



PIH.RHIIP.TA Message # 2011-56 Distributed on October 19, 2011

## Social Security Number (SSN) Randomization

Effective June 25, 2011, the Social Security Administration (SSA) implemented its new SSN randomization assignment methodology for individuals receiving a SSN for the first time. This new process will eliminate the geographical significance of the first three digits of the SSN also known as the area number. In short, social security area numbers will no longer be allocated for assignment to individuals residing in specific states.

Additionally, the significance of the highest group number (the fourth and fifth digits of the SSN) for validation purposes will be eliminated. Randomization will introduce previously unassigned area numbers for assignment **excluding** area numbers 000, 666 and 900-999. SSN randomization will not assign group number 00 or serial number 0000. SSNs containing group number 00 or serial number 0000 will continue to be invalid. These changes will not affect the length of the SSN. The SSN will still be comprised of nine numeric digits.

To eliminate warnings and fatal errors when submitting a form HUD-50058 containing newly assigned SSNs to the Public and Indian Housing Information Center (PIC), the system was modified on October 17, 2011, to accept form HUD-50058 containing newly issued randomized SSNs and not provide a warning or fatal error message. PIC has removed the flag associated with any previously submitted form HUD-50058, which was flagged with the **warning error code 5292**, "Based on the Social Security Administration numbering scheme this SSN is algorithmically incorrect and potentially invalid" **and fatal error code 5323**, "This SSN was previously found to be algorithmically incorrect according to SSA formulas in a previous submission. Please refer to Chapter 5 of the Technical Reference Guide (TRG)."

Validation of SSNs, names and dates of birth will continue to be conducted by the EIV system through its routine SSA computer matching program with the results of the match transmitted to PIC. **No PHA action is required.**

For more information regarding SSN randomization, visit SSA's website:  
<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/employer/randomization.html>.