Subject: Extension of the Disaster Voucher Program (DVP)

1. Purpose. This notice informs DVP administering public housing agencies (PHAs) that the DVP has been extended beyond the previously projected end date of June 30, 2008, for all pre-disaster public housing, project-based and pre-disaster homeless and special needs housing families currently receiving DVP assistance.

2. Background. In HUD Notice PIH 2007-17, the Department extended the DVP end date for all pre-disaster public housing, project-based, homeless, and special needs housing families from September 30, 2007, to at least June 30, 2008. The notice stated that June 30, 2008, was a projected end date and that the length of the extension would be dependent on the availability of funding and the number of families assisted. PHAs were initially alerted of the change in the projected end date of funding availability to September 30, 2008, by email on April 30, 2008.

3. Revised DVP End Date. The Department is projecting that there is sufficient DVP funding remaining to continue DVP assistance for current participants through at least September 30, 2008. This extension applies only to those families already receiving DVP assistance, and does not permit any additional families to be admitted to the program. The length of the extension is dependent on the availability of funding and the number of families that continue to receive DVP assistance.
If funds are available to extend the DVP beyond September 30, 2008, PHAs will be notified by HUD as soon as a new extension date is determined. However, PHAs are encouraged to consider adopting waiting list preferences for the displaced families currently receiving DVP assistance, and to make families aware of any other affordable housing resources available within their community.

Displaced families should also be encouraged to contact the owner of their pre-disaster housing, if they have not done so already, to find out the status of their pre-disaster unit and to explore what opportunities are available for reoccupancy.

4. Disaster Information System (DIS). The “HAP Contract Termination Date” and “Program End Date” in the DIS have been updated to September 30, 2008, for all families currently under a DVP lease. However, if a family’s DVP lease or HAP contract will expire or terminate prior to September 30, 2008 (e.g. a family leaves the DVP prior to the program end date, or a landlord refuses to extend a lease through September 30, 2008), the DVP PHA must update the “HAP Contract Termination Date” field in the family’s current lease record with the actual date of the lease or HAP contract termination.

5. Reinstatement of Tenant Contribution - Reminder. In accordance with Notice PIH 2007-17, as of January 1, 2008, PHAs were required to recalculate housing assistance payments (HAP) for all DVP families in accordance with regular voucher program rules. The notice required PHAs to conduct an examination of family income in order to calculate the family’s total tenant payment (TTP) and the family share of rent based on normally applicable voucher program requirements. PHAs that have not completed TTP and HAP calculations for all DVP families must do so as soon as possible, and also must notify families and owners of the changes, in accordance with PHA policy. HUD is reviewing DVP data to identify PHAs that have not met these requirements. If a PHA did not reinstate TTP in accordance with program requirements, the PHA must cover, out of non-HAP funds, the amount that otherwise would have been paid by the family.

6. Program Close-out. Upon conclusion of the DVP, HUD will reconcile reported DVP cost and leasing information from the DIS and Voucher Management System (VMS) databases. Maximum funding and leasing levels will be identified based on information contained in the DIS. These levels will then be compared to the cost and leasing information reported in VMS. The eligible reimbursement amount for each PHA will be the lesser of the costs reported in VMS or the maximum funding amount (as determined by the DIS). If the DVP eligible reimbursement amount exceeds the payments received, a final payment will be processed. If the payments provided by HUD exceed the eligible reimbursement amount, the PHA will remit the overpayment to HUD. This reconciliation process supersedes the DVP close-out requirements identified in Section 4t of HUD Notice PIH 2006-12.

7. Information Contact. Inquiries about this notice should be directed to the staff in the Housing Voucher Management and Operations Division, Office of Public Housing and Voucher Programs, at (202) 708-0477.
8. Paperwork Reduction Act Statement. The information collection requirements contained in this notice have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C 3501-3520), and assigned OMB control number 2577-0169. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection displays a currently valid OMB control number.

/s/
Paula O. Blunt, General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing