



SECTION 3 OVERVIEW

FOR RECIPIENTS OF HUD HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

Why HUD Enforces Section 3?

Each year the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development invests billions of federal dollars into distressed communities for projects that build and rehabilitate housing; improve roads and community centers; and help families achieve the American Dream.

The Section 3 regulation acknowledges that HUD funding typically results in projects/activities that generate new contracting, employment, and other economic opportunities that not only impact bricks and mortar, but also create a multiplier effect for local housing providers and businesses that provide goods and services.

Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 [12 U.S.C. 1701u and 24 CFR Part 135] represents HUD's policy for providing preference for new employment, training, and contracting opportunities created from the usage of covered HUD funds to low- and very low-income residents of the community where certain funds are spent (regardless of race or gender), and the businesses that substantially employ these persons.

Applicability of Section 3 to Housing and Community Development Assistance

The requirements of Section 3 apply to recipients of HUD Housing and Community Development funding exceeding **\$200,000**.

Section 3 does not apply on a "per-project" basis, whenever any portion of HUD funding is invested into projects involving **housing construction, demolition, rehabilitation, or other public construction (i.e., roads, sewers, community centers, etc.)**, the requirements of Section 3 apply.

Further, contractors or subcontractors that receive contracts in excess of **\$100,000** for Section 3 covered projects/activities are required to comply with the Section 3 regulations in the same manner as direct recipients.

If the recipient agency receives Section 3 covered projects/activities, but no individual contract exceeds \$100,000, the requirements of Section 3 only apply to the recipient. Accordingly, the recipient must attempt to meet the Section 3 minimum numerical goals found at 24 CFR Part 135.30 by awarding 10 percent of the total dollar amount of all covered construction contracts to Section 3 businesses.

State and County agencies that distribute covered funds to units of local government, nonprofit organizations, or other subrecipients, must attempt to reach the minimum numerical goals set forth at 24 CFR Part 135.30, regardless of the number of subrecipients that receive covered funding. The state or county must inform its subrecipients about the requirements of Section 3; assist them and their contractors with achieving compliance; and monitor their performance with respect to the objectives and requirements of Section 3.

Some Types of Section 3 Covered Housing and Community Development Funding

- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
- Home Investment Partnership Assistance
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA)
- Economic Development Initiative (EDI)
- Brownfield Economic Development Initiative (BEDI)
- Emergency Shelter Grants
- Homeless Assistance
- University Partnership Grants
- Neighborhood Stimulus Program (NSP)
- Certain Grants Awarded Under HUD Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs)
- Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly
- Section 811 Supportive Housing for the Disabled
- Project Based Section 8 Vouchers

*NOTE: The requirements of Section 3 only apply to the portion(s) of covered funding that were used for project/activities involving housing construction, rehabilitation, demolition, or other public construction.

Section 3 applies to the **entire** covered project or activity regardless of whether the activity was fully or partially funded with covered assistance.

Section 3 Covered Recipient Agencies

“Recipient” refers to any entity that receives Section 3 covered financial assistance directly from HUD or from another recipient and includes, but is not limited to any of the following:

- States; Units of Local Government; Native American Tribes; or other Public Bodies
- Public or Private Nonprofit Organizations
- Private Agencies or Institutions
- Mortgagors; Developers; Limited Dividend Sponsors; Builders; Property Owners; Community Housing Development Organizations
- Successors, assignees or transferees of any such entity listed above
- Recipients do **NOT** include any ultimate beneficiary under the HUD program that Section 3 applies (i.e., residents or laborers); and does **NOT** refer to contractors.

What Triggers the Requirements of Section 3?

Each recipient of \$200,000 of covered HUD funding is required to comply with Section 3. Section 3 applies to all projects and activities involving housing construction, rehabilitation, or other public construction that is funded with covered HUD funding.

Section 3 is triggered when the normal completion of construction and rehabilitation projects creates the need for **new** employment, contracting, or training opportunities.

The Section 3 regulations should not be construed to mean that recipients are required to hire Section 3 residents or award contracts to Section 3 businesses other than what is needed to complete covered projects/activities.

If the expenditure of covered funding does not result in new employment, contracting, or training opportunities, the requirements have not been triggered.

Recipient Responsibilities Pursuant to Section 3

Each recipient (and their covered contractors, subcontractors, or subrecipients) are required to comply with the requirements of Section 3 for **new** employment, training, or contracting opportunities resulting from the expenditure of covered funding. This responsibility includes:

1. Implementing procedures to notify Section 3 residents and business concerns about training, employment, and contracting opportunities generated by Section 3 covered assistance;
2. Notifying potential contractors working on Section 3 covered projects of their responsibilities;
3. Incorporating the Section 3 Clause into all covered solicitations and contracts [see 24 CFR Part 135.38];
4. Facilitating the training and employment of Section 3 residents and the award of contracts to Section 3 business concerns;
5. Assisting and actively cooperating with the Department in making contractors and subcontractors comply;
6. Refraining from entering into contracts with contractors that are in violation of Section 3 regulations;
7. Documenting actions taken to comply with Section 3; and
8. Submitting Section 3 Annual Summary Reports (form HUD-60002) in accordance with 24 CFR Part 135.90.

Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns

Section 3 Residents Are:

1. Residents of Public and Indian Housing; or
2. Individuals that reside in the metropolitan area or nonmetropolitan county in which the Section 3 covered assistance is expended and whose income do not exceed the local income criteria of low- or very low-income.

Section 3 Business Concerns Are One of the Following:

1. Businesses that are 51 percent or more owned by Section 3 residents;
2. Businesses whose permanent, full-time employees include persons, at least 30 percent of whom are currently Section 3 residents, or within three years of the date of first employment with the firm were Section 3 residents; or
3. Businesses that provide evidence of a commitment to subcontract in excess of 25 percent of the dollar amount of all subcontracts to be awarded to businesses that meet the qualifications described above.

In accordance with the regulation, residents and businesses concerns seeking Section 3 preference shall certify, or submit evidence to the recipient, contractor, subcontractor or subrecipient (if requested) verifying that they meet the definitions provided above.

Recipients can use their discretion for determining the type of verification that is required by prospective Section 3 residents and business concerns. Some examples include: proof of residency in a public housing authority; proof of federal subsidies for housing, food stamps, or unemployment benefits; and payroll data or other relevant business information.

Section 3 Summary Reports (Form HUD-60002)

Annually, each direct recipient of Housing and Community Development funding is required to submit form HUD-60002 to HUD's Economic Opportunity Division in Washington, DC.

Where the program providing Section 3 covered funding requires the submission of an annual performance report (e.g., CAPERs reports, etc.), form HUD-60002 shall be submitted at the time that the annual report is due.

The Section 3 Summary Report shall follow the same program, fiscal, or calendar year as the annual performance report and should correspond to the covered projects and activities that were administered during the reporting period.

If the recipient is not required to submit an annual performance report, the Section 3 report is due when other reports are submitted to HUD or at the end of each program, fiscal, or calendar year.

NOTE: Section 3 reports must be submitted by all agencies that receive Housing and Community Development funding in excess of \$200,000 whether new employment, training, or contracting opportunities were created or not.

Determining What Should Be Reported on Form HUD-60002

Section 3 Annual Summary Reports are intended to measure each recipient's efforts to comply with the statutory and regulatory requirements of Section 3 in its own operations **AND** those of covered contractors, subcontractors, and subrecipients. Each submission of form HUD-60002 should indicate the following:

- The total dollar amount of HUD funding that was [spent] by the recipient for covered projects/activities during the specified reporting period.
- The total number of new employees that were hired by the recipient (or its covered contractors, subcontractors, and subrecipients) as a result of the completion of covered project/activities.
- The amount of new employees that were hired by the recipient (or its covered contractors, subcontractors, and subrecipients), as a result of the completion of covered projects/activities, that met the definition of a Section 3 resident.
- The total number of man hours worked on covered projects (optional).
- The aggregate number of hours worked by Section 3 residents on covered projects (optional).

- The total number of Section 3 residents that participated in training opportunities that were made available by the PHA, its contractors, subrecipients, or other local community resource agencies.
- The total dollar amount of construction and/or non-construction contracts (or subcontracts) that were awarded with covered funding.
- The dollar amount of the recipient's construction or non-construction contracts (or subcontracts) that were awarded to Section 3 business concerns.
- Detailed narrative descriptions of the specific actions that were taken by the recipient (or its covered contractors, subcontractors, subrecipients, or others) to comply with the requirements of Section 3 and/or meet the minimum numerical goals for employment and contracting opportunities.

Form HUD-60002 and Section 3 Compliance Determinations

Absent evidence to the contrary, the Department considers recipients of covered funding to be in compliance with Section 3 if they meet the minimum numerical goals set forth at 24 CFR Part 135.30ⁱ. Specifically:

- a. 30 percent of the aggregate number of new hires shall be Section 3 residents;
- b. 10 percent of the total dollar amount of all covered construction contracts shall be awarded to Section 3 business concerns; and
- c. 3 percent of the total dollar amount of all covered non-construction contracts shall be awarded to Section 3 business concerns.

Recipients that fail to meet the minimum numerical goals above bear the burden of demonstrating why it was not possible to do so. Such justifications should describe the efforts that were taken, barriers encountered, and other relevant information that will enable the Department to make a compliance determination.

Recipients that submit Section 3 reports containing **all zeros**, without a sufficient explanation to justify their submission, are in **noncompliance** with the requirements of Section 3.

Failure to comply with the requirements of Section 3 may result in sanctions, including: debarment, suspension, or limited denial of participation in HUD programs pursuant to 24 CFR Part 24.

Recipients that are subject to annual A-133 Audits may also receive an audit finding for failure to submit form HUD-60002 to HUD.

Important Notes for Submitting Form HUD-60002

- Recipients must submit a separate form HUD-60002 for each type of covered funding (*e.g.*, separate reports must be submitted for CDBG and HOME funding).
- Use the online Section 3 Summary Reporting System at: www.hud.gov/section3 to ensure that form HUD- 60002 is received by the appropriate HUD office in a timely manner.
- If the recipient (or its covered contractors, subcontractors and subrecipients) did not hire any new employees during the reporting period, and/or if no covered construction or non-construction contracts were awarded, the recipient must indicate this in Part III of form HUD-60002 and certify that this information is true and accurate by penalty of law.

Additional Section 3 Guidance and Technical Assistance

The Economic Opportunity Division is committed to providing recipient's guidance and technical assistance for compliance with the requirements of Section 3.

For additional information, please visit the Section 3 website at: www.hud.gov/section3. This webpage provides the following tools and information:

- Section 3 Statute—12 U.S.C. 1701u
- Section 3 Regulation—24 CFR Part 135
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Section 3 Model Programs
- Guidance on Section 3 and Economic Stimulus Funding
- Guidance on Section 3 and the Neighborhood Stimulus Program (NSP)
- Sample Section 3 Certification Forms (residents and business concerns)
- Link to HUD's Local Income Eligibility Calculator
- Link to Section 3 Annual Reporting System(form HUD-60002)
- Downloadable Forms
- Contact Information for Economic Opportunity Division staff
- Email inquiries on Section 3 can be sent to section3@hud.gov

¹ See Safe Harbor language at 24 CFR Part 135.30(d)