



# THE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2012 | [www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/](http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/)

## HUD Adopts RAD to Secure the Future of Public Housing

On July 26th, HUD published a new notice that may shape the future of public housing. This notice officially puts the Resident Assistance Demonstration (RAD) into action. With RAD, HUD is trying to resolve two problems facing public housing. One problem is that the money for public housing is vulnerable to cuts and restrictions. The second problem is the backlog of almost \$26 billion in needed repairs across the Public Housing program nationwide.

RAD is the latest effort resulting from the Preservation, Enhancement and Transformation of Rental Assistance Act (PETRA) which *The Resident* previously reported on in its October 2010 issue. Though the program went through many changes on its road to becoming RAD, its goals are still the same. RAD will make the Public Housing program more like the Section 8 program; it will allow public housing agencies (PHAs) to access private sector money for making the much needed repairs to public housing units; and it is designed to give public housing residents more options and greater mobility.

The newly published notice allows PHAs from across the country to apply to be part of the demonstration using RAD's funding rules. Under the demonstration, housing agencies can apply to change over to the more flexible project-based Section 8 funding model for an individual project. This application period will be open for a month, from September 24, 2012- October 24, 2012. It is important for residents to know that before a PHA can submit an application to HUD, HUD requires that the PHA:

- notify residents of projects proposed to be part of the demonstration,
- conduct at least two meetings with residents of projects proposed to be part of the demonstration,
- provide opportunity for comment from the residents of projects proposed to be part of the demonstration, and
- prepare written responses to comments received by residents in connection with the proposal.

Because this is a demonstration, only projects chosen to participate in RAD will adapt its more flexible rules.

Commenting on the program, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan said "RAD allows HUD to test the conversion of assistance as a means of preserving this scarce inventory of affordable housing and keep it on firm financial footing well into the future."

Currently, HUD is losing 10,000-15,000 units a year due to repairs it cannot afford to fix. RAD offers PHAs a new way to take care of public housing developments and make sure public housing is there to better serve current and future low-income families. If you have any questions about RAD, please submit them to [RAD@hud.gov](mailto:RAD@hud.gov). More information about the demonstration can be found on the RAD

website ([www.hud.gov/rad](http://www.hud.gov/rad)), where a Frequently Asked Questions for Residents and a webcast for residents about the demonstration will be announced soon.

## HUD Second Annual *Father's Day* Brings Families Together

Earlier this summer, thousands of public housing residents participated in HUD's second annual *Father's Day* celebration. This is the second year that the Department has encouraged public housing agencies (PHAs) to participate in the family-centered event.



The idea behind *Father's Day* is that when dads are self-sufficient and have healthy connections with their children, whole communities benefit.



*Families enjoyed animals and activities at a Father's Day event in Fort Worth, Texas*

"For a second year, housing authorities are being creative in an effort to connect fathers and their children," said HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, himself a father of two. "Whether it's a Friday night dinner with dad or a Saturday basketball tournament, the events speak to this year's theme, 'Reconnecting Families and Dads.'"

HUD's *Father's Day* was modelled after a 2010 celebration of fatherhood from the New York Housing Authority which featured food, arts and crafts, as well as on-site representatives from local supportive services organizations. The celebration had two goals which HUD's *Father's Day* also adopted: first promoting the role of fathers in the public housing community and second, connecting dads to local service providers for jobs, education and health services.

This year, over 300 PHAs held *Father's Day* celebrations; many housing agencies hosting multiple events at several locations. The celebrations ranged from development-wide cookouts to intimate award dinners. To help PHAs find resources for their events HUD partnered with other federal agencies like the Department of Education and the Department of Labor that support local organizations on education and job training. Also, the Department worked with the Boys and Girls Clubs as well as national fraternities and sororities to help housing agencies find volunteers and spaces to hold their events.

Because fatherhood involvement is an issue all year, HUD plans to continue offering resources to PHAs on parenthood and the role dads can play.

"*Father's Day* 2012 brought hundreds of fathers and their children together, and we want to give Dads an opportunity to continue to be involved in the lives of their children," said Ron Ashford, Director of the HUD's Office Public Housing Supportive Services and the force behind *Father's Day*. "We developed a toolkit that has a lot of great information on how parents can be involved in their children's school. The

toolkit also encourages PHAs to promote education and learning in their communities.”

## HUD Partner, GreatSchools, Offers Back-to-School Advice

The new school year is here. Is your child ready? Parents ensure the whole family is prepared with the *GreatSchools Back-to-School Survival Guide*. Available here: [http://www.greatschools.org/catalog/pdf/2012\\_Back\\_To\\_School\\_Survival\\_Guide\\_Tool\\_Kit.pdf](http://www.greatschools.org/catalog/pdf/2012_Back_To_School_Survival_Guide_Tool_Kit.pdf) the toolkit provides parents with tips on everything from staying healthy to getting organized.

GreatSchools is a nonprofit organization whose goal is to help parents make the most informed decisions about their children’s education. The organization offers free information on school performance for 200,000 public and private schools across the nation. The schools serve preschool through high school students. Their website also offers 800,000 parent ratings and reviews.

“When a parent chooses a home, they also choose the teachers, parents and resources in their neighborhood school,” said HUD Secretary, Sandy Henriquez, when the Department announced its partnership with GreatSchools in December of last year. The partnership is part of the Department’s commitment to improve the lives of residents through their housing assistance. “This partnership uses housing as a platform for educational opportunity by providing parents with greater access to critical school information that will help put their kids on the path to success.”

For additional tips and tools for preparing for the new school year, visit [www.GreatSchools.org](http://www.GreatSchools.org).

### Contact us:

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