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to residents will continue uninterrupted.

§ 902.77 Referral to the Departmental Enforcement Center (DEC).

(a) *Referral of Troubled PHA to the DEC for failing to execute or meet MOA requirements.* (1) Failure of a troubled PHA to execute or meet the requirements of a MOA in accordance with § 902.75 constitutes a substantial default under § 902.79 and may result in referral of the PHA to the DEC. The TARC will recommend to the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing that a troubled performer PHA be declared in substantial default. In accordance with §§ 902.79, the Assistant Secretary shall notify the PHA of the default and allow the PHA an opportunity to cure the default. A PHA shall be referred to the DEC if the PHA fails to cure the default within the a period not to exceed 30 days unless the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing determines that a longer period is appropriate.

(2) *Actions of the DEC.* The DEC shall initiate:

(i) The judicial appointment of a receiver, or

(ii) An administrative receivership at HUD's option but only:

(A) With respect to PHAs with fewer than 1250 units, or

(B) While HUD's petition for judicial receivership is pending; and

(iii) Upon the recommendation of the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, the interventions provided in § 902.83, and may initiate such other sanctions available to HUD, including, limited denial of participation, suspension, debarment, and referral to the appropriate Federal government agencies or offices for the imposition of civil or criminal sanctions.

(b) *Referral of PHAs in Substantial Default to the DEC.* A PHA that is not designated as troubled but that has been found to be in substantial default under the provisions of § 902.79 shall also be referred to the DEC. The Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing makes the determination that a PHA is in substantial default. In accordance with § 902.79, the Assistant Secretary shall notify the PHA of the default and allow the PHA an oppor-

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tunity to cure the default. If the PHA fails to cure the default within the specified period time, the PHA shall be referred to the DEC. The DEC shall initiate the judicial appointment of a receiver or the interventions provided in § 902.83 as recommended by the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing and may initiate such other sanctions available to HUD, including, limited denial of participation, suspension, debarment, and referral to the appropriate Federal government agencies or offices for the imposition of civil or criminal sanctions.

(c) *Receivership/Possession of PHA by HUD.* (1) If a judicial receiver is appointed, the receiver, in addition to the powers provided by the court, shall have available the powers provided by section 6(j)(3)(C) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1437d(j)(3)(C)).

(2) If HUD assumes responsibility for all or part of the PHA, the Secretary of HUD shall have available the powers provided by section 6(j)(3)(D) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1437d(j)(3)(D)).

(3) If an administrative receiver is appointed, the Secretary may delegate to the administrative receiver any of the powers provided to the Secretary as described in paragraph (e)(2) of this section, in accordance with section 6(j)(3)(D).

(4) The appointments of receivers, the actions of receivers, and HUD's responsibilities toward the receivers are governed by the provisions of section 6(j)(3).

(d) To the extent feasible, while a PHA is under a referral to the DEC, all services to residents will continue uninterrupted.

[65 FR 1738, Jan. 11, 2000, as amended at 65 FR 36046, June 6, 2000]

§ 902.79 Substantial default.

(a) *Events or conditions that constitute substantial default.* The following events or conditions shall constitute substantial default.

(1) HUD may determine that events have occurred or that conditions exist that constitute a substantial default if a PHA is determined to be in violation of Federal statutes, including but not limited to, the Act, or in violation of regulations implementing such statutory requirements, whether or not such

violations would constitute a substantial breach or default under provisions of the relevant ACC.

(2) HUD may determine that a PHA's failure to satisfy the terms of a memorandum of agreement entered into in accordance with §902.75, or to make reasonable progress to execute or meet requirements included in a memorandum of agreement, are events or conditions that constitute a substantial default.

(3) HUD shall determine that a PHA that has been designated as troubled and does not show substantial improvement, as defined in §902.75(g)(2), is in substantial default.

(4) HUD may declare a substantial breach or default under the ACC, in accordance with its terms and conditions.

(5) HUD may determine that the events or conditions constituting a substantial default are limited to a portion of a PHA's public housing operations, designated either by program, by operational area, or by development(s).

(b) *Notification of substantial default and response.* If information from an annual assessment or audit, or any other credible source (including but not limited to the Office of Fair Housing Enforcement, the Office of the Inspector General, a judicial referral or a referral from a mayor or other official) indicates that there may exist events or conditions constituting a substantial breach or default, HUD shall advise a PHA of such information. HUD is authorized to protect the confidentiality of the source(s) of such information in appropriate cases. Before taking further action, except in cases of apparent fraud or criminality, and/or in cases where emergency conditions exist posing an imminent threat to the life, health, or safety of residents, HUD shall afford the PHA a timely opportunity to initiate corrective action, including the remedies and procedures available to PHAs designated as troubled PHAs, or to demonstrate that the information is incorrect.

(1) *Form of notification.* Upon a determination or finding that events have occurred or that conditions exist that constitute a substantial default, the Assistant Secretary shall provide written notification of such determination

or finding to the affected PHA. Written notification shall be transmitted to the Executive Director, the Chairperson of the Board, and the appointing authority(ies) of the Board, and shall include, but is not limited to:

(i) Identification of the specific covenants, conditions, and/or agreements under which the PHA is determined to be in noncompliance;

(ii) Identification of the specific events, occurrences, or conditions that constitute the determined noncompliance;

(iii) Citation of the communications and opportunities to effect remedies afforded pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section;

(iv) Notification to the PHA of a specific time period, to be not less than 10 calendar days, except in cases of apparent fraud or other criminal behavior, and/or under emergency conditions as described in paragraph (b)(4) of this section, nor more than 30 calendar days, during which the PHA shall be required to demonstrate that the determination or finding is not substantively accurate; and

(v) Notification to the PHA that, absent a satisfactory response in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section, HUD will refer the PHA to the Enforcement Center, using any or all of the interventions specified in §902.83, and determined to be appropriate to remedy the noncompliance, citing §902.83, and any additional authority for such action.

(2) *Receipt of notification.* Upon receipt of the notification described in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, the PHA must demonstrate, within the time period permitted in the notification, factual error in HUD's description of events, occurrences, or conditions, or show that the events, occurrences, or conditions do not constitute noncompliance with the statute, regulation, or covenants or conditions to which the PHA is cited in the notification.

(3) *Waiver of notification.* A PHA may waive, in writing, receipt of explicit notice from HUD as to a finding of substantial default, and voluntarily consent to a determination of substantial default. The PHA must concur on the

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existence of substantial default conditions which can be remedied by technical assistance, and the PHA shall provide HUD with written assurances that all deficiencies will be addressed by the PHA. HUD will then immediately proceed with interventions as provided in § 902.83.

(4) *Emergency situations.* In any situation determined to be an emergency, or in any case where the events or conditions precipitating the intervention are determined to be the result of criminal or fraudulent activity, the Secretary or the Secretary's designee is authorized to intercede to protect the residents' and HUD's interests by causing the proposed interventions to be implemented without further appeals or delays.

[65 FR 1738, Jan. 11, 2000, as amended at 65 FR 36046, June 6, 2000]

§ 902.83 Interventions.

(a) Interventions under this part (including an assumption of operating responsibilities) may be limited to one or more of a PHA's specific operational areas (*e.g.*, maintenance, modernization, occupancy, or financial management) or to a single development or a group of developments. Under this limited intervention procedure, HUD could select, or participate in the selection of, an AME to assume management responsibility for a specific development, a group of developments in a geographical area, or a specific operational area, while permitting the PHA to retain responsibility for all programs, operational areas, and developments not so designated.

(b) Upon determining that a substantial default exists under this part, HUD may initiate any interventions deemed necessary to maintain decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings for residents. Such intervention may include:

(1) Providing technical assistance for existing PHA management staff;

(2) Selecting or participating in the selection of an AME to provide technical assistance or other services up to and including contract management of all or any part of the public housing developments administered by a PHA;

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(3) Assuming possession and operational responsibility for all or any part of the public housing administered by a PHA;

(4) Entering into agreements, arrangements, and/or contracts for or on behalf of a PHA, or acting as the PHA, and expending or authorizing the expenditure of PHA funds, irrespective of the source of such funds, to remedy the events or conditions constituting the substantial default;

(5) The provision of intervention and assistance necessary to remedy emergency conditions;

(6) After the solicitation of competitive proposals, select an administrative receiver to manage and operate all or part of the PHA's housing; and

(7) Petition for the appointment of a receiver to any District Court of the United States or any court of the State in which real property of the PHA is located.

(c) The receiver is to conduct the affairs of the PHA in a manner consistent with statutory, regulatory, and contractual obligations of the PHA and in accordance with such additional terms and conditions that the court may provide and with section 6(j)(3)(C) of the Act.

(d) The appointment of a receiver pursuant to this section may be terminated upon the petition of any party, when the court determines that all defaults have been cured or the public housing agency is capable again of discharging its duties.

(e) HUD may take the actions described in this part sequentially or simultaneously in any combination.

§ 902.85 Resident petitions for remedial action.

The total number of residents that petition HUD to take remedial action pursuant to sections 6(j)(3)(A) (i) through (iv) of the Act must equal at least 20 percent of the residents, or the petition must be from an organization or organizations of residents whose membership must equal at least 20 percent of the PHA's residents.