

to pay final compensation to the PAE and to assign responsibility for continuing activities if the PRA is not renewed.

(b) *Termination for cause.* A PRA will be subject to termination by HUD at any time for cause, with payment required by HUD as provided in the PRA only for matters performed by the PAE to the date of termination. When cause for termination exists, HUD may order an immediate transfer of some or all of the PAE's duties to another PAE designated by HUD. HUD may temporarily waive its right of immediate termination for cause in order to allow an orderly transfer of duties and responsibilities under a PRA, without waiving the right of termination after the transfer has been completed to HUD's satisfaction. HUD will retain the right of set-off against any payments due as well as such other rights afforded at law and in equity.

(c) *Liability for damages.* During the term of a PRA, or notwithstanding any termination of a PRA, HUD may seek its actual, direct, and consequential damages from any PAE failure to comply with its obligations under the PRA.

(d) *Cumulative remedies.* The remedies under this section are cumulative and in addition to any other remedies or rights HUD may have under the terms of the PRA, at law, or otherwise.

§ 401.310 Conflicts of interest.

(a) *Definitions.* (1) *Conflict of interest.* A conflict of interest is a situation in which a PAE or other restricted person has:

(i) A financial interest in a matter relating to the PRA;

(ii) One or more personal, business, or financial interests or relationships which would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts to question the integrity or impartiality of those who are or will be acting under the PRA; or

(iii) Is taking an adverse position to HUD or to an owner whose project is covered by a PRA in a lawsuit, administrative proceeding or other contested matter.

(2) *Control* means the power to vote, directly or indirectly, 25 percent or more of any class of the voting stock of a company; the ability to direct in any

manner the election of a majority of a company (or other entity's) directors or trustees; or the ability to exercise a controlling influence over the company or entity's management and policies. For purposes of this definition, a general partner of a limited partnership is presumed to be in control of that partnership.

(3) *Restricted person* means a PAE; any management official of the PAE; any legal entity that is under the control of the PAE, is in control of the PAE or is under common control with the PAE; or any employee, agent or contractor of the PAE, or employee of such agent or contractor, who will perform or has performed services under a PRA with HUD.

(b) *General prohibitions.* (1) The PAE may not permit conflicts of interest to exist without obtaining a waiver in accordance with this section.

(2) The PAE must establish procedures to identify conflicts of interest and to ensure that conflicts of interest do not arise or continue, subject to waiver under paragraph (c) of this section.

(3) HUD will not enter into PRAs with potential PAEs who have conflicts of interest associated with a particular project, or permit PAEs to continue performance under existing PRAs when such PAEs have conflicts of interest, unless such conflicts have been eliminated to HUD's satisfaction by the PAE or potential PAE or are waived by HUD.

(4) The PAE has a continuing obligation to take all action necessary to identify whether it or any other restricted person has a conflict of interest.

(c) *Waivers.* HUD will waive conflicts of interest only when, in light of all relevant circumstances, the interests of HUD in the PAE's or another restricted persons's participation outweigh the concern that a reasonable person may question the integrity of HUD's operations.

(d) *Conflicts of interest arising prior to PAE selection.* (1) *Request for review of conflicts of interest.* (i) A potential PAE, with its request to HUD for consideration for selection as a PAE, must identify existing conflicts of interest and may make a written request for a

determination as to the existence of a conflict of interest, may request that the conflict of interest, if any, be waived, or may propose how it could eliminate the conflict.

(ii) If, after submitting a request but prior to selection, a potential PAE discovers that it has a conflict, it must notify HUD in writing within 10 days of submitting the request or prior to selection, whichever is earlier. The potential PAE may, with its notices, request that the conflict be waived or may propose how it may eliminate the conflict. The potential PAE may also request a determination as to the existence of the conflict.

(2) *Review by HUD.* Subject to the restrictions set forth in this section, HUD in its sole discretion may determine whether a conflict of interest exists, may waive the conflict of interest, or may approve in writing a PAE's proposal to eliminate a conflict of interest.

(e) *Conflicts of interest that arise or are discovered after PAE selection.* (1) A PAE must notify HUD in writing within 10 days after discovering that it or another restricted person has a conflict of interest. Such notification must contain a detailed description of the conflict of interest and state how the PAE intends to eliminate the conflict. The PAE may also request a determination as to the existence of a conflict.

(2) HUD will, after receipt of such notification or other discovery of the PAE's conflict or potential conflict of interest, take such action as it determines is in its best interests, which may involve proceeding under § 401.313 or as provided in paragraph (e)(2) of this section. HUD may notify the PAE in writing of its findings as to whether a conflict of interest exists and the basis for such determination, whether or not a waiver will be granted, or whether corrective actions may be taken in order to eliminate the conflict of interest. Corrective action must be completed by the PAE not later than 30 days after notification is mailed by HUD unless HUD, at its sole discretion, determines that it is in its best interests to grant the PAE an extension in which to complete the corrective action.

(f) *Reconsideration of decisions.* Decisions issued pursuant to this section may be reconsidered by HUD upon application by the PAE. Such requests must be in writing and must contain the basis for the request. HUD may, at its discretion and after determining that it is in its best interests, stay any corrective or other actions previously ordered pending reconsideration of a decision.

§ 401.311 Standards of conduct.

(a) *Minimum ethical standards for PAEs.* In connection with the performance of any PRA and during the term of such PRA, a PAE or other restricted person (as defined in § 401.310) may not:

(1) Solicit for itself or others favors, gifts, or other items of monetary value from any person who is seeking official action from HUD or the PAE in connection with the PRA or has interests which may be substantially affected by the restricted person's performance or nonperformance of duties to HUD;

(2) Use improperly or allow the improper use of HUD property, or property over which the restricted person has supervision or charge by reason of the PRA;

(3) Use its status as PAE for its own benefit, or the financial or business benefit of a third party, except as contemplated by the PRA; or

(4) Make any unauthorized promise or commitment on behalf of HUD.

(b) *18 U.S.C. 201.* Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 201, whoever acts for or on behalf of HUD in connection with the matters covered by this part is deemed to be a public official. Public officials are prohibited from soliciting or accepting anything of value in return for being influenced in the performance of official actions. Violators are subject to criminal sanctions.

(c) *18 U.S.C. 1001.* Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1001, whoever knowingly and willingly falsifies a material fact, makes a false statement or utilizes a false writing in connection with a PRA is subject to criminal sanctions. Other Federal civil statutes also apply to making false statements to the United States.

(d) *18 U.S.C. 207.* Former government employees are subject to the prohibitions found at 18 U.S.C. 207.