



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-5000

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

SEP 17 2012

FY11 and FY12 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grantees,

The FY11 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants states "Planning Grant recipients must secure Stage 1 Conditional Approval of their Transformation Plan for LEED for Neighborhood Development from the United States Green Building Council." The FY12 NOFA adds "or similar neighborhood sustainability standard approved by HUD." However, no such standard currently exists.

HUD recognizes that securing this approval may not be practical for many of our Planning Grantees, particularly where the neighborhood covered by the Transformation Plan represents a much larger site than would be appropriate for LEED-ND certification. As such, HUD revises the requirement for our FY11 and FY12 Planning Grantees as follows:

**Planning Grant recipients must become eligible to secure Stage 1 Conditional Approval of all or a portion of the neighborhood targeted in their Transformation Plan for LEED for Neighborhood Development from the United States Green Building Council. Therefore, grant recipients must show evidence that all or a portion of their Transformation Plan will pursue Stage 1 certification for LEED-ND. However, they are not required to secure Stage 1 or subsequent stages of LEED-ND certification to fulfill the Choice Neighborhoods Program Requirements.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dominique Blom".

Dominique Blom  
Deputy Assistance Secretary  
Office of Public Housing Investments