



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**  
**Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-0050

<b>Program Policy Guidance OSHC 2012-07</b>
<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2012
<b>Subject:</b> Use of Social Media
<b>Status:</b> Current
<b>Applicability:</b> All OSHC Regional Planning and Community Challenge Grantees
<b>Related Guidance:</b> None
<b>Comments:</b>

Dear Sustainable Communities Regional or Community Challenge Grantee:

The Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities (OSHC) previously required grantees using social media tools (such as Facebook or Twitter) to submit all posts to their Government Technical Representative (GTR) for approval two business days before releasing them publicly. OSHC acknowledges that social media is most useful as a real-time communication tool, and can be used to broaden participation in the planning process. In consultation with the HUD Office of Public Affairs, OSHC has revised its policy regarding social media.

Beginning immediately, grantees may use social media tools without prior GTR approval. However, grantees must alert their GTR that they are using these tools immediately after posting. The GTR will inform the grantee if there is a concern. Each GTR also has discretion to require prior review of social media posts.

This guidance does not impact prior review requirements for press releases, publications, or other documents. Such documents continue to require GTR approval before release to the public.