

a notification of deficiency is correct and completes the application, HUD will add to the application's Ordinal the number of days between notification of the deficiency and curing of the deficiency.

(5) If HUD determines that the information submitted does not make the application complete, HUD will notify you of the remaining deficiency. You will have the opportunity to submit information in response to notifications of deficiency until the HOPE VI Demolition grant application due date.

(6) If you do not submit the requested information by the HOPE VI Demolition grant deadline date, your application will be ineligible for funding.

(7) If a deficiency is cured on the same day the deficiency letter is sent, the application will add one Ordinal.

(D) *Funding.* HUD will award HOPE VI Demolition grants in the following order, based on fund availability.

(1) HUD will fund Priority Group 1 applications by Ordinal.

(2) If funds remain after HUD has funded all eligible Priority Group 1 applications, HUD will fund Priority Group 2 applications by Ordinal.

(3) If funds remain after HUD has funded all eligible Priority Group 2 applications, HUD will fund Priority Group 3 applications by Ordinal.

(4) If funds remain after HUD has funded all eligible Priority Group 4 applications, HUD will fund Priority Group 4 applications by Ordinal.

(5) At any stage, if there is more than one application with next Ordinal to be funded and there are insufficient funds to fund all of them, HUD will conduct a lottery among those applications to determine which application(s) will be funded.

(6) HUD reserves the right to partially fund the next eligible application if insufficient funds remain to fund the entire amount requested, and HUD determines that the funds available are adequate to carry out some significant demolition activities.

(7) If funds remain after all eligible HOPE VI Demolition grant applications have been funded or if the amount remaining is inadequate to feasibly fund the next eligible Demolition grant application, HUD reserves the right to:

(a) Reallocate unused funds to fund or supplement the next eligible HOPE VI Revitalization application(s), in rank order, or

(b) Carry over unused funds to the next fiscal year.

XII. Post Award Activities

(A) *Notification of Funding Decisions.* Because the HOPE VI Demolition grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served

basis, HUD reserves the right either to award funds to Priority Group 1 applications as soon as they are determined to be eligible for funding, or announce all awards after the HOPE VI Demolition grant application deadline date has passed. HUD will notify ineligible applicants of their ineligibility immediately after that determination has been made. HUD will provide written notification to all HOPE VI applicants, whether or not they have been selected for funding.

(B) *Environmental Review.* HUD notification that you have been selected to receive a HOPE VI Demolition grant constitutes only preliminary approval. Grant funds may not be released until the responsible entity completes an environmental review and you submit and obtain HUD approval of a request for release of funds and the responsible entity's environmental certification in accordance with 24 CFR part 58 and Section XIV of this NOFA (or HUD has completed an environmental review under 24 CFR part 50 where HUD has determined to do the environmental review).

(C) *Demolition Grant Agreement.* When you are selected to receive a Demolition grant, HUD will send you a HOPE VI Demolition Grant Agreement, which constitutes the contract between you and HUD to carry out and fund public housing demolition activities. Both you and HUD will sign the cover sheet of the Grant Agreement. You must sign the Grant Agreement within 90 days of receiving it. Failure to sign the Grant Agreement within 90 days may cause the Department to withdraw its award of funds. It is effective on the date of HUD's signature. The Grant Agreement differs from year to year. The Grant Agreement from FY 2001 can be found on the HOPE VI Web site www.hud.gov/hopevi.

XIII. Post Award Requirements

(A) *Timeliness of Demolition.* Grantees must proceed within a reasonable timeframe, as indicated below. In determining reasonableness of such timeframe, HUD will take into consideration those delays caused by factors beyond your control.

(1) You must complete the proposed demolition within a reasonable timeframe, which is two years from the date of Grant Agreement execution. HUD will take into consideration delays caused by factors beyond your control when enforcing this requirement or as otherwise approved by HUD to accommodate reasonable relocation and demolition schedules.

(2) In accordance with section 24(i) of the 1937 Act, if you do not proceed

within a reasonable timeframe, in the determination of HUD, HUD shall withdraw any grant amounts that you have not obligated. HUD shall redistribute any withdrawn amounts to one or more other applicants eligible for HOPE VI assistance or to one or more other entities capable of proceeding expeditiously in the same locality in carrying out the activities of the original Grantee.

(B) *Conflict of Interest.*

(1) *Prohibition.* In addition to the conflict of interest requirements in 24 CFR part 85, no person who is an employee, agent, consultant, officer, or elected or appointed official of a Grantee and who exercises or has exercised any functions or responsibilities with respect to activities assisted under a HOPE VI Grant, or who is in a position to participate in a decision-making process or gain inside information with regard to such activities, may obtain a financial interest or benefit from the activity, or have an interest in any contract, subcontract, or agreement with respect thereto, or the proceeds thereunder, either for himself or herself or for those with whom he or she has family or business ties, during his or her tenure or for one year thereafter.

(2) *HUD-Approved Exception.*

(a) *Standard.* HUD may grant an exception to the prohibition in Section (1) above on a case-by-case basis when it determines that such an exception will serve to further the purposes of HOPE VI and its effective and efficient administration.

(b) *Procedure.* HUD will consider granting an exception only after the Grantee has provided a disclosure of the nature of the conflict, accompanied by:

(i) An assurance that there has been public disclosure of the conflict;

(ii) A description of how the public disclosure was made; and

(iii) An opinion of the Grantee's attorney that the interest for which the exception is sought does not violate state or local laws.

(c) *Consideration of Relevant Factors.* In determining whether to grant a requested exception under Section (b) above, HUD will consider the cumulative effect of the following factors, where applicable:

(i) Whether the exception would provide a significant cost benefit or an essential degree of expertise to the Demolition Activities that would otherwise not be available;

(ii) Whether an opportunity was provided for open competitive bidding or negotiation;

(iii) Whether the person affected is a member of a group or class intended to