

Establish a National Strategy for the Manufacture, Allocation, and Distribution of Drug Products, Drug Substances, and Associated Medical Devices to respond to COVID-19, the Plan of Action to Establish a National Strategy for the Manufacture, Allocation, and Distribution of Medical Devices to respond to COVID-19, and the Plan of Action to Establish a National Strategy for the Manufacture, Allocation, and Distribution of Medical Gases to respond to COVID-19—were finalized.<sup>6</sup> These plans of action established several sub-committees under the Voluntary Agreement, focusing on different aspects of each plan of action.

The meetings are chaired by the FEMA Administrator or her delegate and attended by the Attorney General and the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission or their delegates. In implementing the Voluntary Agreement, FEMA adheres to all procedural requirements of 50 U.S.C. 4558 and 44 CFR part 332.

*Meeting Objectives:* The objectives of the meetings are as follows:

1. Gather committee Participants and Attendees to ask targeted questions for situational awareness about PPE, drug products and drug substances, diagnostic test kits, medical devices, and medical gases.
2. Establish priorities for COVID-19 response under the Voluntary Agreement.
3. Identify tasks that should be completed under the appropriate Sub-Committee.
4. Identify information gaps and areas that merit sharing (both from FEMA to the private sector and vice versa).

*Meetings Closed to the Public:* By default, the DPA requires meetings held to implement a voluntary agreement or plan of action be open to the public.<sup>7</sup> However, attendance may be limited if the Sponsor<sup>8</sup> of the voluntary agreement finds that the matter to be discussed at a meeting falls within the purview of matters described in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), such as trade secrets and commercial or financial information. The Sponsor of the Voluntary Agreement, the FEMA Administrator, found that these meetings to implement the Voluntary Agreement involve matters which fall within the purview of matters described in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)

and the meetings are therefore closed to the public.

Specifically, these meetings to implement the Voluntary Agreement may require participants to disclose trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential. Disclosure of such information allows for meetings to be closed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4). In addition, the success of the Voluntary Agreement depends wholly on the willing and enthusiastic participation of private sector participants. Failure to close these meetings could have a strong chilling effect on private sector participation and cause a substantial risk that sensitive information will be prematurely released to the public, leading to participants withdrawing their support from the Voluntary Agreement. This would significantly frustrate the implementation of the Voluntary Agreement. Frustration of an agency's objective due to premature disclosure of information allows for the closure of a meeting pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B).

**Deanne Criswell,**

*Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-7038-N-09]

### 60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: FHA Catalyst: Multifamily Application Portal, OMB Control No.: 2502-0620

**AGENCY:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner, HUD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** HUD is seeking approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the information collection described below. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, HUD is requesting comment from all interested parties on the proposed collection of information. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment.

**DATES:** *Comments Due Date:* August 31, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: Colette Pollard, Reports Management

Officer, QDAM, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Room 4176, Washington, DC 20410-5000; telephone 202-402-3400 (this is not a toll-free number) or email at [Colette.Pollard@hud.gov](mailto:Colette.Pollard@hud.gov) for a copy of the proposed forms or other available information. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Colette Pollard, Reports Management Officer, QDAM, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20410; email Colette Pollard at [Colette.Pollard@hud.gov](mailto:Colette.Pollard@hud.gov) or telephone 202-402-3400. This is not a toll-free number. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

Copies of available documents submitted to OMB may be obtained from Ms. Pollard.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice informs the public that HUD is seeking approval from OMB for the information collection described in Section A.

#### A. Overview of Information Collection

*Title of Information Collection:* FHA Catalyst: Multifamily Application Portal.

*OMB Approval Number:* 2502-0620.

*OMB Expiration Date:* 5/31/2021.

*Type of Request:* Extension of currently approved collection.

*Form Number:* N/A.

*Description of the need for the information and proposed use:* The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)/Federal Housing Administration's (FHA) Office of Multifamily Housing Programs (MFH) has developed a web-based portal for FHA-approved multifamily lenders to submit applications for FHA multifamily mortgage insurance to HUD electronically. The *FHA Catalyst: Multifamily Application Portal* ("FHA Catalyst"), was released in fall 2020 to aid in the collection of information for FHA multifamily mortgage insurance program applications. The National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) and implementing regulations at 24 CFR parts 200-266 authorize HUD/FHA to administer the multifamily mortgage insurance programs. The specific authority to require a mortgage insurance application is found at 24 CFR 200.45(b): "[a]n application for a firm commitment must be made by an approved mortgagee for any project for

<sup>6</sup> See 86 FR 27894 (May 24, 2021). See also 86 FR 28851 (May 28, 2021).

<sup>7</sup> See 50 U.S.C. 4558(h)(7).

<sup>8</sup> "[T]he individual designated by the President in subsection (c)(2) [of section 708 of the DPA] to administer the voluntary agreement, or plan of action." 50 U.S.C. 4558(h)(7).

which a mortgagor seeks mortgage insurance under the Act.”

*FHA Catalyst* allows FHA-approved multifamily lenders to submit electronic applications for FHA multifamily mortgage insurance and related documents to HUD through a web-based portal, and HUD staff are able to receive and download the documents from the portal. The system is designed to streamline existing processes for collecting information to administer FHA multifamily mortgage insurance programs; no new information will be collected as a result of *FHA Catalyst*. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, multifamily lenders submitted applications to HUD in USB and hard copy format via mail. Due to the pandemic, multifamily lenders are currently submitting electronic applications using various online file-sharing platforms (e.g., Dropbox) as a short-term solution. *FHA Catalyst* provides multifamily lenders and MFH with a central, secure portal and long-term solution for online application submissions that will be used for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Hard copies and/or removable USB drives will no longer be required for applications submitted through *FHA Catalyst* once *FHA Catalyst* becomes mandatory.

*Respondents (i.e., affected public):* Business or other for-profit; individuals or households; not-for-profit intuitions; state, local, or tribal government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 741.

*Estimated Number of Responses:* 741.

*Frequency of Response:* 1.

*Average Hours per Response:* 1.

*Total Estimated Burden:* 741.

## B. Solicitation of Public Comment

This notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected parties concerning the collection of information described in Section A on the following:

(1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information;

(3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

HUD encourages interested parties to submit comment in response to these questions.

## C. Authority

Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3507.

**Janet M. Golrick,**

*Acting, Chief of Staff for the Office of Housing, Federal Housing Administration.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-6275-N-01]

### Statutorily Mandated Designation of Difficult Development Areas and Qualified Census Tracts: Revision of Effective Date for 2019 and 2020 Designations

**AGENCY:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, HUD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This document revises the effective date for designations of “Difficult Development Areas” (DDAs) and “Qualified Census Tracts” (QCTs) for purposes of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 42 (26 U.S.C. 42) published on October 22, 2018, (83 FR 53282) and September 25, 2019, (84 FR 50465) in response to the Presidentially-declared COVID-19 emergency. This notice extends from 730 days to 910 days the period for which the 2019 and 2020 lists of QCTs and DDAs are effective for projects (1) located in an area not on subsequent lists of DDAs or QCTs; and (2) that submitted applications while the area was a 2019 or 2020 QCT or DDA.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For questions on how areas are designated and on geographic definitions, contact Michael K. Hollar, Senior Economist, Economic Development and Public Finance Division, Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street SW, Room 8234, Washington, DC 20410-6000; telephone number (202) 402-5878, or send an email to [Michael.K.Hollar@hud.gov](mailto:Michael.K.Hollar@hud.gov). For specific legal questions, contact Branch 5, Office of the Associate Chief Counsel, Passthroughs and Special Industries, Internal Revenue Service, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20224; telephone number (202) 317-4137, fax number (855) 591-7867. (These are not toll-free telephone

numbers.) Additional copies of this notice are available through HUD User at (800) 245-2691 for a small fee to cover duplication and mailing costs.

*Copies Available Electronically:* This notice and additional information about DDAs and QCTs are available electronically on the internet at <http://www.huduser.org/datasets/qct.html>.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### Background

On March 13, 2020, the President issued major disaster declarations under the authority of the Stafford Act with respect to all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and 5 territories (American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) to assist with additional needs identified under the nationwide emergency declaration for COVID-19. In the context of a Presidentially-declared Major Disaster, IRS Revenue Procedure 2014-49, 2014-37 I.R.B. 535, provides temporary relief to housing finance agencies (HFAs) and owners from certain requirements of IRC Section 42. Among the relief provided, if an owner has a carryover allocation for a building located in a Major Disaster Area and the Major Disaster occurs on or after the date of the carryover allocation, an HFA may grant an extension to the placed-in-service requirement. Rev. Proc. 2014-49, Section 6.03. This extension applies only to properties receiving IRC Section 42 allocated credits and does not apply or provide relief to properties receiving credits associated with IRC Section 142 tax-exempt bond revenue. HUD is revising the effective date of the 2019 and 2020 QCTs and DDAs at this time to aid the ability of areas affected by COVID-19 to place in service affordable housing under both Section 42 and Section 142.

### I. This Notice

This notice extends from 730 days to 910 days the period for which the 2019 and 2020 lists of QCTs and DDAs are effective for projects that are not located in areas on subsequent lists of DDAs or QCTs but submitted applications while the area was a 2019 or 2020 QCT or DDA. HUD published lists of DDAs and QCTs for 2019 on October 22, 2018 (83 FR 53282); for 2020 on September 25, 2019 (84 FR 50465); and for 2021 on September 24, 2020 (85 FR 60255). The actual designations of 2019 and 2020 QCTs and DDAs are not affected by this notice. HUD is revising the effective date of the 2019 and 2020 QCTs and DDAs at this time to aid the ability of areas affected by COVID-19 to place in service affordable housing.