



HUD NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410

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(Ernst)

FOR RELEASE:
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Special guidance materials will be available in the future to help communities experiencing difficulties in developing Housing Assistance Plans (HAPs), the Department of Housing and Urban Development announced today.

Under the Housing and Community Act of 1974, the HAP is a requirement for block grant assistance. Preparation of a HAP requires that a community assess its housing stock; identify lower-income people residing in, or expected to reside in the community who will need housing assistance and set goals for the amount, type and general locations of assisted housing.

HUD Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research Charles J. Orelebeke said that meeting these requirements has presented some problems for many local governments, with limited available technical staff and data resources. HUD, he said, is now seeking a contractor to prepare guidance materials describing successful approaches and methods other localities have used in meeting HAP requirements.

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"These guidance materials will not replace regulations or set standards for developing HAPs," Mr. Orlebeke said, "but will help communities develop their own housing planning and implementation process."

Details of the forthcoming research contract are spelled out in a Request for Proposals (RFP H-2422).

Joining Mr. Orlebeke in announcing the 11-month research effort, David O. Meeker, Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, said "Our evaluation has shown that for most local governments completion of the HAP requirements last year was the most difficult and time-consuming part of the Community Development Block Grant application.

"Since HAP is an essential part of our CDBG program and an important guide to the allocation of HUD-assisted housing resources, we feel that HUD should help communities by identifying local processes that could be used in preparing and carrying out their Housing Assistance Plans."

The contractor selected in the research completion will:

- * Identify difficulties that different types and sizes of communities have had in meeting HAP requirements;
- * Develop materials based on successful local government approaches that can help other block grant applicants overcome these difficulties; and
- * Provide these guidance materials to communities that need them.

Proposals to conduct this work must be submitted no later than April 26. For further information, copies of Request for Proposals No. H-2422 can be obtained from:

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City of Cambridge

6. S-157
Comm. from the U.S. Department of Housing and
Urban Development re: to Housing Assistance
Plans.

5/12/76
— Placed on File —
Copies for all concerned

In City Council,
April 12, 1976