

federal government's major program for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market.

For example, a PHA administers a Housing Choice Voucher Program and has recently received an additional 100 vouchers. The PHA affirmatively markets the availability of the housing choice vouchers to all families living in its jurisdiction. It places a public service announcement in English, Spanish, Chinese, or Vietnamese in the local general circulation, Spanish, Chinese, or Vietnamese newspapers and radio and TV stations, as applicable.

Office of Community Planning and Development

Consolidated Plan: Consolidated Planning is a strategy for holistic community planning. Each community's Consolidated Plan is built upon public participation and input. When planning the required public hearings, jurisdictions must also identify how the needs of LEP residents will be met in the case of public hearings where a significant number of LEP residents can be reasonably expected to participate (24 CFR 91, Subpart B, "Citizen Participation and Consultation"). Other activities surrounding public hearings should also be made available to persons with LEP, such as (a) publication of translated notification of the public hearings, and (b) translation of draft and final action and consolidated plans and dissemination of these documents to persons and appropriate organizations in the LEP community.

The State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is designed to assist small communities and rural areas in funding a wide variety of activities intended to promote community economic development. In the State CDBG program, HUD makes grants to states, which then distribute funds to units of general local government.

All eligible activities in the State CDBG program must meet one of three statutory objectives specified in the CDBG authorizing legislation: principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons, aid in the prevention of elimination of slums or blight, or meet other community development needs having a particular urgency.

State CDBG grant recipients are encouraged to reach out to LEP persons through local alternative language newspapers. In addition, expenses associated with providing interpretive services to LEP persons may be considered program delivery or administration costs and, therefore, may be paid with CDBG funds. For instance, one state CDBG grant recipient chooses to provide case management services to homeless families and individuals, and allocates part of these funds to provide advocacy and interpretative services for LEP persons.

Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA): HOPWA is a tenant-based

rental voucher program specifically designed for persons who are HIV positive or who have AIDS. A major city has been operating services affecting persons with AIDS and such services have been an integral part of its Consolidated Plan. However, it recently learned from a national study that 20 percent of its 2,000 HIV-infected persons are LEP persons. The city previously had not contacted these people about their needs. In formulating its Consolidated Plan, the city's Community Development Department contacted both the Department of Health and the city's leading AIDS-related service provider for assistance in reaching out to this population. The city offered to allocate additional sums from its HOPWA formula grant to fund bilingual interpreters and health outreach workers who would contact the LEP persons living with HIV and minister to their housing-related needs. Also, as part of its citizen participation plan, the city offered to conduct a multilingual meeting at which institutions involved in AIDS-related housing and services would participate.

HOME Investment Partnership Program: In general, under the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, HUD allocates funds by formula among eligible state and local governments to strengthen public-private partnerships and to expand the supply of decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing. Families, including LEP families, may obtain homeownership and rental housing opportunities from participating jurisdictions (PJs). Under the program requirements, PJs are required to implement affirmative marketing strategies, under which they identify groups within the eligible population that are least likely to apply and conduct special outreach efforts through advertising in local media, including media targeted at LEP citizens (24 CFR 92.351).

A small HOME participating jurisdiction is using its HOME funds to implement a tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA) program. Under TBRA, the assisted tenant may move from a dwelling unit, but retains the right to continued assistance. The TBRA assistance also includes the security deposit. The HOME PJ, as part of its affirmative marketing strategy, has submitted advertising to the local Spanish language newspapers and radio station that serve the community's small but growing Hispanic population. Since the costs of implementing the affirmative marketing strategy are eligible costs under the program regulations, the PJ is increasing its budget to train occupancy staff to address issues faced by LEP applicants and to hire a bilingual staff member.

Office of Housing

Single-Family Housing Counseling Program: HUD provides funds to housing counseling agencies that assist persons and families in specific geographic areas to enable them to buy homes and to keep homes they already have purchased. This requires one-on-one and group counseling on home-

selection skills, understanding mortgages, understanding legal ramifications of various documents, establishing a budget, housekeeping and maintenance skills, understanding fair housing rights, etc.

In a majority-Hispanic community, *La Casa* has been the only HUD-funded counseling agency, providing these services for many years. It has bilingual staff to serve the largely Hispanic population. Frequently clients from a neighboring low-income community, which is primarily African-American, also uses its services, since the agency is well-known in the area. However, over the past few years, many low-income Iranians have been moving into the neighboring community. A housing counseling agency is required to provide one-on-one counseling services as the nature of its program. It is also required to outreach to those potential beneficiaries who are least likely to apply for its services. As a relatively small agency, *La Casa* should employ at least one person or have regular access to a person who can interpret between English and Farsi. This person should be visiting the Iranian communities, and contacting and working through the local agencies to affirmatively market *La Casa's* program. This person should also arrange to get key materials translated and provide counseling and interpretation services, as needed.

Supportive Housing for the Elderly: The Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program funds the construction of multifamily projects that serve elderly persons. Project sponsors are required to affirmatively market their services and housing opportunities to those segments of the elderly population that are identified as least likely to apply for the housing without special outreach. Even more importantly, many LEP elderly may require care from bilingual medical or support services staff, and recipients may devote considerable financial and other resources to provide such assistance.

The sponsor of a Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly project identifies in its Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan the city's large numbers of East and South Asian immigrants as least likely to apply for the new housing without special outreach. After examining census and other data and consulting with the city's Office of Immigrant Affairs, the sponsor learns that the 1,000 of the 5,000 South and East Asian families have at least one elderly relative that may be eligible for the new units. The sponsor hires translators fluent in Hindi, Urdu, Dari, Vietnamese, and Chinese to translate written materials and advertising for the local press in those languages. The recipient also partners with community-based organizations that serve the city's East and South Asian immigrants to arrange for interpreters at meetings.

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