



Housing and Urban Development
Office of Community Planning and Development
Hurricane Katrina Waivers

6. Waiver of HOPWA Requirements to Facilitate Assistance to Persons Displaced by Hurricane Katrina

On September 19, 2005, Assistant Secretary Pamela H. Patenaude signed a memorandum to all CPD Field Office Division Directors providing regulatory relief and guidance on the HOPWA Program that will enable grantees in major disaster areas and those that are "receiving" communities to better meet the housing needs of persons who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina. The HOPWA program waivers are:

- Citizen Participation and Consolidated Plan Amendment - permits a city or state grantee to immediately reprogram the use of HOPWA funds by reducing the comment period for significant amendments to 3 days. A waiver is not needed for non-substantial changes in plans.
- Source Documentation for Income Determinations and HIV status - permits a grantee to use the income self-certification method to qualify displaced persons who have registered with FEMA or will receive FEMA registration within 60 days. Creditable information on HIV status is acceptable with documentation within 60 days.
- Rent Standards for HOPWA Tenant-based Rental Assistance - permits a grantee to provide a more generous subsidy to displaced persons who must rent units with rent charges that exceed the grantee's normal TBRA standard, for a period of one year. In addition, persons relocating to a family-owned unit, may use this unit without having to add

the other family income in determining their share of costs as the resident rent payment.

- Property Standards for HOPWA Tenant-based Rental Assistance - permits a grantee to use state and local safety codes, instead of Housing Quality Standards (HQS), for a period of one year in order to qualify properties for occupancy by displaced persons who receive HOPWA TBRA. Lead hazard safety requirements remain in effect.
- Guidance on rental assistance – permits a grantee to use TBRA with priority in tenant selections for displaced persons and leases of less than one year.

Signed by Assistant Secretary - September 19, 2005