

February 11, 2013

## **Implementation Progress Report for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2012 – 2015 Environmental Justice Strategy**

### **Message from the Secretary**

Decades of disinvestment in many low-income and minority communities, which has been aggregated by the recession and housing crisis, have led to a disproportionate impact on the health and environment of those residents. Not only have these communities watched as nearly two decades of economic gains were rolled back in a matter of months, but they have become increasingly and uniquely vulnerable to pollution, unsafe drinking water and other environmental and public health hazards.

The Obama Administration believes that all communities deserve the same degree of protection, equal access to the Federal decision-making process, and a healthy environment where they can live, learn, and work.

This progress report for the [2012-2015 Environmental Justice Strategy](#) (EJ Strategy), demonstrates that HUD is continuing to build on prior success – particularly in areas like preventing childhood lead poisoning, where we've reduced the number of children with lead poisoning by 75 percent over the last decade. But the work is not finished. Given that these hazards are most prominent in older housing where many low-income communities live, HUD's continued engagement on this issue is essential.

I am proud to say that our Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control has been working to improve conditions associated with a wide range of health issues, including unintentional injuries, respiratory illnesses like asthma and radon-induced lung cancer, lead poisoning, result in lost school days for children, as well as lost work productivity.

In addition, through our Choice Neighborhoods initiative and the sustainability grants we awarded to communities in 2010 and 2011, HUD is helping to lay the foundation for healthy, inclusive, and more sustainable communities – creating walkable neighborhoods with sidewalks, preserving and protecting parks and other open spaces, and helping metro regions reduce traffic congestion and commute times by developing comprehensive transportation and housing plans that bolster economic growth.

All this work reflects a core belief: that when you choose a home, you choose a community, including how healthy and safe that community is. With President Obama's leadership and this Environmental Justice strategy, HUD is committing to working together with federal, state, and local partners to ensure that every neighborhood is vibrant, safe, and provides a healthy future for our children.

Shaun Donovan

## **Overview**

With the publication of its [2012-2015 Environmental Justice Strategy](#) (EJ Strategy) in April 2012, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) took an important step in addressing disproportionate health and environmental impacts faced by minority, low-income, and tribal populations. The strategy outlined key actions the Department would take to further integrate environmental justice into its mission and targets both agency-wide and program-specific efforts. This Implementation Progress Report outlines the headway HUD has made in this work.

The next pages cover progress made at the agency-wide level, including clarifying actions for incorporating environmental justice in environmental review processes through HUD staff and grantee training, as well as guidance; continued work to refine housing planning processes related to affirmatively furthering fair housing, and initial steps taken to encourage environmental justice considerations in discretionary funding opportunities.

This report also includes key achievements at the program level, including regional and community planning through the further development of Fair Housing and Equity Assessments (FHEA) by Sustainable Communities Regional Planning grantees; continued effort to integrate environmental justice considerations such as reducing toxic exposure in projects receiving HUD assistance, ensuring the application of site and neighborhood standards, and affirmatively furthering fair housing by preventing adverse health and environmental effects on persons with respect to race, national origin, and disability, into sustainable communities work; and the announcement of \$108.9 million to transform distressed communities in San Antonio, Cincinnati, Tampa, and Seattle through the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative. HUD continues its long-successful work to combat childhood lead poisoning, pursuing more efficient and effective ways to promote healthy housing, through coordinated home interventions across housing, health, and energy programs and the provision of information about healthy housing to communities via a one-stop, comprehensive web portal. In 2012, HUD also strove to deliver more relevant data directly to communities, launching <http://egis.hud.gov>, a set of mapping tools that can be used to learn more about demographics and assets in American communities, including housing supply, employment information by sector, flood plain boundaries, and much more. Finally, HUD continued to support tribal communities through investments in the Indian Housing Block Grant and Indian Community Development Block Grant programs.

The complicated issues facing environmental justice communities are by nature interdisciplinary and frequently require HUD to reach across federal agency siloes to effectively address them. This is accomplished through HUD's participation in the Partnership for Sustainable Communities Team-Environmental Justice (EJ) working group, the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice, the Healthy Homes Working Group, Interagency Tribal Issues Working Group, and other cross-agency collaborations.

With less than one year of implementation progress under HUD's belt, much work remains to be done and the Department will continue to incorporate environmental justice into its mission of creating strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD continues to believe that

where one lives should not limit one's aspirations, and that everyone should have access to a healthy and sustainable community in which to live, work, and play.

## **Development of HUD's Environmental Justice Strategy**

Using input gathered at national and regional listening sessions hosted by the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice, HUD drafted the 2012-2015 Environmental Justice Strategy, posting a draft on September 30, 2011 and requesting public comment. The public comment period on the draft strategy closed on November 23, 2011, after HUD extended the deadline from the original November 14, 2011 date. HUD received relevant input from a total of 36 commenters representing a wide variety of stakeholders, some of whom submitted multiple comments, in response to the draft strategy. Comments were submitted by private citizens, local, regional, and state agencies, and advocacy groups. The comments were on a wide variety of issues from many different sections of the draft strategy. On April 10, 2012, HUD posted its final EJ Strategy on its public website, along with responses to public comments. Questions regarding the EJ Strategy can be directed to [EJStrategy@hud.gov](mailto:EJStrategy@hud.gov).

## **Community Engagement Activities and Results/Impacts**

HUD participated in many of the 17 community dialogue sessions that the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (EJIWG) conducted across the country between February 2011 and July 2012, as part of its effort to ensure that communities had a voice in helping to provide direction to federal agencies working to address environmental, human health and economic concerns. The sessions held were representative of the country in geographic, racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity. Many communities voiced frustration regarding not knowing about available resources. The EJIWG responded by creating two documents, the EJ Federal Interagency Directory, and the Community-Based Federal EJ Guide, to which HUD was a contributor. These resources are available both through the EJIWG and [HUD's website](#). As mentioned earlier, community input from these sessions was incorporated into HUD's EJ Strategy.

## **Implementation Progress:**

HUD's 2012 EJ Strategy is divided into three sections: *Statutes, Regulations, and Practices that Advance Environmental Justice Agency-Wide*, *HUD Program Office Efforts that Advance Environmental Justice*, and *Interagency Collaborations*. The below sections mirror this organization and outline the specific progress HUD has made in each area. Where there is no additional information to report at this time, an update was not included in this progress report.

### ***Statutes, Regulations, and Practices that Advance Environmental Justice Agency-Wide***

#### **A1. Integrating Environmental Justice into Discretionary Funding Opportunities**

A1.1 In FY2012 and 2013, the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities and the Office of General Counsel – Fair Housing Division committed to work with the Grants Management and Oversight

Division within HUD's Office of Strategic Planning and Management and relevant program offices to identify ways to further integrate environmental justice into discretionary funding opportunities. As an initial step, beginning with Fiscal Year 2013, the *Notice of HUD's Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Policy Requirements and General Section to HUD's FY2013 NOFAs for Discretionary Programs* (HUD General Section) includes environmental justice as one of the criteria that discretionary programs may take into account in evaluating applications:

- (4) Environmental Justice. In evaluating applications HUD may take into account considerations for environmental justice. Under Executive Order 12898, each Federal agency is directed to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. (See <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=2013nofagensec.pdf> Page 43)

## **A2. Ensuring Quality of Place**

A2.1 (See Interagency Collaboration section)

## **A3. Clarifying Environmental Justice in Environmental Review Requirements**

A3.1/3.3 HUD's Office of Environment and Energy (OEE) committed to review and evaluate standards in HUD's regulations in 24 CFR part 51 (Part 51) and EJ policy documents and to initiate research on the effectiveness of existing environmental noise standards.

In 2012, various aspects of the environmental noise and acceptable separation distance criteria in Part 51 standards were evaluated by a team of consultants. The research looked at the regulations in the context of potential conflicts between regulatory compliance and desirable development and suggested improvements and ways in which such conflicts might be avoided. For example, the noise regulation was considered in the context of transit-oriented development (a desirable development pattern to reduce the transportation portion of housing costs) to find ways to improve transportation options without subjecting communities to excessive noise. This is an area in which policies of separation and avoidance do not serve communities well, yet public health, safety, and financial concerns had to be adequately addressed. The studies compiled applicable academic research and industry standards and practices for use in future guidance.

A3.2 In FY2012 and 2013, HUD committed to develop and deliver special training materials for HUD and grantee staff on environmental justice.

In 2012, OEE developed and delivered a webinar for HUD grantees and staff on how to evaluate projects for environmental justice. The webinar explained the EJ assessment process in detail, giving definitions of key terms and using five case studies to discuss these principles. A HUD-specific measure of poverty was identified that is consistent with programmatic methods to determine income-eligibility.

Over 400 staff, grantees, and consultants participated in the initial presentation. The webinar has since been made available to other federal agencies through the MAX.GOV portal. The presentation slides have been shared with staff of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The webinar is the latest addition to the materials OEE staff across the country has used to teach awareness of environmental justice. OEE field staff train approximately 1000 grantees and HUD staff each year. Environmental justice has been a part of that training since the first departmental strategy highlighted its importance.

This webinar demystifies the environmental justice assessment process. It promotes a positive message by highlighting projects that were improved by consideration of environmental justice. It shows that compliance is not onerous when considered as part of project planning. This last point reinforces a central theme of all OEE training: that environmental review should be done early as part of project planning to inform proponents of the challenges of a particular site and to allow low- or no-cost mitigation. This incorporates environmental justice into how HUD does business.

An archive of the webinar can be found at: <https://www.onecpd.info/resource/2061/environmental-justice-at-hud-why-what-and-how-webinar/>

A3.4 In FY2012 and 2013, the Office of Housing committed to reemphasize its environmental review responsibilities under Executive Order 12898 for all of its project proposals as it has done in FY2011 for its Office of Multifamily Housing Insured project proposals.

Revisions have been made to Chapter 9 of the Multifamily Accelerated Processing (MAP) Guide that clarify the requirements of Environmental Justice reviews. HUD staff must complete an Environmental Justice review for each application for Federal Housing Administration (FHA) multifamily mortgage insurance before HUD commits to insuring a project. The revisions will aid HUD staff in completing their review, and raise awareness of federal Environmental Justice review requirements among lenders and borrowers, as these parties regularly use and reference the MAP Guide.

See Section 9.5.M of the MAP Guide:

<http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=4430GHSGG-bm.pdf>

#### **A4. Promoting fairness, equity and non-discrimination, and equal opportunity**

A4.1 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing: HUD continues to work on refining its fair housing planning requirements to help grantees improve access to opportunity, create inclusive communities, and foster true housing choice for all. As stated in the Departmental EJ Strategy, these revisions are consistent with the Department's strategic goal of achieving inclusive communities free from discrimination. At the heart of this updated approach is a more focused incorporation of fair housing principles and data in HUD's planning requirements and policies. This new, more proactive approach will rely more on tailored guidance to localities, including HUD's provision of relevant data and guidance to inform localities how they may effectively conduct analyses of impediments to fair housing choice.

#### ***HUD Program Office Efforts that Advance Environmental Justice***

##### **P1. Build Inclusive and Sustainable Communities Free From Discrimination**

**Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities (OSHC)**

P1.2 As part of the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant program, all grantees must complete a Regional Fair Housing and Equity Assessment (FHEA) exercise.

Between the FY2010 and FY2011 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning grantees, 75 regions across the U.S. will be conducting a FHEA. The FHEA includes the following assessment components:

1. Segregated Areas and Areas of Increasing Diversity and/or Racial/Ethnic Integration
2. Racially/Ethnically Concentrated Areas of Poverty
3. Access to Existing Areas of High Opportunity
4. Major Public Investments
5. Fair Housing Issues, Services, and Activities

Grantees are asked to focus their analysis at regional scale across these components, comparing within and across jurisdictions to gain a full picture of regional equity and access to opportunity.

This progress is significant to HUD's vision of achieving environmental justice because it requires grantees to examine their region's geography for areas of opportunity, determine how those areas align or do not align with racially/ethnically concentrated areas of poverty, and use this information to guide decision-making related to future investments. In particular, the FY2011 iteration of this work includes data for analysis on health hazards exposure, job access, and transit, in addition to three other categories. This data can be used to identify areas of the region where concentrations of racial/ethnic groups are disproportionately exposed to health hazards or lack equitable access to jobs and transit.

More information on the FHEA can be found on HUD's website at:

[http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/sustainable\\_housing\\_communities/regional\\_fair\\_hsg\\_equityassesmt](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/sustainable_housing_communities/regional_fair_hsg_equityassesmt)

P1.3 HUD's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities (OSHC) committed to review its Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs) to further integrate environmental justice principles into its Sustainable Communities funding in each funding year. While the programs did not receive FY2012 appropriations, the office has continued to work to integrate sustainable communities and environmental justice in its existing work, including provision of technical assistance to grantees through the Sustainable Communities Capacity Building Program, particularly in the category of *Advancing Social Equity in Planning, Participation, and Decision-making* and the establishment of a Sustainable Communities Learning Network.

In addition, OSHC has sought the expertise of the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Justice staff to provide additional resources to HUD Sustainable Communities Initiative grantees. Further, HUD's Office of Housing and OEE staff participated in a panel discussion at the Office OSHC grantee convening held in December 2012 at the Department of Transportation (DOT) focused in part on the environmental justice concerns and review responsibilities that stem from urban infill development. Raising awareness of environmental justice responsibilities early on in the project planning process among all of the players involved will help ensure compliance with the requirements of environmental justice review and promote better planning.

P1.4 OSHC has continued to coordinate HUD's participation in the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice, including participating in stakeholder listening sessions, coordinating the HUD internal working group on environmental justice, and identifying opportunities for interagency collaboration.

### **Office of Public and Indian Housing – Public Housing Investments**

P1.5 The Choice Neighborhoods program committed to continue to encourage applicants to consider the environment, energy efficiency, and sustainability in their Transformation Plans.

The Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) is HUD's successor to the HOPE VI program. CNI implementation grants help transform severely distressed public housing or HUD-assisted private housing developments through rehabilitation, demolition, and new construction. Applicants prepare a comprehensive plan to address other aspects of neighborhood distress such as violent crime, failing schools and capital disinvestment. Funds can address supportive services and improvements to the surrounding community, such as community facilities or solutions to vacant, blighted properties.

Unlike HOPE VI, CNI projects must replace assisted units on a one-for-one basis, although HUD may make exceptions.

To date, Choice Neighborhoods has awarded 47 planning grants and nine implementation grants, including the four newest implementation grants, awarded in December 2012. These four grants, involving a combined \$108.9 million to transform distressed communities, were awarded to:

- Cincinnati, Ohio for \$29,500,000 leveraged by \$45,000,000 in state, local, and community funds
- San Antonio, Texas for \$29,750,000 leveraged by \$63,000,000 in state, local, and community funds
- Seattle, Washington for \$19,730,000 leveraged by \$207,000,000 in state, local, and community funds
- Tampa, Florida for \$30,000,000 leveraged by \$78,000,000 in state, local, and community funds

Choice Neighborhoods uses the criteria within the NOFAs/grant competitions and in the subsequent monitoring of and technical assistance provided to grantees to advance its commitments from the 2012-2015 EJ Strategy. Fiscal Year 2011 and FY2012 planning grantees pursue Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) certification for all or a portion of their neighborhood Transformation Plan. Implementation applicants are given points in the rating process if their proposed developments fulfill requirements of recognized green rating programs, including Enterprise Green Communities, the National Green Building Standards, LEED-ND, LEED for homes (for single family developments), LEED New Construction (for multifamily developments); or locally preferred rating systems such as Earthcraft, Built Green, Green Point for Rated Homes, or Earth Advantage.

The continued progress of CNI grantees from planning to implementation is significant to HUD's vision of achieving environmental justice across the country. In addition, tenant involvement and neighborhood participation is required before applications are submitted and during the subsequent revitalization

process. Additionally, CNI encourages collaboration between HUD and the Departments of Education, Justice, Treasury, and Health and Human Services to support local solutions for sustainable, mixed-income neighborhoods with affordable housing, safe streets and good schools for all families in need. For more on CNI, visit:

[http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUS?src=/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/programs/ph/cn](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUS?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/cn)

## **P2. Promote Healthy Homes Free of Environmental and Health Hazards**

### **Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control (OHHLHC)**

P2.1 Safe and Healthy Homes Investment Partnerships (SHHIP): HUD committed to create a certification for communities that coordinate home interventions across housing, health, and energy programs.

The OHHLHC has completed the internal and external development process for the SHHIP certification and is currently going through the Paperwork Reduction Act procedures required for the certification process. The development process included the publication of a notice in the Federal Register requesting comments and feedback on the SHHIP concept, taking in comments and developing responses. In preparation for the SHHIP certification process OHHLHC has already begun encouraging the development of coalitions engaged in comprehensive interventions through the FY2013 NOFA language and scoring.

In addition to program development efforts OHHLHC engaged national and regional audiences in promoting the SHHIP certification concept in eight different venues, including the national conference of Lead and Healthy Homes Grantees, the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative annual training conference and several statewide healthy homes conferences. These national and regional outreach efforts focused heavily on programs representing environmental justice communities.

It is anticipated that the first SHHIP certification round will take place in the second or third quarter of FY2013.

This progress is significant to HUD's vision of achieving environmental justice because one of the key determinants of health for children and families in EJ communities is the environment where they live. Studies by HUD and others indicate that a resident's zip code is often a more accurate marker of health than genetics. Encouraging the coordination of home interventions across health, housing and environment will lead to better service delivery for EJ residents, improved health outcomes and ultimately program and health cost savings.

P2.2 The OHHLHC committed to continue to support a public-private partnership known as the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) pilot. This pilot performs healthy and green retrofits of low-income housing units by bringing together federal, state, and local government, and philanthropic funding streams.

Through FY2012 participating jurisdictions in the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative have performed healthy and green retrofits on 1,925 units of housing in 15 cities. This brings the total number of GHHI units created in the pilot phase to 3,170. Each of the cities in this HUD supported pilot program have committed to coordinating housing interventions through the execution of inter-program compacts and adoption of common assessment tools.

The GHHI unit production activity is heavily focused on environmental justice communities. The top six performing GHHI sites are Baltimore, Maryland; Cleveland, Ohio; Flint, Michigan; Denver, Colorado; New Haven, Connecticut; and Chicago, Illinois.

In addition to unit production, the GHHI has been actively coordinating training of workers in multiple sites. This training, funded in large part by a grant to the GHHI by the Open Society Initiative, has focused on building skills in multiple housing and energy efficiency disciplines among ex-offenders and low wage or unemployed workers.

The GHHI pilot is currently the subject of an independent review funded by OHHLHC that will, among other elements, examine the GHHI's impact on service delivery systems for housing. The review will examine how well GHHI establishes cross program coordination and the impact that this has on the environmental justice communities served.

This progress is significant to HUD's vision of achieving environmental justice because piloting and subsequently studying the effectiveness of coordinated housing interventions is critical to promotion of a better model of service delivery, particularly in EJ communities. The project now has sufficient scale to provide useful data across several different models of implementation.

P2.3 To provide technical assistance for grantees and a new opportunity for effective advocacy, OHHLHC committed to spearheading the development of an interagency website, which will contain substantial content on lead and lead poisoning prevention.

Due to the moratorium on new ".gov" websites, this project has been reconfigured. HUD will now lead the effort in implementing a new strategy to launch and maintain the website. The domain will change from healthyhomes.gov to healthyhomes.hud.gov. Despite this setback the project continued to progress throughout FY2012 with the development of content for the website.

The site's development will be based on usability research. It is designed to expand consumers' knowledge on the potential impact of the home environment, especially the nature and extent of health hazards in housing stock. The target audience will be low and moderate income consumers with an emphasis on health issues in EJ communities.

This progress is significant to HUD's vision of achieving environmental justice. The provision of accurate and understandable information regarding environmental issues in the home impacting health will be a tremendous asset to residents in environmental justice communities. Currently there is no 'one stop' internet site where all appropriate federal agencies collaborate to provide consumers information across energy, environment, health and housing.

P2.4 OHHLHC Programs committed to continue to provide states and local communities grants to make housing improvements that will yield positive health outcomes for individuals and families.

In FY2012 OHHLHC continued to provide states and local communities with resources to combat lead based paint and other hazards in homes. The office quickly issued the FY2012 Notice of Funding Availability, reviewed the grant applications and completed new grant agreements with 43 states or local communities.

Through FY2012 OHHLHC existing grantees controlled lead paint hazards, reduced allergens and remediated mold in 12,143 units. The great majority of this activity was focused on older, pre-1978 housing stock primarily located in inner city neighborhoods. OHHLHC grant programs are among HUD's preeminent programs that positively impact environmental justice.

This progress is significant to HUD's vision of achieving environmental justice because direct reduction of lead hazards in the homes or rental units of low income residents is the single most significant activity that OHHLHC has to protect families and children in EJ communities. Since the Lead Hazard Control program's inception over \$1.7 billion dollars has been funded to communities around the country and the rate of elevated blood lead levels in children has declined by more than 70%.

Reducing childhood lead poisoning in EJ communities directly addresses a major impediment to early childhood education and has proven long term beneficial impacts on these communities. Each dollar invested in lead paint hazard control has been shown to result in a return of at least \$17, and as much as \$221, reflecting a net savings of \$181 billion to \$269 billion (Gould, *Environmental Health Perspectives* 117:1162-1167(2009)).

### **P3. Use Data Tools to Expand HUD and Public Knowledge about Environmental Justice** Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R)

P3.1/3.2 PD&R committed to a number of activities related to developing tools and resources to assist in disaster planning and response, particularly geospatial mapping tools.

PD&R has played a key role in the development of HUD's geospatial capabilities over the past several years. PD&R designed and developed HUD's Enterprise GIS (eGIS) Platform, a common geospatial infrastructure that is shared agency wide. The eGIS Platform supports a number of HUD program functions and serves as the primary source for geospatial data, services, and applications for the Department. The Platform currently supports a wide array of geospatial applications, ranging from complex GIS analytical capabilities on the desktop to more nimble web-based solutions such as CPD Maps, an integral part of HUD's new eCon Planning Suite. CPD Maps allows users to search, query, and display information that helps them to better understand affordable housing and community development needs. PD&R is also providing executive oversight and management for the Enterprise Geospatial Services Transformation Initiative. This initiative will create a formal governance structure for managing HUD's geospatial portfolio, establish standards and operational protocols for the eGIS Platform, analyze

the agency's geospatial requirements, identify gaps in the current geospatial portfolio, and support the creation of future geospatial solutions.

Ultimately, these resources provide communities with additional tools through which they can learn about demographic data for specific geographical areas, as well as what HUD-assisted assets or specific designations (for example, Revitalization Areas) may exist in their community. While many of these tools existed previously, HUD has taken the additional step of making its data available via web services to make it easier for users to access the information.

*Disaster Planning:*

As part of a HUD pilot on the use of ArcGIS Online\*, and in response to Hurricane Sandy, HUD developed the linked ([http://www.huduser.org/maps/map\\_sandy\\_blockgroup.html](http://www.huduser.org/maps/map_sandy_blockgroup.html)) map which shows Hurricane Sandy damage by Census block group in the states of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. This is an example of the type of data and information HUD hopes to be able to provide as it continues to develop its geospatial mapping systems. This information can be used by communities affected by disasters to assist in their planning of recovery efforts. HUD views these tools as a part of its broader efforts to achieve environmental justice as they can be used, combined with other information, to identify information about areas where vulnerable populations may reside. Other maps associated with the Hurricane Sandy recovery effort include a map of HUD interests affected by the Hurricane Sandy flood surge: [http://www.huduser.org/portal/maps/map\\_sandy\\_2012.html](http://www.huduser.org/portal/maps/map_sandy_2012.html)

\*ArcGIS Online is geospatial software delivered as a service, via the web. There is nothing for the user to set up or install. The infrastructure is provided by ESRI in a cloud computing environment. Users have the ability to create and publish maps and applications on demand and then share them on blogs, web pages, and social media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter.

#### **P4. Supporting Tribal Self-Governance and Improving Living Environments**

In FY2012, 369 compliant Indian Housing Plans were submitted, representing 550 tribes. Funds were reserved as follows:

##### **Indian Housing Block Grant Program**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Number of Recipients in FY2012</b>	<b>Amounts Reserved in FY2012</b>
Alaska, Anchorage	59	\$99,147,916
Eastern/Woodlands, Chicago	57	\$89,787,182
Northern Plains, Denver	33	\$182,743,643
Northwest, Seattle	42	\$56,654,376
Southern Plains, Oklahoma City	45	\$98,346,038
Southwest, Phoenix	133	\$126,660,236
<b>Totals</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>\$653,339,391</b>

In FY2012, 76 awards were made under the Indian Community Development Block Grant Program, totaling \$56,224,534.

## ***Interagency Collaborations***

### **II. Partnership for Sustainable Communities – Team EJ**

II.1 Team-EJ committed to develop and deliver training for environmental justice and sustainability staff and grantees across the Partnership on the integration of sustainable communities and environmental justice work.

On November 29, 2012 Team-EJ jointly delivered training via webinar to environmental justice and sustainable communities staff from HUD, the EPA, and the U.S. Department of Transportation. The team is currently planning additional follow-up training in 2013.

II.2 Team EJ committed to identify and highlight best practice projects that have used Federal assistance to address environmental justice concerns using sustainable communities approaches and sustainable communities projects that have targeted environmental justice communities.

On Monday, October 22, Team-EJ co-presented with Mayor Bill Finch of Bridgeport, Connecticut on a webinar on how the city of Bridgeport is working to become "New England's greenest city." An EPA Environmental Justice Showcase Community, Bridgeport was featured in the Partnership's 2012 [Accomplishments Report](#) and a recent Partnership [video](#).

In addition, members of Team-EJ have presented on their work in a variety of settings, including the National Summit on the Science of Eliminating Health Disparities and the National Environmental Justice Conference.

### **II. Addressing Local EJ Concerns that Affect Residents of HUD-Assisted Housing**

Recognizing that environmental justice issues affect residents of HUD-assisted properties, but that HUD may not have jurisdiction in the areas where problems originate (for example, the siting of landfills near existing HUD-assisted properties), in FY2011 and 2012, HUD committed to initiate work with the EJIWG at the Headquarters, Regional, and Field Office levels to identify interagency and intergovernmental approaches to address these issues.

In 2012, when HUD hosted an EJIWG meeting, participants discussed the challenges of potential toxic exposure of residents of HUD-assisted properties that does not originate from the property itself. A key strategy emerging from the discussion is to raise the awareness of field staff on environmental justice issues that are faced by their communities. To that end, OSHC is working with HUD's Office of Field Policy and Management (FPM) to better engage HUD's regional and local offices in HUD's EJ work. As additional field and regional strategies emerge from the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice, HUD will continue to support them and lend experience from its work with the Partnership for Sustainable Communities regional network.

In addition, OEE is an active participant in the committee to create regional interagency working groups. OEE invites HUD field environmental staff to participate in meetings of their regional counterparts at other agencies. The OEE sees these field-level groups as a means to build capacity outside of headquarters. The regional interagency working groups will create a common understanding of how environmental justice should be addressed. They will inform participating agencies of HUD's concerns so that those difficult issues can be avoided or at least resolved more quickly. A final component of the capacity building is the creation of a support network that is attuned to local circumstances and political strictures. The regional groups will be a place for HUD staff to work out ideas informally so that fair, workable solutions can be found.

### **I3. Healthy Homes and Communities**

I.3.1 HUD committed to work with key agencies to analyze the effectiveness of current lead testing and abatement technology.

HUD is currently coordinating with the EPA in reviewing the adequacy of the current federal paint-lead and dust-lead standards. HUD has completed an initial review of the paint-lead standard and is collecting data to inform the EPA review of the dust-lead standards. In the fourth quarter of FY2012, OHHLHC issued a contract to collect the needed data from HUD's lead hazard control grantees; the process will be completed in FY2013.

The impact of poor housing on the health of children is a basic environmental justice issue. HUD and EPA are working to ensure that the nation utilizes the most appropriately protective standard for determining when hazards, such as lead content in dust, can adversely affect resident health.

This progress is significant to HUD's vision of achieving environmental justice because more accurately measuring the impact of different lead hazard control techniques allows for more cost effective methods to be utilized with equal or greater protection for children. More economical, but equally effective, lead hazard control methods equate directly to more units achieving lead safe status.

### **I4. Tribal Issues Interagency Working Group**

HUD committed through its participation in the Tribal Issues Interagency working group to execute an MOU with IHS, EPA, and USDA to agree to work cooperatively to improve interagency coordination on the planning for and funding of tribal infrastructure projects. Agency coordination will focus on:

- I4.1 Project planning and completion of the environmental review process (streamlining for projects that include multiple sources of federal funds);
- I4.2 Selection and timing of projects to be funded, as appropriate (HUD funded projects are selected and managed by the Tribes themselves);
- I4.3 Funding of identified projects (jointly or by one agency).

By the end of FY2012, partners were working on executing an updated Memorandum of Understanding and expect completion early in 2013.

### **Additional Work through the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice:**

Representatives from the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities and Office of Environment and Energy participate in the Goods Movement and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Committees of the EJIWG, respectively. The accomplishments of these working groups are as follows:

### ***Goods Movement Committee***

Goods movement refers to the distribution of freight (e.g., raw materials, parts, and finished consumer products) by all modes of transportation, including marine, air, rail, and truck. Goods movement facilities, also called freight facilities, include seaports, airports, land ports of entry (i.e., border crossings), rail yards, and distribution centers. The U.S. has an extensive network of infrastructure to support goods movement, including highways, bridges, and rail lines. Goods movement activities have increased significantly in the past 20 years. In fact, container shipments quintupled at the ten largest U.S. container ports from 1980 to 2006, and over the last decade alone, shipments have grown by 81 percent. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) forecasts that between 2006 and 2035:

- Freight tonnage hauled by trucks will grow by 80 percent;
- Rail tonnage hauled will grow by 73 percent;
- Water transportation tonnage will increase by 51 percent;
- Intermodal tonnage will increase by 73 percent; and
- Air cargo tonnage will quadruple.

Minority, low-income and tribal populations have borne a disproportionate share of the health impacts from goods movement. Per the EJ MOU, federal agencies have made goods movement a focus area when “identifying and addressing, as appropriate, any disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.” A keystone for meeting this requirement is interagency collaboration.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and EPA co-chair the EJIWG Goods Movement committee. The committee was established in 2012 and is currently composed of eight agencies. Outlined below are the committee’s 2012 accomplishments.

- Launched biweekly interagency meetings.
- Developed draft FY2013 Goods Committee Action Plan focused on supporting federal agency initiatives to (1) reduce the environmental and health effects of agency efforts related to commercial transportation and supporting infrastructure and impacts on low-income, minority and tribal populations; and (2) assure that overburdened communities have greater opportunities to benefit from federal efforts related to goods movement.
- Facilitated the engagement with and support and utilization of the Ports Task Force, led by the White House, to develop a federal strategy for future port and related infrastructure investments.

Enhanced federal collaboration and information sharing by evaluating and utilizing interagency tools and resources such as the Committee on the Marine Transportation System Data Map, FHWA Freight Analysis Framework and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) MAX.

### ***National Environmental Policy Act Committee***

HUD’s OEE staff is actively participating with the EJIWG. While OEE’s involvement with the EJIWG has been uninterrupted since its inception nearly 20 years ago, HUD is much more active than in the past.

The OEE staff meets with federal counterparts on the EJ and NEPA Committee. Furthermore, the NEPA Committee is organized into subcommittees, and OEE is very active at this task-oriented level. OEE staff work on the Community of Practice, Regional Interagency Working Group, Training, Goods Movement subcommittees. OEE was one of the organizers of the EJIWG group on OMB's MAX.GOV federal intranet portal. OEE has contributed substantive material (training modules, and case studies) to the MAX.GOV site. HUD provided our EJ compliance checklist as the source document for the Community of Practice subcommittee.

In 2012, HUD OEE met with EJ coordinators at DOE to learn about the learning management system they are implementing. This system is available to all federal agencies as a distance learning vehicle.

Cooperation with other federal agencies allows for a broader network of resources through access to trained EJ professionals in other agencies. It creates consistency across the federal family that will save time by avoiding implementation discrepancies. Furthermore, it allows OEE the opportunity to see how other agencies have incorporated EJ into their core business practices so that they can more easily see how to transform HUD's book of business.

#### Additional Information about the NEPA subcommittee's collective accomplishments:

Recognizing that NEPA provides an important opportunity to advance the consideration of EJ through meaningful engagement of minority, low-income, and tribal populations potentially impacted by federal actions, the IWG formed the NEPA committee. The committee is co-chaired by DOT and EPA and currently includes representatives from approximately 20 departments and agencies. The committee's purpose is to improve the efficiency of the NEPA process across the federal government to enhance the consideration of EJ through the sharing of best practices and lessons learned. Thus, the NEPA committee supports federal agency NEPA implementation to "focus federal attention on the environmental and human health conditions in minority communities and low-income communities with the goal of achieving environmental justice."

Since its inception in May 2012, the NEPA committee has taken several steps toward achieving its mission, such as:

- Commencing a series of interagency meetings to identify and promote best practices related to EJ and NEPA analyses, including those related to public engagement and the mitigation and monitoring of environmental and human health impacts.
- Commencing a series of cross-agency training on existing tools, methods, and agency-specific focal areas for further incorporating EJ analysis within the NEPA process. The training is designed to inform agencies of the current state of NEPA-related EJ efforts across the federal family.
- Commencing the development of a national NEPA training module on EJ. The national training module will provide federal officials, at all levels, with a foundational understanding of NEPA's role in addressing EJ issues.
- Creating the EJ Resources Compendium, gathering in one place the publicly available NEPA and EJ-related documents from federal agencies (e.g., regulations, guidance and circulars), providing hyperlinks to each document for quick access. The committee will publish the compilation online.

The NEPA committee plans to build on these early accomplishments in 2013.