

added Section 22) to housing operated by an IHA.

FIC provides funding to HAs to access educational, housing, or other social service programs to assist public and Indian housing residents toward self-sufficiency. The Department envisions that FIC will complement other self-sufficiency activities, such as the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program and the requirements of Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u). As an incentive to become self-sufficient, the earnings of public or Indian Housing families participating in the FIC shall not be treated as income for the purposes of any other program or provision of State or Federal law, including rent assistance (see Section I.F(5) of this NOFA). The FIC is administered by the Department's Office of Community Relations and Involvement (OCRI) in the Office of Public and Indian Housing, with assistance from a network of Community Relations Involvement Specialists (CRIs) in HUD's Field Offices.

D. Definitions

Eligible residents means participating residents of a participating HA. If the HA is combining FIC with the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program, the term also means Public Housing FSS and Section 8 families participating in the FSS program.

Secretary means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Service coordinator means, for purposes of this NOFA, any person who is responsible for:

- (1) Determining the eligibility of families to be served by the FIC;
- (2) Assessing training and service needs of eligible residents;
- (3) Working with service providers to coordinate the provision of services on a HA-wide or less than HA-wide basis, and to tailor the services to the needs and characteristics of eligible residents;
- (4) Mobilizing public and private resources to ensure that the supportive services identified can be funded over the 5-year period, at least, following the initial receipt of funding under this NOFA;
- (5) Monitoring and evaluating the delivery, impact, and effectiveness of any supportive service funded with capital or operating assistance under this program;
- (6) Coordinating the development and implementation of the FIC program with other self-sufficiency programs and other education and employment programs; or
- (7) Performing other duties and functions that are appropriate for

providing eligible residents with better access to educational and employment opportunities.

Supportive services means new or significantly expanded services essential to providing families in public and Indian housing with better access to educational and employment opportunities to achieve self-sufficiency and independence. (HAs applying for funds to provide supportive services must demonstrate that the services will be provided at a higher level than currently provided). Supportive services may include:

- (1) Child care, of a type that provides sufficient hours of operation and serves appropriate ages as needed to facilitate parental access to education and job opportunities;
- (2) Employment training and counseling (e.g., job training, preparation and counseling, job development and placement, and follow-up assistance after job placement);
- (3) Computer skills training;
- (4) Entrepreneurship training;
- (5) Education (e.g., remedial education, literacy training, completion of secondary or post-secondary education, and assistance in the attainment of certificates of high school equivalency);
- (6) Transportation, as necessary to enable any participating family member to receive available services or to commute to his or her place of employment;
- (7) Personal welfare (e.g., substance/alcohol abuse treatment and counseling, self-development counseling, etc.);
- (8) Supportive Health Care Services (e.g., outreach and referral services); and
- (9) Any other services and resources, including case management, that are determined to be appropriate in assisting eligible residents.

Vacant unit means a dwelling unit that is not under an effective lease to an eligible family. An effective lease is a lease under which an eligible family has a right to possession of the unit and is being charged rent, even if the amount of any utility allowance equals or exceeds the amount of a total tenant payment that is based on income and, as a result, the amount paid by the family to the HA is zero.

E. Eligibility

(1) *Eligible Applicants.* Funding for this program is limited to public and Indian housing authorities. Housing Authorities with Section 8 oversight (only) are *not* eligible to apply for funds under this NOFA. Facilities assisted shall be on or near the premises of public or Indian housing. Two or more

HAs may apply jointly if they demonstrate that it is feasible to run the program together; however, only *one* applicant may serve as the lead applicant and the maximum grant per application under this NOFA is \$1,000,000.

Although the program is intended to benefit public and Indian housing residents, an applicant that is otherwise eligible and is combining FIC activities with FSS activities may use FIC funds to serve both HA residents and section 8 families who are participating in the FSS Program. Some HAs will combine their FIC and FSS programs. Section 8 FSS Program participants are eligible to participate in the FIC program when it is combined with FSS, but FIC income exclusions that are provided to public and Indian housing residents participating in employment training and supportive service programs do not apply to Section 8 FSS families. If a family under FSS is currently putting their funds in an escrow account, it cannot also be eligible for the FIC income exclusion. For all other families using FIC services, costs incurred are to be borne by other resources.

To be eligible under this NOFA, a HA cannot have serious unaddressed, outstanding Inspector General audit findings or fair housing and equal opportunity monitoring review findings or Field Office management review findings. In addition, the HA must be in compliance with civil rights laws and equal opportunity requirements. A HA will be considered to be in compliance if:

- (a) As a result of formal administrative proceedings, there are no outstanding findings of noncompliance with civil rights laws unless the HA is operating in compliance with a HUD-approved compliance agreement designed to correct the area(s) of noncompliance;
- (b) There is no adjudication of a civil rights violation in a civil action brought against it by a private individual, unless the HA demonstrates that it is operating in compliance with a court order, or implementing a HUD-approved resident selection and assignment plan or compliance agreement, designed to correct the area(s) of noncompliance;
- (c) There is no deferral of Federal funding based upon civil rights violations;
- (d) HUD has not deferred application processing by HUD under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Attorney General's Guidelines (28 CFR 50.3) and HUD's Title VI regulations (24 CFR 1.8) and procedures (HUD Handbook 8040.1) [PHAs only] or under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and HUD