



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-5000

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

NOV 10 2009

Dear Executive Director:

HUD greatly appreciates your efforts in assisting Hurricane Katrina and Rita displaced families in your communities through various temporary housing assistance programs such as the Disaster Voucher Program (DVP) and the Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP). To help these families find a permanent housing solution, HUD has been working to notify potentially eligible displaced families about an opportunity to receive voucher assistance through a special appropriation of Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program funding for areas impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita: Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Alabama and Florida. Congress appropriated \$80 million through the Supplemental Appropriations Act for Federal Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 111-32, enacted June 24, 2009). The Act amended Section 1203 of the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act 2009 (Public Law 110-329, 122 Stat 3574). The funding was awarded to PHAs in the disaster impacted areas that agreed to establish a local preference (Katrina/Rita preference) for admission to the HCV program for families displaced by the storms. This preference will provide displaced families who may still need a permanent housing solution an opportunity to apply for the HCV program. Additional information can be found on HUD's website, <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/publications/sec1203.cfm>.

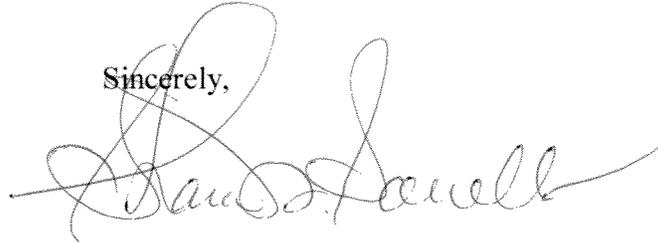
You are receiving this letter because you are currently providing temporary rental assistance to displaced families who may be eligible for the preference. HUD is seeking your help in ensuring that families receiving temporary rental assistance from your agency are aware of this voucher assistance. Please contact these families using the attached letter and list of PHAs that received funding. This family outreach letter briefly explains the HCV program and instructs them on what they need to do to receive a voucher.

Families wishing to return home may contact any PHA on the list provided to apply for the voucher and be placed on its waiting list. HUD is also requesting that you work with any family that wishes to stay in your jurisdiction by contacting the family's initial PHA, as applicable, or coordinate with another PHA, to have a voucher ported to your agency for that family. If the family's pre-disaster PHA has been awarded funding through the special appropriation, HUD will be alerting that PHA that its pre-disaster families are being assisted in your jurisdiction and to coordinate efforts to have the family apply for voucher assistance.

The Katrina/Rita preference for admission to the HCV program is applicable for families displaced by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita and further provides that eligible families who have recently left, or will be leaving, FEMA temporary housing units (THUs) or FEMA funded Alternative Housing Programs such as "Katrina Cottages", must be given preference over all other displaced families. If the PHA has established other local preferences, the Katrina/Rita preference must take precedence over all other local preferences.

If you have any questions please contact Trenessa Sidney in the Housing Voucher Management and Operations Division, Office of Public Housing and Voucher Programs, at 202-402-4303, or Shauna Sorrells, Deputy Director, Disaster Housing Assistance Programs, at 202-402-2769.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Shauna M. Sorrells". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Shauna M. Sorrells
Deputy Director
Disaster Housing Assistance Programs