



Special Attention:
Section 8 Public Housing Agencies;
Public Housing Office Directors; Troubled Agency
Recovery Center Directors

Notice PIH 2000-34 (HA)

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Cross References:

65 FR 38194

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Notice PIH 2000-24

Subject: Requirement to Send Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) Certification via the Internet

1. Purpose This notice announces that HUD will release a new SEMAP certification system during the month of September 2000, and the new requirement that PHAs must submit their SEMAP certifications to HUD on-line. The SEMAP system is being further tested and will soon provide a single integrated module for HUD and public housing agency management of SEMAP certifications, assessments and performance ratings.

2. Applicability This notice applies to PHAs that administer the Section 8 tenant-based program. PHAs with a fiscal year end of September 30, 2000, will be the first PHAs required to send their SEMAP certifications to HUD via the Internet and the first PHAs to be rated under SEMAP. PHAs are required to send their SEMAP certifications to HUD within 60 calendar days of fiscal year end.

3. Change in First PHAs to be Rated under SEMAP A June 20, 2000 Federal Register notice, which established the August 1, 2000 effective date for the sections of the SEMAP rule pertaining to ratings, stated that HUD expected that the first PHAs to be rated under SEMAP would be PHAs with fiscal years July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000. Notice PIH 2000-24, issued July 12, 2000, announced the Department's plans to begin rating under SEMAP for PHAs with fiscal years ending June 30, 2000. The PIH notice also announced that automation of the SEMAP certification and ratings was expected in time for submissions by PHAs with a fiscal year end of June 30, 2000. The PIH notice instructed PHAs with a fiscal year end of June 30, 2000 to wait to submit their SEMAP certifications until they received additional guidance concerning submission of the certification via the Internet.

This notice supersedes the above information in these two notices concerning the first PHAs to be rated under SEMAP. The first PHAs to be rated under SEMAP will be PHAs with fiscal years October 1, 1999 to September 30, 2000. PHAs with a fiscal year end of June 30, 2000, should continue submit their 2000 SEMAP certifications on paper. PHAs with a fiscal year end of September 30, 2000, will be the first required to send their SEMAP certifications via the Internet.

The additional one-calendar quarter delay in implementing SEMAP ratings will allow more time for final testing of the automated SEMAP system, for advance instruction to field offices and PHAs on the automated SEMAP system and rating procedures, and for issuance of a planned rule change on the SEMAP lease-up indicator.

4. Computer Access In order to submit the SEMAP certification electronically, a PHA must have access to a computer and access to the Internet. Attached to this notice is a list of requirements necessary to obtain access to the Internet. It is important that each PHA obtain Internet access, as that will be the only way to submit a SEMAP certification.

5. Passwords and Further Instructions In September 2000 PHAs will receive more information from their field offices regarding user IDs, passwords, and instructions for accessing the SEMAP certification form in the Public and Indian Housing Information Center (PIC), as well as a definitive date that the system will accept a PHA's on-line certification.

6. Do Not Submit SEMAP Certifications on Paper PHAs with a fiscal year end of September 30, 2000 should no longer send SEMAP certifications on paper. If a PHA sends a SEMAP certification on paper, it will be required to resend the certification via the Internet. PHAs with a fiscal year end of September 30, 2000, should wait to submit their SEMAP certifications until they receive the necessary system access information from their HUD field offices.

PHAs and field offices may expect more detailed guidance shortly concerning electronic submission of SEMAP certifications and the rating process.

/s/

Harold Lucas
Assistant Secretary for
Public and Indian Housing

Attachment