) shall evaluate and include a certification that the site complies with applicable Site and Neighborhood Standards (see Section 4.4.O.).

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1386 R. Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan. For PBRA conversions, evidence that a completed AFHMP (Form HUD-935.2A) has been submitted for approval to the local 1387 1388 Multifamily Regional Center. Typically, the management agent or the entity responsible for marketing (if different) is responsible for completing and submitting the AFHMP. If a Project 1389 Owner plans to adopt any tenant admission local or residency preferences, the Project Owner 1390 1391 must submit its Tenant Selection Plan along with the AFHMP (see HUD Handbook 4350.3, page 4-4) for review. The AFHMP may not conflict with any special condition arising from 1392 the RAD conversion or provision in a remedial order or agreement. Each Covered Project 1393 1394 must have a HUD-approved AFHMP prior to closing.

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The purpose of affirmative marketing is to ensure that individuals of similar income levels in the same housing market area have a like range of housing choices available to them regardless of their race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or familial status.

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S. Transfer of Assistance. For all conversions involving a transfer of assistance to a new site, the Project Owner must have secured HUD approval of the site (Covered Project). See Section 2.4.I.

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T. **Title Report.** Submit a complete title report including information on whether the
Converting Project is currently subject to any other liens, encroachments, easements or other
encumbrances on the property.