

NEWS RELEASE

WASHINGTON STATE HOUSING FINANCE COMMISSION 1000 Second Avenue, Suite 2700, Seattle, Washington 98104-1046

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FEDERAL AGENCIES JOIN FORCES WITH WASHINGTON STATE HOUSING FINANCE COMMISSION IN OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PUSH TO REDUCE REGULATORY BURDEN ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPERS

*Federal rental alignment initiative would eliminate duplicate physical inspection requirements in
Washington state subsidized housing*

Seattle – Today, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Northwest Regional Administrator Mary McBride, United States Department of Rural Development State Director Mario Villaneuva and Washington State Housing Finance Commission announced an interagency agreement to reduce duplicate physical inspections of local subsidized affordable housing— allowing developers and owners to focus on delivering more housing and resources to those in need.

As part of the Obama Administration’s [commitment to better coordinate federal rental policy](#), HUD, Treasury and USDA are piloting programs in Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Oregon and Washington to avoid duplicate inspections and reduce regulatory burdens for rental housing that is subsidized through more than one federal agency. Developers and owners often work with several federal agencies to house the lowest-income tenants. In the past this meant duplicate requirements and extra paperwork.

“This initiative is an important step forward in the administration’s desire to streamline government policies and build strong inter-agency partnerships to serve the American public as cost-effectively and efficiently as possible,” said Mary McBride, HUD’s Northwest Regional Administrator. “It is an excellent example of HUD partnering with federal and state agencies to eliminate burdensome requirements and provide seamless coordination for our customers.”

USDA Rural Development’s Rural Housing Service Administrator Tammye Treviño said “Any time we not only improve the efficiency of a government process, but also reduce the burden on our property owners and developers – that’s a success. USDA Rural Development is proud to make this agreement with our colleagues at Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Treasury, for we know that reducing duplication between our agencies frees up time and resources that we can better spend providing affordable housing to those who need it most.”

Washington State Housing Finance Commission executive director Kim Herman, “This is an important effort to reduce the burden on the owners and managers of affordable housing that follows our experience in state government. We are excited to be a participant with HUD and USDA and believe this pilot program will demonstrate there are cooperative efforts that we can build on to increase government efficiency at all levels.”

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The agencies will officially launch the program at a signing ceremony to be held on November 15, 2011 at U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 451 7th Street S.W., Washington, DC 20410.

In response to the [White House's Domestic Policy Council](#) request for better coordinated federal rental policy, HUD, USDA Rural Development, Treasury and Washington State Housing Finance Commission have worked together since April to craft a memorandum of understanding that aligns the often burdensome program requirements of different affordable rental housing government programs. The MOU to be approved by HUD, Treasury, and USDA Rural Development on November 15, 2011 is an administrative solution that better aligns state and federal affordable rental housing program policies.

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