Subject: Housing Choice Voucher Program – Conversion of Certificate Assistance to Voucher Assistance

1. PURPOSE. This Notice is to remind public housing agencies (PHAs) administering the certificate program that all certificate tenancies should be converted to voucher tenancies under the housing choice voucher program by September 30, 2001. Technically, PHAs should complete the conversions by September 1, 2001, because most PHA reexaminations are effective on the first of the month.

2. APPLICABILITY. This notice is applicable to all PHAs that are still administering the certificate program.

3. BACKGROUND. Section 982.502 of the housing choice voucher program regulation requires PHAs to terminate program assistance under any outstanding housing assistance payments (HAP) contract for a regular tenancy under the certificate program (entered prior to the merger date – October 1, 1999) at the effective date of the second regular reexamination of family income and composition on or after the merger date. The regulation also states that PHAs must give at least 120 days written notice of such termination to the family and the owner, and the PHA must offer the family the opportunity for continued tenant-based assistance under the housing choice voucher program unless there were regulatory grounds for the PHA to deny the family the opportunity for continued assistance.

4. FURTHER INFORMATION. Any questions regarding this Notice should be addressed to the Real Estate and Housing Performance Division in the Office of Public and Assisted Housing Delivery at (202-708-0477).

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