The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) holds interactive engaging and brainstorming opportunities in the form of workshops to gain feedback from a variety of stakeholders on the NSPIRE standards. This document contains a list of questions regarding the version 2.1 standards discussed during the NSPIRE Standards Virtual Workshop – April 20, 2021. The Standards discussed were the Sprinkler Assembly Standard, the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Standard, and the Water Heater Standard.
Breakout Session Topics & Questions

The workshop covered the following topics and questions:

**Breakout Session Topics**

1. The Sprinkler Assembly Standard
   a. Standard: Sprinkler Assembly (Deficiency 1 & 2)
   b. Criteria deficiency 1: Sprinkler head assembly is obstructed by an item, object, or encasement within 18 inches of the sprinkler head.
   c. Criteria deficiency 2: Paint or foreign material on the sprinkler head assembly.

   Sprinkler Assembly Standard link:

2. The Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Standard
   a. Standard: HVAC (Deficiency 1 & 3)
   b. Criteria deficiency 1: Outside temperature is below 68 degrees Fahrenheit and the resident is unable to maintain a minimum temperature of 68 degrees Fahrenheit through a safe heating source.
   c. Criteria deficiency 3: Air conditioning system or device is not operational.

   Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Standard link:

3. The Water Heater Standard
   a. Standard: Water Heater (Deficiency 1 & 3)
   b. Criteria deficiency 1: Temperature pressure relief (TPR) valve is obstructed or relief valve discharge piping is damaged, capped, has an upward slope, or is constructed of unsuitable material.
   c. Criteria deficiency 3: Temperature pressure relief (TPR) valve is obstructed or relief valve discharge piping is damaged, capped, has an upward slope, or is constructed of unsuitable material.

   Water Heater Standard link:

**Questions**

Each breakout session asked their participants the following questions about the standard discussed:

**Front Matter**

1. How could the definition and components be more clearly written?
2. What common materials or components are missing?
3. Are there things that should be added to or deleted from the list of inspectable items?
4. Are these deficiencies HUD should inspect for? Why or why not?
5. What other conditions might make this deficiency more or less of a problem?

Each breakout session asked their participants the following questions about each deficiency discussed:

Criteria
6. How could we improve or clarify the criteria?
7. Are the criteria reasonable? Why or why not?
8. Are there any unintended consequences to consider?
9. Are there any special conditions to consider?
10. Are there differences to consider if this defect is present Inside the Unit or Inside the Building (i.e., shared laundry area)?

Inspection Process
11. What are the ambiguities to the observations?
12. How can the inspection observation process be improved?
13. What other areas should be looked at?
14. What else should inspectors be looking for?
15. What might be missing from the inspection observation process?
16. Do you feel that the request for help is an acceptable request?
17. Is the request for help clear to understand?
18. Should anything be added or removed from the request for help?
19. What tools should be used in the inspection process?
20. How might this action differ if this defect is present in the Unit or Inside the building (outside the Unit)?
21. What other actions would you recommend that an inspector take to inspect for these deficiencies?
22. Are there things that should be added or removed from the list of more information above?
23. Is the information listed clear to understand for application?

Health & Safety Determinations & Timeframes
24. Should this deficiency be considered a health and safety risk? Why or why not?
25. What other health and safety risks should we consider?
26. Are these correction timeframes appropriate? Why or why not?
27. Do the health and safety determinations and correction timeframes make sense?

Rationales
28. Do you believe the rationale supports this deficiency?
29. How can we further clarify the rationale?
30. Are the reasons – or rationales – for inspecting these items logical and easily understood?

**Housing Choice Voucher Program**

31. For the Housing Choice voucher program, why or why not should this deficiency be a pass or a fail?

**Additional Questions**

32. What other recommendations, ideas, or concerns would you like to add about the NSPIRE process or program?

33. Is HUD inspecting the right things that are most critical to housing quality?