

Summary and Excerpts pertaining and relevant to:

Yuma County HOME Consortium and City of Yuma

HOME-ARP

Notice of Funding Availability

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Notice: CPD-21-10

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PURPOSE

This Notice establishes requirements for funds appropriated under section 3205 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2) (“ARP”) for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) to provide homelessness assistance and supportive services.

BACKGROUND

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed ARP into law, which provides over \$1.9 trillion in relief to address the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy, public health, State and local governments, individuals, and businesses.

To address the need for homelessness assistance and supportive services, Congress appropriated \$5 billion in ARP funds to be administered through HOME to perform four activities that must primarily benefit qualifying individuals and families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or in other vulnerable populations. These activities include: (1) development and support of affordable housing, (2) tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA), (3) provision of supportive services; and (4) acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter units. The program described in this notice for the use of the \$5 billion in ARP funds is the HOME-American Rescue Plan or “HOME-ARP.”

ARP defines qualifying individuals or families as those that are (1) homeless, as defined in section 103(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 11302(a)) (“McKinney-Vento”); (2) at risk of homelessness, as defined in section 401 of McKinney-Vento; (3) fleeing, or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; (4) part of other populations where providing supportive services or assistance would prevent a family’s homelessness or would serve those with the greatest risk of housing instability; or (5) veterans and families that include a veteran family member that meet the criteria in one of (1)-(4) above.

ARP authorized HUD to allocate HOME-ARP funds to states, units of general local government, insular areas, and consortia of units of general local government that qualified for an allocation of HOME funds in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, pursuant to section 217 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended (42 U.S.C. 12701 et seq.) (“NAHA”). On April 8, 2021, HUD allocated HOME-ARP funds to 651 grantees using the HOME formula established at 24 CFR 92.50 and 92.60.

ESTABLISHMENT OF HOME-ARP REQUIREMENTS

ARP provides funds for homelessness and supportive services assistance under the HOME statute of Title II of NAHA (42 U.S.C. 12721 et seq.) and authorizes the Secretary of HUD to waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of NAHA or regulation for the administration of the HOME-ARP program, except

requirements related to fair housing, civil rights, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment, upon a finding that the waiver 3 or alternative requirement is necessary to expedite or facilitate the use of HOME-ARP funds. Pursuant to ARP, the per-unit cost limits (42 U.S.C. 12742(e)), commitment requirements (42 U.S.C. 12748(g)), matching requirements (42 U.S.C. 12750), and set-aside for housing developed, sponsored, or owned by community housing development organizations (CHDOs) (42 U.S.C. 12771) in NAHA do not apply to HOME-ARP funds.

This Notice describes the requirements applicable to a participating jurisdiction's (PJ's) use of HOME-ARP funds. Consolidated plan requirements for HOME are in title I of NAHA and 24 CFR part 91. HOME program regulations are in 24 CFR part 92. Except as described in ARP and this Notice, HOME statutory and regulatory provisions apply to a PJ's use of HOME-ARP funds. Sections I-IX of this Notice describe the HOME-ARP requirements imposed on a PJ for the use of HOME-ARP funds to assist the qualifying populations through HOME-ARP projects or activities. The Appendix describes the waivers and alternative requirements imposed on PJs for the use of HOME-ARP funds and is included in any reference to "this Notice." Specific citations in the Notice shall mean the statute or regulation cited, as may be revised by the Appendix to this Notice. PJs and insular areas must comply with all applicable statutory, regulatory, and alternative requirements, as described in this Notice, including the Appendix.

QUALIFYING POPULATIONS

ARP requires that funds be used to primarily benefit individuals and families in the following specified "qualifying populations." Any individual or family who meets the criteria for these populations is eligible to receive assistance or services funded through HOME-ARP without meeting additional criteria (e.g., additional income criteria). All income calculations to meet income criteria of a qualifying population or required for income determinations in HOME-ARP eligible activities must use the annual income definition in 24 CFR 5.609 in accordance with the requirements of 24 CFR 92.203(a)(1).

A. Qualifying Populations

1. Homeless, as defined in 24 CFR 91.5 Homeless (1), (2), or (3):

(1) An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

(i) An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;

(ii) An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by

charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals); or

(iii) An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution;

(2) An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:

(i) The primary nighttime residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;

(ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; and

(iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks needed to obtain other permanent housing;

(3) Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:

(i) Are defined as homeless under section 387 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a), section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832), section 41403 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2), section 330(h) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(h)), section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012), section 17(b) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(b)), or section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a);

(ii) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing at any time during the 60 days immediately preceding the date of application for homeless assistance;

(iii) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during the 60-day period immediately preceding the date of applying for homeless assistance; and

(iv) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities, chronic physical health or mental health conditions, substance addiction, histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse (including neglect), the presence of a child or youth with a disability, or two or more barriers to employment, which include the lack of a high school degree or General Education Development (GED), illiteracy, low English proficiency, a history of incarceration or detention for criminal activity, and a history of unstable employment;

2. At risk of Homelessness, as defined in 24 CFR 91.5 *At risk of homelessness*:

(1) An individual or family who:

(i) Has an annual income below 30 percent of median family income for the area, as determined by HUD;

(ii) Does not have sufficient resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith based or other social networks, immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or another place described in paragraph (1) of the “Homeless” definition in this section; and

(iii) Meets one of the following conditions:

(A) Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for homelessness prevention assistance;

(B) Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship;

(C) Has been notified in writing that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance;

(D) Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost of the hotel or motel stay is not paid by charitable organizations or by federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals;

(E) Lives in a single-room occupancy or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than two persons or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than 1.5 people per room, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau;

(F) Is exiting a publicly funded institution, or system of care (such as a health-care facility, a mental health facility, foster care or other youth facility, or correction program or institution); or

(G) Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness, as identified in the recipient's approved consolidated plan;

(2) A child or youth who does not qualify as “homeless” under this section, but qualifies as “homeless” under section 387(3) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a(3)), section 637(11) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832(11)), section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2(6)), section 330(h)(5)(A) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(h)(5)(A)), section 3(l) of

the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(l)), or section 17(b)(15) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(b)(15)); or

(3) A child or youth who does not qualify as “homeless” under this section but qualifies as “homeless” under section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)), and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of that child or youth if living with her or him.

3. Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking, as defined by HUD.

For HOME-ARP, this population includes any individual or family who is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking. This population includes cases where an individual or family reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence due to dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual’s or family’s primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return or remain within the same dwelling unit. In the case of sexual assault, this also includes cases where an individual reasonably believes there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the individual remains within the same dwelling unit that the individual is currently occupying, or the sexual assault occurred on the premises during the 90-day period preceding the date of the request for transfer.

Domestic violence, which is defined in 24 CFR 5.2003 includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by:

- 1) A current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim (the term “spouse or intimate partner of the victim” includes a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim, as determined by the length of the relationship, the type of the relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship);
- 2) A person with whom the victim shares a child in common;
- 3) A person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;
- 4) A person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving HOME-ARP funds; or
- 5) Any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.

Dating violence which is defined in 24 CFR 5.2003 means violence committed by a person:

- 1) Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and
- 2) Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
 - a. The length of the relationship;
 - b. The type of relationship; and
 - c. The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

Sexual assault which is defined in 24 CFR 5.2003 means any nonconsensual sexual act proscribed by Federal, Tribal, or State law, including when the victim lacks capacity to consent.

Stalking which is defined in 24 CFR 5.2003 means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to:

- 1) Fear for the person's individual safety or the safety of others; or
- 2) Suffer substantial emotional distress.

Human Trafficking includes both sex and labor trafficking, as outlined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), as amended (22 U.S.C. 7102). These are defined as:

- 1) Sex trafficking means the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or
- 2) Labor trafficking means the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

4. Other Populations where providing supportive services or assistance under section 212(a) of NAHA (42 U.S.C. 12742(a)) would prevent the family's homelessness or would serve those with the greatest risk of housing instability. HUD defines these populations as individuals and households who do not qualify under any of the populations above but meet one of the following criteria:

(1) Other Families Requiring Services or Housing Assistance to Prevent Homelessness is defined as households (i.e., individuals and families) who have previously been qualified as “homeless” as defined in 24 CFR 91.5, are currently housed due to temporary or emergency assistance, including financial assistance, services, temporary rental assistance or some type of other assistance to allow the household to be housed, and who need additional housing assistance or supportive services to avoid a return to homelessness.

(2) At Greatest Risk of Housing Instability is defined as household who meets either paragraph (i) or (ii) below:

(i) has annual income that is less than or equal to 30% of the area median income, as determined by HUD and is experiencing severe cost burden (i.e., is paying more than 50% of monthly household income toward housing costs);

(ii) has annual income that is less than or equal to 50% of the area median income, as determined by HUD, AND meets one of the following conditions from paragraph (iii) of the “At risk of homelessness” definition established at 24 CFR 91.5:

(A) Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for homelessness prevention assistance;

(B) Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship;

(C) Has been notified in writing that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance;

(D) Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost of the hotel or motel stay is not paid by charitable organizations or by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals;

(E) Lives in a single-room occupancy or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than two persons or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than 1.5 persons reside per room, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau;

(F) Is exiting a publicly funded institution, or system of care (such as a health-care facility, a mental health facility, foster care or other youth facility, or correction program or institution); or

(G) Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness, as identified in the recipient's approved consolidated plan

Veterans and Families that include a Veteran Family Member that meet the criteria for one of the qualifying populations described above are eligible to receive HOME-ARP assistance.

B. Use of Funds to Benefit Qualifying Populations (*rental development only*)

ARP states that funds must be used to primarily benefit the qualifying populations through the four eligible activities: (1) TBRA, (2) development and support of affordable housing, (3) provision of supportive services; and (4) acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter (NCS) units. Recognizing the urgent needs of individuals and families in qualifying populations, HUD is requiring that:

- *Section omitted*
- Not less than 70 percent of affordable rental housing units acquired, rehabilitated, or constructed with HOME-ARP funds by a PJ must be occupied by households in the qualifying populations. Units that are not restricted to occupancy by qualifying populations are subject to income targeting and rent requirements established under the 9 HOME-ARP Rental Program rules and are only permitted in projects with rental units restricted for occupancy by qualifying populations.

HUD recognizes that, because many households in the qualifying populations are unable to pay rents sufficient to cover unit operating costs, PJs and project owners should attempt to obtain Federal or state project-based rental subsidies, if available. Since project-based rental subsidies can be difficult to secure, additional flexibility may be necessary to structure and underwrite projects so that they remain both affordable and financially viable. HUD is providing PJs with additional flexibilities in Section VI.B. to structure and underwrite HOME-ARP rental projects so they remain financially viable during the minimum compliance period. One of these flexibilities is permitting up to 30 percent of HOME-ARP rental housing units funded by a PJ to be occupied by low-income households. PJs are encouraged to use this flexibility only when it is required to facilitate development of a HOME-ARP rental project. PJs must determine and document that households meet the definition of a qualifying population or, for the portion of HOME-ARP rental units not restricted to these populations, that households are low-income.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

HOME-ARP Rental Housing

HOME-ARP funds may be used to acquire, rehabilitate, or construct affordable rental housing primarily for occupancy by households of individuals and families that meet the

definition of one or more of the qualifying populations described in Section IV.A of this Notice (“qualifying households”). Unlike the regular HOME Program, which targets HOME-assisted rental units based on tenant income, 70 percent of all HOME-ARP units will admit households based only upon their status as qualifying households. This complicates the underwriting and operation of projects that include HOME-ARP units. As a result, the requirements for HOME-ARP rental housing provide significant flexibilities to enable HOME-ARP rental projects to remain 21 financially viable and affordable for the qualifying populations throughout the minimum compliance period.

Eligible HOME-ARP rental housing includes “housing” as defined at 24 CFR 92.2, including but not limited to manufactured housing, single room occupancy (SRO) units, and permanent supportive housing. Emergency shelters, hotels, and motels (including those currently operating as non-congregate shelter), facilities such as nursing homes, residential treatment facilities, correctional facilities, halfway houses, and housing for students or dormitories do not constitute housing in the HOME-ARP program. However, HOME-ARP funds may be used to acquire and rehabilitate such structures into HOME-ARP rental housing.

Developing financially feasible rental housing for qualifying households is challenging in the absence of project-based rental assistance. Most HOME-assisted rental projects rely on tenant rents to cover all or a portion of the debt service and project operating costs. Most HOME-ARP qualifying households will be unable to pay a rent that covers allocated debt service or operating costs, requiring PJs to use other techniques to determine that HOME-ARP units are affordable and that projects containing HOME-ARP units are sustainable throughout the minimum compliance period. PJs are encouraged to work with local PHAs and other state or local agencies to obtain project-based rental assistance for units funded with HOME-ARP. In the absence of such project-based rental assistance, the HOME-ARP units for qualifying households may require substantial capital investment through HOME-ARP and other Federal, state, local, or private sources to eliminate debt service on the units. ARP suspended the maximum per-unit subsidy limit for HOME-ARP units, enabling HOME-ARP funds to pay the entire cost to acquire, rehabilitate and/or construct the HOME-ARP rental units, eliminating the need for the HOME-ARP units to support debt. In mixed-income developments, revenue from market rate or higher income-restricted units may also provide an internal subsidy to cover a portion of the operating costs of HOME-ARP units.

To address these challenges and maintain affordability, HUD is using its HOME-ARP statutory authority to:

- Establish alternative rent requirements to 24 CFR 92.252(b) and extend an owner’s ability to charge the maximum rent permissible under a rental assistance program (to units occupied by recipients of tenant-based rental assistance (e.g., Housing Choice Vouchers, HOME TBRA, HOME-ARP TBRA).

- Establish a minimum compliance period of 15 years for all HOME-ARP rental units irrespective of the amount of subsidy per unit or whether the units are acquired, rehabilitated, and/or newly constructed.

- *Section omitted*

- Allow not more than 30 percent of the total number of rental units assisted with HOME-ARP funds by the PJ to be restricted to households that are low-income as defined in 24 CFR 92.2 (“low-income households”). These units may only be located in projects containing HOME-ARP units restricted for qualifying households. The HOME-ARP rental units occupied by low-income households must operate under the regulations applicable to HOME rental units at 24 CFR 92.252 (i.e., be occupied by low-income 22 households and bearing a rent not greater than the lesser of a. the Fair Market Rent for existing housing for comparable units in the area, as established by HUD, or b. a rent equal to 30 percent of the adjusted income of a family with annual income at 65 percent of median income for the area, as determined by HUD, with adjustments for the number of bedrooms in the unit).

1. Targeting and Occupancy Requirements:

ARP requires HOME-ARP activities to primarily benefit households in the qualifying populations. To improve the feasibility and maintain the long-term viability of projects with HOME-ARP rental units for qualifying households, a PJ may invest HOME-ARP funds in units that are not restricted for occupancy solely for qualifying populations as described in this section. Specifically, participating jurisdictions must comply with the following requirements:

a. Targeting: HOME-ARP funds can only be invested in units restricted for qualifying households or low-income households as follows:

- i. Not less than 70 percent of the total number of rental units assisted with HOME-ARP funds by the PJ must be restricted for occupancy by households that are qualifying households at the time of the household’s initial occupancy; and,
- ii. Not more than 30 percent of the total number of rental units assisted with HOME-ARP funds by the PJ may be restricted to low-income households. These rental units do not have to be restricted for occupancy by qualifying households, however rental units restricted to low-income households are only permitted in projects that include HOME-ARP units for qualifying households.

b. Occupancy Requirements:

i. **Qualifying Households.** Units restricted for occupancy by qualifying households must be occupied by households that meet the definition of a qualifying population at the time of admission to the HOME-ARP unit. A qualifying household after admission retains its eligibility to occupy a HOME-ARP rental unit restricted for qualifying populations, irrespective of the qualifying household's changes in income or whether the household continues to meet the definition of a qualifying population. As such, a unit restricted for a qualifying household remains in compliance with the HOME-ARP unit restriction as long as the unit is occupied by a qualifying household that met the definition of a qualifying population at the time of admission.

ii. **Low-Income Households.** At initial occupancy, units restricted for low-income households must be occupied by households that meet the definition of low-income in 24 CFR 92.2. If a tenant's income increases above the applicable low-income limit during the compliance period, the unit will be considered temporarily out of compliance. Noncompliance requires the PJ to take action in accordance with the rent and unit mix requirements in Sections VI.B.15 and VI.B.17 of this Notice, respectively.

2. Eligible Activities:

A PJ may use HOME-ARP funds for acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation, including reconstruction as defined in 24 CFR 92.2, of affordable rental housing for qualifying and low-income households. Acquisition of vacant land or demolition must be undertaken only with respect to a particular housing project intended to provide HOME-ARP rental housing within the timeframes provided in Section VI.B. of this Notice. A HOME-ARP rental project must meet the definition of project in 24 CFR 92.2.

HOME-ARP funds may be used to assist one or more units in a project. Only the eligible development costs of the HOME-ARP units may be charged to the HOME-ARP program. Cost allocation in accordance with 24 CFR 92.205(d)(1) is required if the assisted and nonassisted units are not comparable. After project completion, the number of HOME-ARP units in a project cannot be reduced. During the HOME-ARP minimum compliance period and prior to the end of the HOME-ARP budget period, a PJ may invest additional HOME-ARP funds to provide operating cost assistance but is prohibited from investing additional HOME-ARP funds for capital costs except within the 12 months after project completion. A qualifying household admitted to a HOME-ARP rental unit may still receive HOME-ARP supportive services or TBRA in accordance with the requirements in this Notice.

3. Forms of Assistance:

The PJ may invest HOME-ARP funds in accordance with the eligible forms of assistance described in 24 CFR 92.205(b). Each PJ has the right to establish the terms of assistance, subject to the HOME-ARP requirements described in this Notice.

4. Minimum Amount of Assistance:

The minimum amount of HOME-ARP funds that must be invested in a rental housing project is \$1,000 times the number of HOME-ARP-assisted units in the project as established in 24 CFR 92.205(c).

5. Eligible Costs:

HOME-ARP funds may be used to pay for up to 100% of the following eligible costs associated with the acquisition, development, and operation of HOME-ARP rental units:

- a. Development hard costs – defined in 24 CFR 92.206(a).
- b. *Section Omitted.*
- c. Acquisition – the costs of acquiring improved or unimproved real property.
- d. Related soft costs – defined in 24 CFR 92.206(d).
- e. Relocation costs – as defined in 24 CFR 92.206(f), 24 CFR 92.353, and described in this Notice.
- f. Costs relating to payment of loans – If the HOME-ARP funds are not used to directly pay a cost specified in this HOME-ARP rental housing section, but are used to pay off a construction loan, bridge financing loan, or guaranteed loan, the payment of principal and interest for such loan is an eligible cost only if: (1) the loan was used for eligible costs specified in this HOME-ARP rental housing section, and (2) the HOME-ARP funds are part of the original financing for the project and the project meets the requirements of this Notice.
- g. *Section Omitted.*

6. Prohibited Activities and Fees:

HOME-ARP may not be used for any of the prohibited activities, costs or fees in 24 CFR 92.214, as revised by the Appendix to this Notice.

7. HOME-ARP Funds and Public Housing:

HOME-ARP funds must be used in accordance with the requirements in 24 CFR 92.213(a)-(c).

8. Commitment:

The affordable housing requirements in the definition of Commitment in 24 CFR 92.2, including the provisions in (2) Commit to a specific local project, apply to rental housing units assisted with HOME-ARP funds. This includes but is not limited to the requirements that the PJ and project owner have an executed legally binding written agreement under which HOME-ARP assistance will be provided to the owner for an identifiable project for which all necessary financing has been secured, a budget and schedule have been established, and underwriting has been completed and under which construction is scheduled to start within 12 months of the agreement date.

9. Maximum Per-Unit Subsidy and Limitations on Costs:

The maximum per-unit subsidy established in NAHA does not apply to HOME-ARP units. PJs may pay up to 100 percent of the eligible and reasonable HOME-ARP costs allocated to a HOME-ARP unit, including operating cost assistance associated with units restricted for occupancy by qualifying households. All costs paid by HOME-ARP funds must comply with the requirements of this Notice and the Cost Principles at 2 CFR part 200, subpart E of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, as amended.

10. Underwriting, Subsidy Layering:

Before the PJ can commit HOME-ARP funds to a project, it must evaluate the project to determine the amount of HOME-ARP capital subsidy and operating cost assistance necessary to provide quality affordable housing that meets the requirements of this Notice and is financially viable throughout the minimum 15-year HOME-ARP compliance period. The PJ must evaluate the project in accordance with underwriting and subsidy layering guidelines it has developed for HOME-ARP projects.

The PJ's project underwriting must include an in-depth review of underlying project assumptions, development sources and uses, and projected operating income and expenses, and the project's long-term financial viability to determine the project's need for HOME-ARP assistance while preventing over-subsidization of the project. HUD anticipates that project developers will rely on Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) financing, HOME funds, Housing Trust Fund grants, project-based vouchers, project-based rental assistance, operating cost reserves, state or local sources, or a combination of these and other resources to create a feasible HOME-ARP project and maintain compliance with HOME-ARP requirements. HOME-ARP units for qualifying households that do not receive a commitment of project-based vouchers or project-based rental assistance may require both deep capital subsidy and operating cost assistance to remain financially sustainable for the minimum 15-year HOME-ARP compliance period. However, the PJ, through its underwriting, must also determine that the HOME-ARP capital and operating subsidies do not result in over-subsidization of the project.

To secure HOME-ARP rental units for qualifying households, HOME-ARP funds may be invested in different types of projects, including permanent supportive housing, mixed

finance affordable housing, and market-rate projects. While the viability of the HOME-ARP units is the PJ's primary concern, it must not limit its underwriting analysis to the HOME-ARP units. The long-term viability of HOME-ARP units is contingent upon the financial health of the entire project. PJs must therefore take a holistic approach to underwriting that examines the overall feasibility of the entire project to determine that the property will be financially sustainable for the duration of the 15-year HOME-ARP compliance period.

For projects that will receive operating cost assistance through a capitalized operating cost assistance reserve or on-going operating cost assistance for a specific period, the on-going operating cost assistance or operating cost assistance reserve must be included in the underwriting. Unless placed into an operating cost assistance reserve, operating cost assistance committed to a project for a specific period cannot be provided beyond the budget period, as described in Section VIII.C.4. of this Notice. HOME-ARP units that have commitments for a form of project-based rental assistance must be underwritten with the projected rental assistance and not with operating cost assistance. An operating cost assistance reserve must be sized based on an analysis of projected operating deficits remaining after the expected payments toward rent by qualifying households are applied to the HOME-ARP unit's share of operating costs. While a PJ may offer on-going project operating cost assistance instead of providing an operating cost assistance reserve, it may find this approach makes it more difficult to develop HOME-ARP units.

- a. *Underwriting and Subsidy Layering Guidelines*: PJs must develop standardized underwriting guidelines for HOME-ARP rental projects. These guidelines must provide for underwriting that accommodates and is appropriate for different types of projects. For example, a standard market analysis does not provide the necessary data for a project where 100% of the units are restricted as permanent supportive housing for qualifying populations. In contrast, if a mixed-income property relies on rental income from market-rate units to subsidize the operating costs of permanent supportive housing units for which little or no tenant-paid rental income is projected, then a market study confirming that the proposed market rents are achievable is needed to demonstrate the long-term financial viability of the project.

PJs with existing HOME rental underwriting standards may use these standards as the foundation for their HOME-ARP underwriting guidelines, but all PJs are required to develop and implement standardized underwriting guidelines for HOME-ARP that require the following:

- i. An examination of the sources and uses of funds for the project and a determination that costs are necessary and reasonable. In examining a project's proposed sources and uses, a PJ must determine the amount of HOME-ARP development subsidy required to fill the gap between other committed funding sources and the cost to develop the project.

A developer fee is a permitted development cost under the HOME-ARP program, but the PJ must review the fee and determine that it is reasonable. A PJ may set limits on the developer fee and other fees (e.g., asset management fee, property management fee) to be paid by HOME-ARP funds that differ from other funding sources (e.g., LIHTC underwriting standards).

ii. An assessment of the current market demand for the proposed project.

(1) For HOME-ARP units for qualifying households, a market assessment is not required. Rather, the PJ can demonstrate that there is unmet need among qualifying populations for the type of housing proposed through their gap analysis, CoC data, public housing and affordable housing waiting lists, point-in-time surveys, housing inventory count, or other relevant data on the need for permanent housing for the qualifying populations.

(2) For projects containing units restricted for occupancy by low-income households or market-rate households, the PJ must conduct a market assessment in accordance with 24 CFR 92.250(b)(2). A third-party market assessment completed by the developer or another funder meets this requirement, but the PJ must review the assessment and provide a written, dated acknowledgement that it accepts the assessment's findings and conclusions. The market assessment and the PJ's written, dated acknowledgement must be retained for recordkeeping purposes.

iii. Review of and determination that the developer's experience and financial capacity are satisfactory based on the size and complexity of the project. When assessing the developer, the PJ must review, at minimum, prior experience with similar projects and the current capacity to develop the proposed project. When determining whether the developer has the financial capacity to undertake the project, the PJ should examine financial statements and audits to determine the developer's net worth, portfolio risk, pre-development funding, and liquidity.

iv. Firm written financial commitments for the project.

v. A careful review of the project's operating budget, including the basis for assumptions, projections of a project's net operating income, and reasonably expected changes in revenue and expenses during the minimum compliance period, to determine if any HOME-ARP-funded operating cost assistance is necessary and if applicable, an operating cost assistance reserve is sized appropriately. Operating income of the project must be sufficient to cover operating expenses throughout the minimum compliance period. For HOME-ARP units for qualifying households, the proforma or budget projections should include any anticipated ongoing operating cost assistance or draws from an operating

cost assistance reserve, if applicable, that will offset operating deficits associated with those units to demonstrate sufficient operating support.

(1) If project-based vouchers or project-based rental assistance is or will be awarded, this analysis must include that rental assistance revenue because operating cost assistance cannot be used for units for qualifying households with project-based vouchers or project-based rental assistance.

(2) A PJ's underwriting standards may permit projects to generate reasonable net operating income throughout the minimum compliance period. However, HOME-ARP operating cost assistance may only be used to offset operating deficits, in accordance with the requirements of this Notice. Net operating income resulting from HOME-ARP operating cost assistance is not permitted and must be prohibited in the written agreement between the participating jurisdiction and the owner.

vi. An assessment of the project's overall viability through the minimum compliance period based on the households (i.e., qualifying households, low-income households, market-rate households) it will serve.

11. Property Standards:

HOME-ARP rental units must comply with all property standards applicable to rental projects required in 24 CFR 92.251 paragraphs (a) new construction, (b) rehabilitation projects, (c)(1) and (2) acquisition of standard housing, (e) manufactured housing, and (f) on-going property condition standards.

12. Determining Household Income:

The PJ must require all HOME-ARP units to be restricted for eligible households (i.e., either qualifying or low-income households) throughout the minimum compliance period. Qualifying households are eligible for admission to HOME-ARP rental units solely by meeting the definition of one of the qualifying populations (i.e., HOME-ARP does not impose income restrictions on units restricted for qualifying populations). If there is no income requirement in the qualifying population's definition, a PJ is not required to perform an initial determination of household income except as necessary to determine an affordable rental contribution by the qualifying household or to establish eligibility for another funding source in the unit that imposes income restrictions (e.g., LIHTC). Each subsequent year during the compliance period, starting 1 year after initial occupancy, the PJ must use the definition of annual income as defined in 24 CFR 5.609 to examine the income of qualifying households to determine the household's contribution to rent. For low-income households, the PJ must use the definition of annual income as defined in 24 CFR 5.609 to examine the household's income at initial occupancy and each subsequent year during the compliance period to determine the household's ongoing income eligibility and applicable rental contribution.

a. Qualifying populations: For purposes of establishing the qualifying household's rental contribution after initial occupancy, a PJ must examine a HOME-ARP qualifying household's income using 24 CFR 92.203(a)(1)(i) or (iii), starting 1 year after initial occupancy. Each year during the minimum compliance period, the owner must examine the household's annual income in accordance with any one of the options in 24 CFR 92.203(a)(1) specified by the PJ. A project owner who re-examines household income through a statement and certification in accordance with 24 CFR 92.203(a)(1)(ii), must examine the income of each household, in accordance with 24 CFR 92.203(a)(1)(i), every sixth year of the compliance period. Otherwise, an owner who accepts the household's statement and certification in accordance with 24 CFR 92.203(a)(1)(ii) is not required to examine the household's income unless there is evidence that the household's written statement failed to completely and accurately state information about the household's size or income.

b. Low-income Households: In accordance with 24 CFR 92.252(h), the income of each low-income household must be determined initially in accordance with 24 CFR 92.203(a)(1)(i), and each year following the initial determination during the minimum compliance period in accordance with any one of the options in 24 CFR 92.203(a)(1) specified by the PJ. An owner who re-examines household income through a statement and certification in accordance with 24 CFR 92.203(a)(1)(ii), must examine the income of each household, in accordance with 24 CFR 92.203(a)(1)(i), every sixth year of the minimum compliance period. Otherwise, an owner who accepts the household's statement and certification in accordance with 24 CFR 92.203(a)(1)(ii) is not required to examine the household's income unless there is evidence that the household's written statement failed to completely and accurately state information about the household's size or income.

c. Households Assisted by Other Programs: Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b), if a family is applying for or living in a HOME-ARP-assisted rental unit, and the unit is assisted by a Federal or State project based rental subsidy then a PJ must accept a public housing agency, section 8 project owner, or CoC recipient or subrecipient's 30 determination of the family's annual income and adjusted income under that program's rules and does not need to obtain source documentation in accordance with 24 CFR 92.203(a)(1) or calculate the annual income of the family. If a family is applying for or living in a HOME-ARP rental unit, and the family is assisted by a Federal tenant-based rental assistance program (e.g. housing choice vouchers) then a PJ may choose to accept the rental assistance provider's determination of the family's annual and adjusted income under that program's rules without need for review under 24 CFR 92.203(a)(1).

13. Rent limitations:

This Notice establishes rent limits for HOME-ARP units restricted for qualifying populations and for units that may be restricted for low-income households.

a. Units Restricted for Occupancy by Qualifying Households: In no case can the HOME-ARP rents exceed 30% of the adjusted income of a household whose annual income is equal to or less than 50% of the median income for the area, as determined by HUD, with adjustments for number of bedrooms in the unit. HUD will publish the HOMEARP rent limits on an annual basis. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a unit that receives a Federal or state project-based rental subsidy and is occupied by a qualifying household that pays as a contribution to rent no more than 30 percent of the household's adjusted income, may charge the rent allowable under the Federal or state project-based rental subsidy program (i.e., the tenant rental contribution plus the rental subsidy allowable under that program). If a household receives tenant-based rental assistance, the rent is the rent permissible under the applicable rental assistance program (i.e., the tenant rental contribution plus the rental subsidy allowable under that rental assistance program). The rent limits for HOME-ARP units for qualifying households include the rent plus the utility allowance established pursuant to Section VI.B.13.d of this Notice.

b. Rent limitations – low-income households: HOME-ARP rental units occupied by low-income households must comply with the rent limitations in 24 CFR 92.252(a) (i.e., the lesser of the Fair Market Rent for existing housing for comparable units in the area, as established by HUD, or a rent equal to 30 percent of the income of a family at 65 percent of median income for the area, as determined by HUD, with adjustments for number of bedrooms in the unit). Notwithstanding the foregoing, when a household receives a form of Federal tenant-based rental assistance (e.g., housing choice vouchers), the rent is the rent permissible under the applicable rental assistance program (i.e., the tenant rental contribution plus the rent subsidy allowable under the rental assistance program). The rent limits for low-income households apply to the rent plus the utility allowance established pursuant to Section VI.B.13.d of this Notice.

c. Rent limitations – Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Units: A HOME-ARP rental project may consist of SRO units. For the purposes of HOME-ARP rental, a SRO unit is defined as a unit that is the primary residence of the occupant(s) and must at least contain sanitary facilities but may also contain food preparation facilities. A project's 31 designation as a SRO cannot be inconsistent with the building's zoning and building code classification. If the SRO units have both sanitary and food preparation facilities, the maximum HOME-ARP rent is based on the zero-bedroom fair market rent. If the SRO unit has only sanitary facilities, the maximum HOME-ARP rent is based on 75 percent of the zero-bedroom fair market rent. The rent limits for SRO units must also include the utility allowance established pursuant to Section VI.B.13.d of this Notice.

d. Initial Rent Schedule and Utility Allowance: The PJ must establish maximum allowances for utilities and services and update the allowances annually. The PJ may adopt the utility allowance schedule of the PHA. The PJ must review and approve the HOME-ARP rents proposed by the owner, subject to the HOME-

ARP rent limitations. For HOME-ARP units where the tenant is paying utilities and services (e.g., trash collection), the PJ must determine that the rent for the unit does not exceed the maximum rent minus the monthly allowance for utilities and services.

14. Tenant Contribution to Rent – Qualifying Households:

The PJ must determine that the qualifying household's contribution to rent is affordable to the qualifying household based on a determination of the household's income. If the household is receiving project-based or tenant-based rental assistance, the household cannot be required to contribute more towards rent than the amount permitted by the requirements of the applicable rental assistance program (See Section VI.B.13.a of this Notice). If a qualifying household is not receiving project-based or tenant-based rental assistance and cannot contribute any income toward rent, or the contribution is insufficient to cover the unit rent, the project owner may draw from the project's operating cost assistance reserve if projected rental revenue minus the operating costs of the unit results in a deficit. If an operating cost assistance reserve was not capitalized at project completion:

- The PJ may provide ongoing HOME-ARP operating cost assistance to cover the operating deficits associated with units occupied by qualifying households, subject to the requirements in this Notice.
- The qualifying household may receive HOME-ARP TBRA to remain housed in the HOME-ARP rental unit or the PJ may offer, in conjunction with a qualifying household's admittance into a HOME-ARP rental unit, a simultaneous award of supportive services to the qualifying household in accordance with Section VI.D of this Notice. Any provision of supportive services must comply with all requirements of Section VI.D. of the Notice and the PJ's policies and procedures.
- Operating cost assistance, HOME-ARP TBRA, and supportive services funds committed to a project cannot be provided beyond the budget period for the HOME-ARP funds, as described in Section VIII.C.4 of this Notice.

15. Changes in Income and Over-income Households:

A household that met the definition of one of the HOME-ARP qualifying populations at initial occupancy and whose annual income at the time of income re-certification is above 50 percent of median income for the area but at or below 80 percent of the median income for the area must pay the rent specified in 24 CFR 92.252(a).

HOME-ARP-assisted units restricted for low-income households continue to qualify as HOME-ARP rental housing despite a temporary noncompliance caused by increases in the incomes of existing households if actions satisfactory to HUD are taken so that all vacancies are filled in accordance with HOME-ARP requirements until the noncompliance is corrected.

A qualifying or low-income household that is not low-income at the time of income re-certification (i.e., whose income is above 80 percent of the median income for the area) must pay rent that complies with the over income regulatory requirements at 24 CFR 92.252(i)(2), which includes requirements applicable to HOME units that also have LIHTC restrictions.

16. Unit Designation:

The PJ must determine the number of HOME-ARP units in the project restricted for qualifying households and low-income households, respectively, and whether the units are fixed or floating units at the time of project commitment. The total number of HOME-ARP rental units restricted for occupancy by qualifying households and the total number of HOME-ARP rental units restricted for low-income households must be identified as separate totals in the written agreement. In a project containing HOME-ARP and other units, the PJ must designate fixed or floating HOME-ARP units in accordance with 24 CFR 92.252(j). The PJ must maintain this unit mix throughout the compliance period.

17. Maintaining Unit Mix:

At the time of admission to a HOME-ARP rental unit, a household must meet the definition for at least one qualifying population or be determined to be a low-income household, depending on the applicable HOME-ARP restriction on the rental unit to which it is being admitted and in accordance with the written agreement.

For HOME-ARP rental units restricted for occupancy by qualifying populations, a household that meets the definition of a qualifying population at the time of admission retains its eligibility to occupy a HOME-ARP rental unit restricted for occupancy by qualifying populations, irrespective of changes in income or whether the household continues to meet the definition of a qualifying population after initial occupancy. As an example, a household that qualifies as “Homeless” at admission does not meet the Homeless definition once the household occupies a HOME-ARP unit but remains a qualifying household and is eligible to remain in a HOME-ARP rental unit restricted for qualifying populations. Income determinations for qualifying households are therefore only for purposes of establishing a qualifying household’s rental contribution as described in Section VI.B.15 of this Notice and not for maintaining continued eligibility in the HOME-ARP program. In a project with floating units, PJs are encouraged but not required to shift the HOME-ARP qualifying population designation to another unit to serve another qualifying household if the household’s income subsequently is certified to be at or above 80 percent AMI and the household no longer meets the definition of any qualifying population.

For HOME-ARP rental units restricted for occupancy by low-income households, units will be considered temporarily out of compliance if the household’s income increases above 80 percent of area median income. The requirements for correcting any noncompliance using vacancies or redesignation of units depends on whether the HOME-ARP rental units are fixed or floating and whether other funding sources (e.g., LIHTC) impose income or other restrictions on the units. Please note, in accordance

with the requirements in 24 CFR 92.253 and in Section VI.B.19.c, an increase in a tenant's income does not constitute good cause to evict or refuse to renew a tenant's lease, regardless of program requirements associated with other funding sources such as LIHTC. In addition, compliance with unit restrictions for low-income households requires adjustment of rents as described in Section VI.B.15 of this Notice.

18. Minimum Compliance Period:

HOME-ARP-assisted units must comply with the requirements of this Notice for a minimum period of 15 years, irrespective of the amount of HOME-ARP funds invested in the project or the activity being undertaken. A PJ may impose a longer compliance period but should plan for the project's financial feasibility for the longer period without HOME-ARP funds. The PJ may not use HOME-ARP funds to provide operating cost assistance, including a capitalized operating cost assistance reserve, to cover deficits during a PJ's extended compliance period.

If a project-based rental assistance Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) contract is awarded to a HOME-ARP rental project, a PJ must impose a minimum compliance period that is the greater of 15 years or the term of the HAP contract. PJs are also encouraged to extend restrictions for occupancy of the HOME-ARP units in accordance with the requirements in this section to match the term of eligible HAP contract renewals.

The provisions at 24 CFR 92.252(e)(1)-(4) apply, including the requirement that the PJ must impose the HOME-ARP rental requirements through a deed restriction, covenant running with the land, legally binding agreement restricting the use of the property and recorded on the property in accordance with State recordation laws, or other mechanisms approved by HUD. The chart providing minimum affordability periods based on rental housing activity that is contained in 24 CFR 92.252(e) does not apply. The enforceable restriction must provide that units assisted with HOME-ARP comply with the requirements of this Notice throughout the minimum 15-year compliance period, including:

- a. Units restricted for qualifying populations must be occupied by households that met the definition of a qualifying population at the time of initial occupancy. The household's contribution toward rent during this period must be affordable in accordance with Section VI.B.14 of this Notice. The rents for these units must comply with the rent limitations established in this Notice, including the rent provisions specified in 24 CFR 92.252(i)(2) for households whose income increases above 80 percent of area median income and whose contribution to rent complies with the requirements in Section VI.B.15.
- b. Units available for low-income households must be continuously occupied by households who are income eligible. The rents for these units must comply with the rent limitations established in this Notice, including the rent provisions specified in 24 CFR 92.252(i)(2) for households whose income increases above 80 percent of area median income.

c. The units must comply with the ongoing property condition standards of 24 CFR 92.251(f) throughout the compliance period as demonstrated by an on-site inspection within 12 months of project completion and an on-site inspection at least once every three years thereafter as required by 24 CFR 92.504.

d. Each household that occupies a HOME-ARP unit has an executed lease that complies with the tenant protections required in Section VI.B.19 of this Notice.

19. Tenant Protections:

PJs must verify that each household that occupies a HOME-ARP assisted unit has an executed lease that complies with the tenant protection requirements of this Notice. The lease must be either between the project owner and the household or between the project owner and a HOME-ARP sponsor with a sublease between the qualifying household and HOME-ARP sponsor. A HOME-ARP sponsor is a nonprofit organization that provides housing or supportive services to qualifying households and facilitates the leasing of a HOME-ARP rental unit to a qualifying household or the use and maintenance of HOME-ARP TBRA by a qualifying household. PJs may permit a HOME-ARP sponsor to lease a HOME-ARP unit from an owner or execute a master lease with the owner of a HOME-ARP project for HOME-ARP units restricted for occupancy by qualifying households. The HOME-ARP sponsor may then sublease the HOME-ARP rental unit to the qualifying household. The sublease between the HOME-ARP sponsor and the qualifying household must comply with the rent limitations and tenant protection requirements of this Notice.

a. Lease Requirement: There must be a lease between the qualifying household or the low-income household and the owner of the HOME-ARP-assisted project in accordance with 24 CFR 92.253(a), except that a sublease is permitted if a HOME-ARP sponsor has executed a master lease or lease with the project owner for the leasing of the units restricted for occupancy by qualifying households.

b. Prohibited Lease Terms: The lease between the low-income household, qualifying household, or HOME-ARP sponsor and the HOME-ARP project owner or the sublease between the HOME-ARP sponsor and a qualifying household may not contain any of the prohibited lease terms specified in 24 CFR 92.253(b).

c. Termination of tenancy: An owner may not terminate the tenancy or refuse to renew the lease of a tenant of a HOME-ARP unit or of a HOME-ARP sponsor with a sublease with a qualifying household except for serious or repeated violation of the terms and conditions of the lease; for violation of applicable Federal, State, or local laws; or for other good cause. Similarly, a HOME-ARP sponsor may not refuse to renew a sublease with a qualifying household except for serious or repeated violation of the terms and conditions of the sublease; for violation of applicable Federal, State, or local laws; or for other good cause. An increase in the tenant's or sublessee's income does not constitute good cause.

In addition, if HOME-ARP funds were or are used to capitalize an operating cost assistance reserve or there is a current contract for the PJ to provide operating cost assistance to the project, an owner may not terminate the tenancy or refuse to renew the lease of a qualifying household because of the household's inability to pay rent during the minimum compliance period. A qualifying household's inability to pay rent shall mean that the qualifying household cannot pay more than 30 percent of the qualifying household's income toward rent, based on an income determination made by the PJ in the last 30 days.

Where there is no capitalized operating reserve or other operating cost assistance to cover the operating deficit for a HOME-ARP unit occupied by a qualifying household, the PJ may assist the qualifying household with HOME-ARP TBRA or supportive services in accordance with the requirements of this Notice.

The above tenant protections are necessary as HOME-ARP requires the PJ to perform underwriting that reviews the operating feasibility of units occupied by qualifying households for the 15-year compliance period to determine how HOME-ARP funds may address the potential for qualifying households to have little to no income to contribute toward rent.

To terminate or refuse to renew tenancy for any household occupying a HOME-ARP unit, the owner must serve written notice upon the tenant (and the HOME-ARP sponsor if the lease is between an owner and HOME-ARP sponsor) at least 30 days before termination of tenancy, specifying the grounds for the action. In the case of a sublease, to terminate or refuse to renew tenancy of a qualifying household, the HOME-ARP sponsor, in accordance with the policy established by the PJ, must notify the PJ in advance of serving written notice to the qualifying household and must serve written notice upon the qualifying household at least 30 days before termination of tenancy, specifying the grounds for the action.

20. *Section omitted*

21. Project Completion and Occupancy:

HOME-ARP rental projects must meet the definition of project completion at 24 CFR 92.2. If the PJ fails to complete a project within 4 years of project commitment, it must comply with the terminated project requirements at 24 CFR 92.205(e)(2). If the HOME-ARP units are not occupied by eligible qualifying households or low-income households within six months following project completion, the PJ, as applicable, must submit to HUD information on its efforts to coordinate with a CoC, homeless service providers, social service, and other public agencies to fill units for qualifying households or must submit marketing information and, if appropriate, a marketing plan to fill units for low-income households. The PJ must repay any HOME-ARP funds invested in units that are not rented to eligible qualifying or low-income households within 12 months of project completion.

22. Penalties for Noncompliance:

The PJ must repay HOME-ARP funds invested in rental housing that is terminated before completion or otherwise does not comply with initial or ongoing requirements of this Notice during the compliance period, as follows:

- a. If the noncompliance or termination occurs within the first 10 years of the compliance period, the PJ must repay the entire amount of HOME-ARP funds invested in the project.
- b. If the noncompliance or termination occurs in years 11 through 15, the repayment amount will be reduced by 20 percent for each year beyond the initial 10-years during which time the project was compliant.

Repayment of the HOME-ARP funds is not required if the project owner sells or transfers, either voluntarily or involuntarily, the HOME-ARP project during the compliance period if (1) the HOME-ARP restrictions remain, (2) the project and new project owner continues to comply with all HOME-ARP requirements, and (3) any HOME-ARP funds remaining in a project's operating cost assistance reserve or reserve for replacement remain with the project and convey upon sale or transfer of the project as a restricted operating cost assistance reserve or reserve for replacement subject to HOME-ARP Notice requirements.

23. *Section omitted*

24. *Section omitted*

OTHER FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

HOME-ARP funds are federal financial assistance and, therefore, are subject to requirements applicable to such funds. PJs must comply with the following requirements: 24 CFR part 92, subpart H, 92.352 – Environmental review; 92.353 – Displacement, relocation, and acquisition; and 92.355 – Lead-based paint.

A. Other Federal Requirements and Nondiscrimination

The requirements in 24 CFR 92.350 apply to the HOME-ARP program. PJs must comply with the Federal requirements set forth in 24 CFR part 5, subpart A, including: nondiscrimination and equal opportunity; disclosure requirements; debarred, suspended or ineligible contractors; drug-free work; and housing counseling and the nondiscrimination requirements at section 282 of NAHA. The requirements in section 282 of NAHA are waived in connection with the use of HOME-ARP funds on lands set aside under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 (42 Stat. 108). PJs must also comply with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) requirements set forth in 24 CFR 92.359.

B. Affirmative Marketing and Minority Outreach

The requirements in 24 CFR 92.351 apply to HOME-ARP activities.

C. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321) and Related Laws

The environmental requirements in 24 CFR 92.352 apply to eligible activities under this Notice. The environmental effects of each activity carried out with HOME-ARP funds must be assessed in accordance with the provisions of NEPA and the related authorities listed in HUD's implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 58. The applicability of the provisions of 24 CFR part 58 is based on the HOME-ARP project as a whole (i.e., all individual project activities, such as acquisition and rehabilitation, aggregated according to the requirements at 24 CFR 58.32), not on the type of the cost paid with HOME-ARP funds. In accordance with the provisions in 24 CFR part 58, activities undertaken with HOME-ARP funds are subject to environmental review by a PJ or State recipient. The PJ or State recipient (referred to as the "Responsible Entity" or "RE") must assume responsibility for environmental review, decision making, and action for each activity that it carries out with HOME-ARP funds, in accordance with the requirements at 24 CFR Part 58. A state PJ must assume responsibility for approval of Requests for Release of Funds and Certification (RROF/C) submitted by State recipients.

No funds may be committed to a HOME-ARP activity or project before the completion of the environmental review and approval of the RROF/C, as applicable. Neither a HOME-ARP recipient nor any participant in the development process, including public or private nonprofit or for-profit entities, or any of their contractors, may commit HUD assistance on an activity or project until the environmental review has been completed and HUD or the state has approved the recipient's RROF/C from the RE as applicable. In addition, until the RROF/C have been approved, neither a HOME-ARP recipient nor any participant in the development process may commit non-HUD funds on or undertake a HOME-ARP activity or project if the activity or project would have an adverse environmental impact or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives. Therefore, it is important for REs to begin and complete any required environmental reviews as soon as possible.

HOME-ARP Rental Housing

Acquisition of a structure to be used as HOME-ARP rental housing is categorically excluded, subject to the Federal laws and authorities referenced at 24 CFR 58.5 (CEST) under 24 CFR 58.35(a)(5) (with the possibility of converting to exempt under 24 CFR 58.34(a)(12)) if the structure acquired will be retained for the same use (e.g., residential). Rehabilitation of buildings for residential use with one to four units for HOME-ARP rental housing is CEST under 24 CFR 58.35(a)(3)(i), if the density is not increased beyond four units, and the land use is not changed. Rehabilitation of buildings

for use as HOME-ARP multifamily rental housing is CEST under 24 CFR 58.35(a)(3)(ii) only if:

1. the unit density is not changed more than 20 percent;
2. the project does not involve changes in land use from residential to non-residential; and
3. the estimated cost of rehabilitation is less than 75 percent of the total estimated cost of replacement after rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation for HOME-ARP rental housing that does not meet the thresholds for multifamily residential buildings listed above requires completion of an Environmental Assessment in accordance with 24 CFR Part 58, Subpart E. An Environmental Assessment is also required for new construction, demolition, acquisition of vacant land for new construction, and acquisition of non-residential structures for demolition and new construction.

D. Labor Standards

The requirements in 24 CFR 92.354 apply to HOME-ARP activities.

E. Lead Hazard Control Requirements

The Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. 4821-4846), the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 4851-4856), and implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 35, subparts A, B, J, K, M, and R apply to HOME-ARP-assisted activities.

For HOME-ARP NCS, a project must comply with 24 CFR part 35, Subpart K when the HOME-ARP activity is acquisition only. HOME-ARP NCS projects that involve rehabilitation of pre-1978 facilities, whether the rehabilitation is funded with HOME-ARP or other funds, must comply with the requirements of 24 CFR part 35, Subpart J.

F. Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act, Section 104(d), and HOME-ARP Displacement, Relocation and Acquisition Program Requirements

HOME-ARP funding is subject to the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 and section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, in addition to the Displacement, Relocation and Acquisition regulatory requirements of 24 CFR 92.353. This Notice also includes HOME-ARP program specific relocation requirements applicable to HOME-ARP-assisted projects. PJs must comply with all applicable requirements, as described in this section.

1. Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970:

Costs incurred to comply with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, (42 U.S.C. § 4601 et seq.) (URA) are eligible HOME-ARP project costs pursuant to this Notice and 24 CFR 92.206(f). The URA establishes minimum requirements for the acquisition of real property and the displacement of persons from their homes, businesses, or farms as a direct result of acquisition, rehabilitation, or demolition for federally-assisted programs and projects. The URA implementing regulations at 49 CFR part 24 establish:

- Requirements for the provision of replacement housing assistance, advisory services, and moving costs to persons displaced as a result of a program or project that receives federal financial assistance;
- Requirements for acquisitions, including the payment of just compensation pursuant to 49 CFR part 24, subpart B, and provisions for voluntary acquisitions set forth in 49 CFR 24.101.
- Minimum requirements for temporary relocation of persons, businesses, or farms as a result of a project or program that receives federal financial assistance. These requirements are found in Appendix A, Section 24.2(a)(9)(ii)(D). Additional HUD URA policy and guidance is available in HUD Handbook 1378.

2. Section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974:

HOME-ARP is HOME funding and subject to the requirements in section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, (42 USC § 5304(d)), ("section 104(d)") unless waived, as described in this section and Appendix. Costs incurred to comply with section 104(d) requirements are eligible HOME-ARP project costs under 24 CFR 92.206(f). section 104(d) applies to the demolition or conversion, as defined in 24 CFR 42.305, of a lower-income dwelling unit in connection with a HOME or Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) assisted activity. section 104(d) includes the following requirements:

- A PJ must have a residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan (RARAP);
- A PJ must provide relocation assistance to displaced lower-income persons; and
- A PJ must perform one-for-one replacement of lower-income dwellings demolished or converted to a use other than a lower-income dwelling unit.

A lower-income dwelling unit is defined in 24 CFR 42.305 as a dwelling unit with a market rent (including utility costs) that does not exceed the applicable Fair Market Rent (FMR) for existing housing, as defined by HUD.

Section 104(d) implementing federal regulations can be found at 24 CFR part 42 Subpart C.

HOME-ARP Section 104(d) Waiver / One-for-One Replacement Housing. For purposes of, the one-for-one replacement housing requirements of section 104(d)(2)(A)(i) and (ii) and (d)(3) (42 U.S.C. 5304(d)(2)(A)(i) and (ii) and 42 U.S.C. 5304(d)(3)) and 24 CFR 42.375, lower-income dwelling units shall not include single-room occupancy (SRO) units or residential hotel or motel units in jurisdictions where those units are considered dwelling units under state or local law. All other section 104(d) requirements, including but not limited to the requirement that the PJ have and follow a RARAP, remain in effect. (See 24 CFR 92.353(e) and 24 CFR part 42, subpart C).

3. HOME Program Displacement, Relocation and Acquisition Regulations:

In addition to the URA and section 104(d) requirement described above, the HOME program's Displacement, Relocation and Acquisition regulations at 24 CFR 92.353 also apply to projects funded with HOME-ARP funds. Some of these requirements differ from those of the URA and section 104(d), including but not limited to the expanded temporary relocation protections at 24 CFR 92.353(b) and (c); optional relocation assistance policies in 24 CFR 92.353(d); and the right to return to a building or complex, if feasible, upon completion of a HOME project, in accordance with 24 CFR 92.353(a). PJs must follow these program-specific requirements in HOME-ARP assisted projects.

PJs are encouraged to develop optional relocation policies to address individuals that may not be eligible for URA or section 104(d) assistance due to their length of occupancy in a unit, ineligibility of their dwelling unit, or other factors beyond their control. Such policies must be in writing, applied consistently, and must not violate any other federal law or regulation. Costs incurred to comply with 24 CFR 92.353, including optional relocation policies, are eligible HOME-ARP project costs under 24 CFR 92.206(f).

4. Additional HOME-ARP Program Relocation Related Requirements:

The following additional HOME-ARP program relocation requirements apply:

- a. Acquisition and/or rehabilitation of hotels, motels and other non-residential property: In states where hotels and motels are not considered dwelling units or residential property, the acquisition of non-residential

property such as hotels and motels for the production of HOME-ARP NCS units or HOME-ARP rental housing will not make a person occupying those properties eligible for relocation assistance under the URA, section 104(d) or 24 CFR 92.353. HOME PJs may provide HOME-ARP assistance, as defined by this Notice, including the provision of HOME-ARP supportive services, HOME-ARP TBRA, the ability to stay in HOME-ARP NCS units, or the ability to rent a HOME-ARP rental unit, if the individuals or families can demonstrate that—

- i. they have been in continuous residence at the property for 30 or more calendar days, and
- ii. they are a qualifying household, as defined by this Notice.

Any assistance provided pursuant to this section may be provided without regard to any preferences, project-specific waiting lists, or any other form of prioritization the PJ has developed pursuant to this Notice. For purposes of HOME-ARP, costs associated with activities under this provision of the Notice may be charged as either project delivery costs or relocation costs eligible under 24 CFR 92.206(f).

b. Conversion of HOME-ARP NCS: If HOME-ARP NCS units are occupied and converted to either permanent housing under CoC or permanent affordable housing as described in Section VI.E.11 of this Notice, persons occupying the shelter would not normally be eligible for relocation assistance under the URA, section 104(d) or 24 CFR 92.353 because they are not displaced from a dwelling unit. However, since the individuals or families occupying such shelter units are already qualifying households under HOME-ARP, HOME PJs may immediately provide such occupants with HOME-ARP assistance, as defined by this Notice, including the provision of HOME-ARP supportive services, HOME-ARP TBRA, the ability to stay in other HOME-ARP NCS units, or the ability to rent a HOME-ARP rental unit. Additionally, the PJ may provide the occupants with assistance for moving costs or advisory services, as appropriate, as HOME-ARP administrative costs or under the HOME-ARP supportive services activity in Section VI.D of this Notice. Any assistance provided pursuant to this section may be provided without regard to any preferences, project-specific waiting lists, or any other form of prioritization the PJ has developed pursuant to this Notice, as the persons occupying the NCS units were already determined to be qualifying households under the HOME-ARP.

5. Persons Ineligible for HOME-ARP Assistance and Ineligible for URA, Section 104(d), or assistance pursuant to 24 CFR 92.353:

If a person is required to move as a direct result of a HOME-ARP project and is determined ineligible for HOME-ARP housing assistance under the preceding Section VII.F.4 and also determined ineligible as a displaced person under the URA, section 104(d) or HOME program rules, the PJ may provide such persons advisory services as an eligible HOME-ARP administrative cost, as the PJ determines to be reasonable and necessary.

G. Section 3 Economic Opportunities for Low- and Very Low-Income Persons

Section 3 requirements established at 24 CFR Part 75 apply to HOME-ARP-assisted projects.

H. Conflicts of Interest

HOME-ARP is subject to the following conflicts of interest requirements:

1. Conflicts of Interest:

PJs, State recipients, and subrecipients engaging in any of the activities defined this Notice shall be subject to the conflicts of interest provisions at 24 CFR 92.356, including but not limited to the conflicts of interest exception process defined in 24 CFR 92.356(d)-(e). Owners and developers of HOME-ARP NCS and HOME-ARP rental housing shall be subject to 24 CFR 92.356(f).

2. Organizational Conflicts of Interest:

The provision of any type or amount of HOME-ARP TBRA or supportive services may not be conditioned on an individual's or family's acceptance or occupancy of a shelter or housing unit owned by the PJ; State recipients; the subrecipient; or a parent, affiliate, or subsidiary of the subrecipient. No subrecipient may, with respect to individuals or families occupying housing owned by the subrecipient, or any parent, affiliate, or subsidiary of the subrecipient, administer financial assistance that includes rental payments, utility deposits, security deposits, or first and last month's rent provided pursuant to this Notice. All contractors of the PJ, State recipients, or subrecipient must comply with the same requirements that apply to subrecipients under this section.

3. Written Standards of Conduct:

PJs, State recipients, and subrecipients must maintain written standards of conduct covering the conflicts of interest and organizational conflicts of interest requirements under this Notice and 2 CFR 200.318. The written standards of conduct must also provide for internal controls and procedures to require a fair

and open selection process for awarding HOME-ARP funds pursuant to this Notice. These standards must include provisions on if and how Continuum of Care board members may participate in and/or influence discussions or resulting decisions concerning the competition or selection of an award or other financial benefits made pursuant to the HOME-ARP Notice, including internal controls on when funds may be awarded to the organization that the member represents.

4. Requesting Exceptions to Organizational Conflicts of Interest:

Any request for an exception to the organizational conflicts of interest provisions in this Notice shall be in writing and shall be considered by HUD only after the PJ or State recipient has provided the following:

- a. A written disclosure of the nature of the conflict, accompanied by an assurance that there has been public disclosure of the conflict and a description of how the public disclosure was made; and
- b. An opinion of the PJ's or State recipient's attorney that the interest for which the exception is sought would not violate State or local law.

5. Granting Exceptions to Organizational Conflicts of Interest:

HUD shall determine whether to grant an exception to the organizational conflicts of interest on a case-by-case basis when it determines that the exception will serve to further the purposes of HOMEARP. HUD shall consider the following factors, as applicable, in determining whether to grant such an exception:

- c. Whether the exception would provide a significant cost benefit or an essential degree of expertise to the program or project which would otherwise not be available
- d. Whether undue hardship will result to the PJ, State recipient, subrecipient or the person affected when weighed against the public interest served by avoiding the prohibited conflict;
- e. Whether conditioning approval on changes to the PJ, State recipient, or subrecipient's policies or procedures can adequately address the organizational conflict of interest; and
- f. Any other factors relevant to HUD's determination, including the timing of the requested exception.