

agreed upon by the HA and the respective councils.

(2) If funds are available through appropriations, the HA must provide tenant services funding to the duly elected resident councils regardless of the HA's financial status. The resident council funds shall not be impacted or restricted by the HA financial status and all said funds must be used for the purpose set forth in subparts B and C of this part.

(3) The HA and the duly elected resident council at each development and/or those jurisdiction-wide councils shall collaborate on how the funds will be distributed for tenant participation activities. If disputes regarding funding decisions arise between the parties, the matter shall be referred to the Field Office for intervention. HUD Field Office shall require the parties to undertake further negotiations to resolve the dispute. If no resolution is achieved within 90 days from the date of the Field Office intervention, the Field Office shall refer the matter to HUD Headquarters for final resolution.

(b) *Stipends.* (1) HUD encourages HAs to provide stipends to resident council officers who serve as volunteers in their public housing developments. The amount of the stipend, up to \$200 per month/per officer, shall be decided locally by the resident council and the HA. Subject to appropriations, the stipends will be funded from the resident council's portion of the operating subsidy funding for resident council expenses (\$15.00 per unit per year).

(2) Pursuant to §913.106, stipends are not to be construed as salaries and should not be included as income for calculation of rents, and are not subject to conflict of interest requirements.

(3) Funding provided by a HA to a duly elected resident council may be made only under a written agreement between the HA and a resident council, which includes a resident council budget and assurance that all resident council expenditures will not contravene provisions of law and will promote serviceability, efficiency, economy and stability in the operation of the local development. The agreement must require the local resident council to account to the HA for the use of the

funds and permit the HA to inspect and audit the resident council's financial records related to the agreement.

Subpart C—Tenant Opportunities Program

§964.200 General.

(a) The Tenant Opportunities Program (TOP) provides technical assistance for various activities, including but not limited to resident management, for resident councils/resident management corporations as authorized by Section 20 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937. The TOP provides opportunities for resident organizations to improve living conditions and resident satisfaction in public housing communities.

(b) This subpart establishes the policies, procedures and requirements for participating in the TOP with respect to applications for funding for programs identified in this subpart.

(c) This subpart contains the policies, procedures and requirements for the resident management program as authorized by section 20 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937.

§964.205 Eligibility.

(a) *Resident councils/resident management corporations.* Any eligible resident council/resident management corporation as defined in subpart B of this part is eligible to participate in a program administered under this subpart.

(b) *Activities.* Activities to be funded and carried out by an eligible resident council or resident management corporation, as defined in subpart B of this part, must improve the living conditions and public housing operations and may include any combination of, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) *Resident capacity building.* (i) Training Board members in community organizing, Board development, and leadership training;

(ii) Determining the feasibility of resident management enablement for a specific project or projects; and

(iii) Assisting in the actual creation of an RMC, such as consulting and legal assistance to incorporate, preparing by-laws and drafting a corporate charter.

(2) *Resident management.* (i) Training residents, as potential employees of an RMC, in skills directly related to the operation, management, maintenance and financial systems of a project;

(ii) Training of residents with respect to fair housing requirements; and

(iii) Gaining assistance in negotiating management contracts, and designing a long-range planning system.

(3) *Resident management business development.* (i) Training related to resident-owned business development and technical assistance for job training and placement in RMC developments;

(ii) Technical assistance and training in resident managed business development through:

(A) Feasibility and market studies;

(B) Development of business plans;

(C) Outreach activities; and

(D) Innovative financing methods including revolving loan funds; and

(iii) Legal advice in establishing a resident managed business entity.

(4) *Social support needs (such as self-sufficiency and youth initiatives).* (i) Feasibility studies to determine training and social services needs;

(ii) Training in management-related trade skills, computer skills, etc;

(iii) Management-related employment training and counseling;

(iv) Coordination of support services;

(v) Training for programs such as child care, early childhood development, parent involvement, volunteer services, parenting skills, before and after school programs;

(vi) Training programs on health, nutrition and safety;

(vii) Workshops for youth services, child abuse and neglect prevention, tutorial services, in partnership with community-based organizations such as local Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA/YWCA, Boy/Girl Scouts, Campfire and Big Brother/Big Sisters, etc. Other HUD programs such as the Youth Sports Program and the Public Housing Drug Elimination Programs also provide funding in these areas;

(viii) Training in the development of strategies to successfully implement a youth program. For example, assessing the needs and problems of the youth, improving youth initiatives that are currently active, and training youth, housing authority staff, resident man-

agement corporations and resident councils on youth initiatives and program activities; and

(5) *Homeownership Opportunity.* Determining feasibility for homeownership by residents, including assessing the feasibility of other housing (including HUD owned or held single or multifamily) affordable for purchase by residents.

(6) *General.* (i) Required training on HUD regulations and policies governing the operation of low-income public housing including contracting/procurement regulations, financial management, capacity building to develop the necessary skills to assume management responsibilities at the project and property management;

(ii) Purchasing hardware, i.e., computers and software, office furnishings and supplies, in connection with business development. Every effort must be made to acquire donated or discounted hardware;

(iii) Training in accessing other funding sources; and

(iv) Hiring trainers or other experts (RCs/RMCs must ensure that this training is provided by a qualified housing management specialist, a community organizer, the HA, or other sources knowledgeable about the program).

§ 964.210 Notice of funding availability.

A Notice of Funding Availability shall be published periodically in the FEDERAL REGISTER containing the amounts of funds available, funding criteria, where to obtain and submit applications, and the deadline for submissions.

§ 964.215 Grant agreement.

(a) *General.* HUD shall enter into a grant agreement with the recipient of a technical assistance grant which defines the legal framework for the relationship between HUD and a resident council or resident management corporation for the proposed funding.

(b) *Term of grant agreement.* A grant shall be for a term of three to five years (3-5 years), and renewable at the expiration of the term.