
CD EXCHANGE

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HOME Participating Jurisdictions Vacant Units Reports Now Available

The Office of Affordable Housing Programs (OAHP) is pleased to announce its latest report designed to help HOME participating jurisdictions (PJs) to improve their performance reporting: the HOME Participating Jurisdictions Vacant Units Reports. The purpose of the report is to help HOME PJs identify units in HOME projects that are marked "vacant" in the Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS).

According to the SNAPSHOT of HOME Program Performance dated March 31, 2007, state HOME PJs had a nationwide average rental lease-up rate of 95.72 percent while local PJs with rental activities had a rental lease-up rate of 91.22 percent. Unfortunately, that also means nearly five percent and nine percent respectively of all completed HOME units have been identified as vacant. We know that the actual occupancy percentages are greater than those reported. However, since the HOME Program cannot count occupancy or beneficiary data that has not been entered into the system, it is important that all HOME PJs enter timely occupancy and beneficiary information for all completed HOME activities.

The report itself is a filterable Excel spreadsheet, similar to the HOME Participating Jurisdictions Open Activities Reports. The spreadsheet lists field office, PJ, state, IDIS activity ID, program year, project ID, unit number, number of bedrooms, occupancy code, activity status, tenure type, and information about the recipient. Using this report, a PJ can see how many units it has reported vacant and the corresponding HOME activities for those

vacant units. HOME PJs should enter occupancy and beneficiary data in IDIS for vacant units identified on the report that are part of a completed HOME IDIS activity. If occupancy and beneficiary data from the time of activity completion is no longer obtainable, data on the current occupant can be used in its place. Completion of occupancy and beneficiary data should improve a PJ's score on the "Low-Income Benefit" and "Lease-Up" factors on its SNAPSHOT of HOME Program Performance report, which in turn should improve the PJ's "Overall Ranking" on the same report.

HUD Field office staff will use the HOME Participating Jurisdictions Vacant Units Reports to monitor each PJ's progress toward 100 percent occupancy.

The HOME Participating Jurisdictions Vacant Units Reports will be updated monthly and can be found, along with an explanation of its categories, on the "HOME Reports" web page or by following this link:

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/affordablehousing/reports/vacantunits/index.cfm>

Job Pirating, CDBG-Assisted Economic Development and You

On May 24, 2006, HUD published the "Prohibition on Use of Community Development Block Grant Assistance for Job-Pirating Activities; Final Rule." The rule which appears at 24 CFR Part 570 adopts the December 23, 2005 interim rule as final without change and prohibits any amount from a grant under section 106, made in Federal Fiscal Year 1999 or any succeeding fiscal year, from being used to assist directly in the

relocation of any industrial or commercial plant, facility, or operation, from [one] area to another area, if the relocation is likely to result in a significant loss of employment in the labor market area from which the relocation occurs. This provision may be triggered by any CDBG assisted business' job relocation that occurs within three years of the firm's initial CDBG assistance.

A loss of jobs is considered significant if the number of jobs lost is equal to or greater than one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) of the total number of jobs in the labor force. In all cases, a loss of 500 or more jobs would be considered significant. The rule establishes a *de minimus* job loss of 25 jobs for which the provision would not be triggered.

States are permitted to define or reaffirm their Labor Market Area (LMA) on an annual basis and retain records to substantiate such areas. States can obtain LMAS designations at the following Bureau of Labor Standards Website:
<http://www.bls.gov/lau/lmadir.pdf>.

Local governments that provide CDBG business assistance to for-profit firms must maintain records that verify whether jobs are being relocated by fund recipients, that the businesses are aware of Federal anti-pirating requirements, and that the businesses certify that pirating will not occur.

IDIS-WHERE DO YOU STAND?

By Margie D.

In a previous article, I stated the importance of accurate and complete data. I also stated that reports are on the HUD web that will assist you in cleaning up data. Now I would like to show you how you rate.

FOR CDBG GRANTEES:

The CDBG Data Cleanup reports on the web contain for worksheets that identify

activities with:

- Phase 1 – missing accomplishment data
- Phase 2 – incorrect matrix code and national objective combinations
- Phase 3 – inaccurate or inconsistent accomplishment data
- Phase 4 – missing organization names
-

Here's how you rate in the latest report:

| COMMUNITY | PHASE 1 | PHASE 2 | PHASE 3 | PHASE 4 |
|------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Albany | 12 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Amherst | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Auburn | 7 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Binghamton | 36 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Buffalo | 12 | 0 | 20 | 0 |
| Cheektowaga | 22 | 0 | 9 | 1 |
| Colonie | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dunkirk | 14 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| Elmira | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Erie County | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| Glens Falls | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Greece | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Hamburg | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Irondequoit | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ithaca | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jamestown | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| Monroe County | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Niagara Falls | 2 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Onondaga County | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Rochester | 23 | 0 | 29 | 2 |
| Rome | 33 | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Saratoga Springs | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Schenectady | 30 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Syracuse | 33 | 0 | 29 | 1 |
| Tonawanda | 12 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Troy | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Union | 17 | 0 | 3 | 5 |
| Utica | 14 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

FOR HOME GRANTEES:

The HOME Open Activities Report shows open activities with 100 percent of the funds drawn and with a status code of FD or final draw.

Here's how you rate in the latest report:

| COMMUNITY | OPEN ACTIVITIES | YEARS IN WITH ACTIVITIES OPEN |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Albany | 24 | 2005-2007 |
| Amherst | 38 | 1998-2006 |
| Binghamton | 37 | 2000-2006 |
| Buffalo | 193 | 1994-2005 |
| Elmira | 11 | 1998-2006 |
| Erie County | 25 | 2000-2006 |
| Ithaca | 6 | 2004-2006 |
| Jamestown | 19 | 1997-2004 |
| Jefferson County | 40 | 2005-2006 |
| Monroe County | 10 | 2001-2005 |
| Niagara Falls | 47 | 1994-2006 |
| Onondaga County | 136 | 1999-2006 |
| Rochester | 100 | 1996-2006 |
| Schenectady | 46 | 1994-2006 |
| Syracuse | 16 | 1994-2005 |
| Utica | 64 | 1999-2006 |

Don't you think you should be looking at your data?

HUD Secretary's Opportunity and Empowerment Award

HUD, together with the American Planning Association (APA), is currently accepting applications for the 2008 Opportunity and Empowerment Award, which honors a community project that improves the quality of life for low- and moderate-income families. This award stresses tangible results and recognizes the planning discipline as an important community resource. The emphasis is on how creative housing, economic development, and private investments are used in, or in tandem with, a comprehensive community development plan. The winner will be announced at the APA's National Planning Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, which takes place April 27 - May 1, 2008.

The application deadline for the HUD Secretary's Opportunity and Empowerment Award is Monday, September 10, 2007. The requirements, application procedures, and application form can be downloaded at

<http://www.huduser.org/research/apa.html>. Please contact Denny Johnson of the APA Public Affairs Office at 202-349-1006 for more information.

Grantee Reporting of CDBG Accomplishments Wanted

At the end of each Federal fiscal year, HUD reports information on the accomplishments achieved using CDBG funds in its Annual Performance Report. This report uses the accomplishments reported by grantees in IDIS to measure the success of the CDBG program in achieving its goals. This information is analyzed by the Office of Management and Budget and Congress and is an important consideration in future funding of the program.

This important full statement is on HUD's web site at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/communitydevelopment/library/granteerequesnotice071907.cfm>.

HUD's Community Partners Invited to Join the CPD Team in Schenectady, NY September 12 – 13, 2007

This year HUD's annual Community Development conference promises to be exciting, informative and fun! Practical information on incorporating energy efficiency in projects will be the focus. Topics include:

- Retrofitting buildings for Sustainable Rehabilitation
- Including Green technology in New Construction
- Financing Strategies
- Creating Green Communities
- Energy Saving for non profits
- Sustaining Homeownership Centers

Expert speakers will be on hand. The City of Schenectady has planned interesting tours. The conference will be held at the Proctor Theater's recently renovated facilities. As always

the conference is free. Bring your staff and project partners.

If you have not received a flyer for the conference or wish to register, please email or call Lisa Mrzygut at the HUD Buffalo office – Lisa.B.Mrzygut@hud.gov or 716.551.5755 ext 5801.

As an added bonus for municipalities, HUD is partnering with the Alliance of NYS Arts Organizations for a pre-conference Session on Arts and Economic Development. ESD Co-Chair Dan Gunderson will be a featured speaker. The Tuesday, 9/11/07, session will provide an opportunity to exchange ideas on how downtown revitalization can be spurred when the arts, business and communities collaborate. For details on this session, please visit: <http://www.thealliancenys.org/profdev/conference/index.html>

HUD Offers Up to \$1 Million to Small Towns to Replace Unused Commercial Space with Affordable Housing

On June 29, 2007, HUD announced the HOPE VI Main Street Program. The goal of the program is to replace unused commercial space with affordable housing in places with fewer than 50,000 residents and fewer than 100 units of public housing. The application deadline is August 29, 2007. For more information, see Federal Register, 6/29/07, pp.35849-68 or www.grants.gov, FR-5139-N-01, or contact Lawrence Gnessin, at 202-402-2676, Lawrence.gnessin@hud.gov.

Please contact your HUD Buffalo Community Planning and Development Representative at 716-551-5755, if you have any comments or questions about the stories that appear in this publication.