

housing choice voucher participant to lease his current unit due to his maladies and the medication he takes. His doctors and counselors feel that moving from his current unit would be a physical and emotional hardship on him because he relies on his neighbors to drive him to doctor appointments and provide meals and emergency medical help. Without his neighbors' assistance, he is not able to live independently.

Contact: Gerald Benoit, Director, Housing Voucher Management and Operations Division, Office of Public Housing and Voucher Programs, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Room 4210, Washington, DC 20410; telephone: (202) 708-0477.

- *Regulation:* 24 CFR, Section 983.7(b)(1).

Project/Activity: Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCG), Hickory, NC; The WPCG requested a waiver to the requirement that prohibits a public housing agency from attaching project-based assistance under the Housing Choice Voucher program to housing for which construction started before an agreement to enter into a housing assistance payments (AHAP) contract was executed for Millside Manor, a 28-unit new construction elderly project.

Nature of Requirement: Section 983.7(b)(1) prohibits a project from receiving project-based assistance where construction began before the execution of an AHAP contract.

Granted By: Michael Liu, Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.

Date Granted: November 27, 2002.

Reason Waived: The WPCG inadvertently failed to execute an AHAP contract. The regulation was waived since all of the regulatory requirements of the AHAP contract had been met and it appeared that the owner and the PHA operated in good faith. Accordingly, HUD authorized the WPCG to enter into an AHAP contract.

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- *Regulation:* 24 CFR 983.51.

Project/Activity: Fort Wayne Housing Authority (FWHA), Fort Wayne, IN; The FWHA requested a waiver of competitive selection of owner proposals.

Nature of Requirement: Regulations at Section 983.51 requires competitive selection of owner proposals in accordance with a housing authority's HUD-approved advertisement and unit selection policy.

Granted By: Michael Liu, Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.

Date Granted: October 15, 2002.

Reason Waived: Competitive selection was waived since the owners of McMillan Park had already gone through a competitive selection. McMillan Park was awarded low-income housing tax credits through a competitive process conducted by the state of Indiana.

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- *Regulation:* 24 CFR 983.51.

Project/Activity: St. Paul Public Housing Agency (SPPHA), St. Paul, MN; Project-Based Program.

Nature of Requirement: Section 983.51 require competitive selection of owner proposals in accordance with a housing authority's HUD-approved advertisement and unit selection policy.

Granted By: Michael Liu, Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.

Date Granted: December 30, 2002.

Reason Waived: Approval of the waiver was granted because the project had already gone through a competitive selection process for funding.

Contact: Gerald Benoit, Director, Housing Voucher Management and Operations Division, Office of Public Housing and Voucher Programs, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Room 4210, Washington, DC 20410; telephone: (202) 708-0477.

- *Regulation:* 24 CFR 983.51 and Section II subpart E of the January 16, 2001, **Federal Register** Notice, Revisions to PHA Project-Based Assistance (PBA) Program; Initial Guidance.

Project/Activity: Chicago Housing Authority (CHA), Chicago, IL. The CHA requested a waiver of competitive selection of owner proposals and an exception to the initial guidance to permit it to attach PBA to Hearts United III that will be located in three adjoining census tracts with poverty rates that exceed 20 percent.

Nature of Requirement: Section 983.51 requires competitive selection of

owner proposals in accordance with a housing authority's HUD-approved advertisement and unit selection policy. Section II subpart E of the initial guidance requires that in order to meet the Department's goal of deconcentration and expanding housing and economic opportunities, the projects must be in census tracts with poverty rates of less than 20 percent.

Granted By: Michael Liu, Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.

Date Granted: November 7, 2002.

Reason Waived: Competitive selection was waived since the project underwent a competitive selection process by the state of Illinois for Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, as well as one by the city of Chicago's Department of Housing for city-owned land. Hearts United III is in the Grand Boulevard community and within the 43rd Street—Cottage Grove Redevelopment Area, designated as such in 1998 by the city of Chicago Department of Planning and the City Council. The goals of a designated redevelopment area are to support the development of a mixed-income community through residential, commercial and related development. These goals are consistent with the goals of deconcentrating poverty and expanding housing and economic opportunities.

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- *Regulation:* 24 CFR 983.255(b).

Project/Activity: Rochester New York Housing Authority (RHA), Rochester, NY; Project-Based Program.

Nature of Requirement: Section 983.255(b) requires HUD approval for a special adjustment of the rent to an owner in the PBA program if the adjustment reflects increases in the actual and necessary cost of owning and maintaining the contract unit.

Granted By: Michael Liu, Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.

Date Granted: December 30, 2002.

Reason Waived: Approval of the waiver was granted because there was a substantial and general increase in property insurance in suburban Monroe County due to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Contact: Gerald Benoit, Director, Housing Voucher Management and Operations Division, Office of Public