

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Office of Public and Indian Housing

nj114v07

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Note: The Middlesex County County PHA is not required to complete sections of this plan pertaining to agencies which own and operate public housing, or sections pertaining to high-performing PHAs.

# PHA Plans

5 Year Plan for Fiscal Years 2005 - 2009

Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2006

**NOTE: THIS PHA PLANS TEMPLATE (HUD 50075) IS TO BE COMPLETED IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS LOCATED IN APPLICABLE PIH NOTICES**

**PHA Plan  
Agency Identification**

**PHA Name:** Middlesex County NJ PHA

**PHA Number:** NJ114

**PHA Fiscal Year Beginning: (mm/yyyy)** 01/2006

**Public Access to Information**

**Information regarding any activities outlined in this plan can be obtained by contacting: (select all that apply)**

- Main administrative office of the PHA
- PHA development management offices
- PHA local offices

**Display Locations For PHA Plans and Supporting Documents**

The PHA Plans (including attachments) are available for public inspection at: (select all that apply)

- Main administrative office of the PHA
- PHA development management offices
- PHA local offices
- Main administrative office of the local government
- Main administrative office of the County government
- Main administrative office of the State government
- Public library
- PHA website
- Other (list below)

PHA Plan Supporting Documents are available for inspection at: (select all that apply)

- Main business office of the PHA
- PHA development management offices
- Other (list below)

**5-YEAR PLAN**  
**PHA FISCAL YEARS 2005 - 2009**  
[24 CFR Part 903.5]

**A. Mission**

State the PHA's mission for serving the needs of low-income, very low income, and extremely low-income families in the PHA's jurisdiction. (select one of the choices below)

- The mission of the PHA is the same as that of the Department of Housing and Urban Development: To promote adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity and a suitable living environment free from discrimination.
- The PHA's mission is: (state mission here)

**B. Goals**

The goals and objectives listed below are derived from HUD's strategic Goals and Objectives and those emphasized in recent legislation. PHAs may select any of these goals and objectives as their own, or identify other goals and/or objectives. Whether selecting the HUD-suggested objectives or their own, **PHAS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO IDENTIFY QUANTIFIABLE MEASURES OF SUCCESS IN REACHING THEIR OBJECTIVES OVER THE COURSE OF THE 5 YEARS.** (Quantifiable measures would include targets such as: numbers of families served or PHAS scores achieved.) PHAs should identify these measures in the spaces to the right of or below the stated objectives.

**HUD Strategic Goal: Increase the availability of decent, safe, and affordable housing.**

- PHA Goal: Expand the supply of assisted housing  
Objectives:
- Apply for additional rental vouchers:
  - Reduce public housing vacancies:
  - Leverage private or other public funds to create additional housing opportunities:
  - Acquire or build units or developments
  - Other (list below)
- PHA Goal: Improve the quality of assisted housing  
Objectives:
- Improve public housing management: (PHAS score)
  - Improve voucher management: (SEMAP score)
  - Increase customer satisfaction:
  - Concentrate on efforts to improve specific management functions:  
(list; e.g., public housing finance; voucher unit inspections)
  - Renovate or modernize public housing units:
  - Demolish or dispose of obsolete public housing:

- Provide replacement public housing:
- Provide replacement vouchers:
- Other: (list below)

PHA Goal: Increase assisted housing choices

Objectives:

- Provide voucher mobility counseling:
- Conduct outreach efforts to potential voucher landlords
- Increase voucher payment standards
- Implement voucher homeownership program:
- Implement public housing or other homeownership programs:
- Implement public housing site-based waiting lists:
- Convert public housing to vouchers:
- Other: (list below)

**HUD Strategic Goal: Improve community quality of life and economic vitality**

PHA Goal: Provide an improved living environment

Objectives:

- Implement measures to deconcentrate poverty by bringing higher income public housing households into lower income developments:
- Implement measures to promote income mixing in public housing by assuring access for lower income families into higher income developments:
- Implement public housing security improvements:
- Designate developments or buildings for particular resident groups (elderly, persons with disabilities)
- Other: (list below)

**HUD Strategic Goal: Promote self-sufficiency and asset development of families and individuals**

PHA Goal: Promote self-sufficiency and asset development of assisted households

Objectives:

- Increase the number and percentage of employed persons in assisted families:
- Provide or attract supportive services to improve assistance recipients' employability:
- Provide or attract supportive services to increase independence for the elderly or families with disabilities.
- Other: (list below)

**HUD Strategic Goal: Ensure Equal Opportunity in Housing for all Americans**

- PHA Goal: Ensure equal opportunity and affirmatively further fair housing  
Objectives:
  - Undertake affirmative measures to ensure access to assisted housing regardless of race, color, religion national origin, sex, familial status, and disability:
  - Undertake affirmative measures to provide a suitable living environment for families living in assisted housing, regardless of race, color, religion national origin, sex, familial status, and disability:
  - Undertake affirmative measures to ensure accessible housing to persons with all varieties of disabilities regardless of unit size required:
  - Other: (list below)

**Other PHA Goals and Objectives: (list below)**

**Encourage all assisted families to be stable, responsible tenants.**

**Have no evictions of Section 8 families, and landlord compliants on no more than 2% of tenants.**

**Annual PHA Plan**  
**PHA Fiscal Year 2006**  
[24 CFR Part 903.7]

**i. Annual Plan Type:**

Select which type of Annual Plan the PHA will submit.

**Standard Plan**

**Streamlined Plan:**

- High Performing PHA**
- Small Agency (<250 Public Housing Units)**
- Administering Section 8 Only**

**Troubled Agency Plan**

**ii. Executive Summary of the Annual PHA Plan**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (r)]

Provide a brief overview of the information in the Annual Plan, including highlights of major initiatives and discretionary policies the PHA has included in the Annual Plan.

**The Middlesex County Public Housing Agency (PHA) provides U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Section 8 Rental Assistance to eligible very low income renter households, giving preference to families living or working in the sixteen municipalities within the county which do not have their own public housing agencies.**

**In January 2001 the PHA opened its waiting list for four days and received 2215 walk-in and mail-in applications. By August 2005 the list was down to 1177 households. It will take at least seven more years to exhaust this list, so the PHA does not plan to take applications for the foreseeable future.**

**During 2006 the PHA will apply for any additional Housing Choice Vouchers for which it is eligible, and which are of a type consistent with the PHA's mission and staff capabilities.**

**The PHA operates within the County Department of Housing and Community Development which also administers HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships programs. The CDBG program serves nineteen**

**municipalities, sixteen of which also are served by the PHA (though the PHA, under certain conditions, serves clients from all municipalities in the county.) The CDBG program sometimes provides loans to help non-profit organizations develop plans for affordable housing, as well as providing bridge loans for affordable housing projects which will receive permanent funding from other sources.**

**The HOME program serves twenty three municipalities, and focuses on the creation of very low income rental housing, consistent with the needs identified in the Urban County and HOME consortium’s Consolidated Plan. HOME-subsidized housing is open to Section 8 clients, but is affordable to at least some very low income households without further assistance, thus freeing up Section 8 to help other families living in market-rate rental housing, which makes up the majority of the county’s rental housing stock.**

**The County Department of Housing and Community Development, within which the PHA operates, prepares and oversees the County’s Consolidated Plan, a five-year and annual document required by HUD for participation in its programs. This insures that the PHA Plan and operations are consistent with the Consolidated Plan.**

**iii. Annual Plan Table of Contents**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (r)]

Provide a table of contents for the Annual Plan, including attachments, and a list of supporting documents available for public inspection.

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9. Designation of Housing	N/A



10. Conversions of Public Housing	N/A
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12. Community Service Programs	N/A
13. Crime and Safety	N/A
14. Pets (Inactive for January 1 PHAs)	N/A
15. Civil Rights Certifications (included with PHA Plan Certifications)	39
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**Attachments**

Indicate which attachments are provided by selecting all that apply. Provide the attachment's name (A, B, etc.) in the space to the left of the name of the attachment. Note: If the attachment is provided as a **SEPARATE** file submission from the PHA Plans file, provide the file name in parentheses in the space to the right of the title.

Required Attachments: **N/A**

- Admissions Policy for Deconcentration
- FY 2000 Capital Fund Program Annual Statement
- Most recent board-approved operating budget (Required Attachment for PHAs that are troubled or at risk of being designated troubled ONLY)

Optional Attachments:

- PHA Management Organizational Chart
- FY 2000 Capital Fund Program 5 Year Action Plan
- Public Housing Drug Elimination Program (PHDEP) Plan
- Comments of Resident Advisory Board or Boards (must be attached if not included in PHA Plan text)
- Other (List below, providing each attachment name)

- Atch 1. Progress in meeting 5-year Plan Mission and Goals
- Atch 2. Resident Membership of the PHA Governing Board
- Atch 3. Membership of the Resident Advisory Board
- Atch 4. Certifications – separately supplied (by mail)
- Atch 5. Public Notices – separately supplied (by mail)
- Atch 6. Freeholder resolution approving the PHA Plan – separately supplied

**Supporting Documents Available for Review**

Indicate which documents are available for public review by placing a mark in the “Applicable & On Display” column in the appropriate rows. All listed documents must be on display if applicable to the program activities conducted by the PHA.

List of Supporting Documents Available for Review		
Applicable & On Display	Supporting Document	Applicable Plan Component
X	PHA Plan Certifications of Compliance with the PHA Plans and Related Regulations	5 Year and Annual Plans

<b>List of Supporting Documents Available for Review</b>		
<b>Applicable &amp; On Display</b>	<b>Supporting Document</b>	<b>Applicable Plan Component</b>
X	State/Local Government Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan	5 Year and Annual Plans
X	Fair Housing Documentation: Records reflecting that the PHA has examined its programs or proposed programs, identified any impediments to fair housing choice in those programs, addressed or is addressing those impediments in a reasonable fashion in view of the resources available, and worked or is working with local jurisdictions to implement any of the jurisdictions' initiatives to affirmatively further fair housing that require the PHA's involvement.	5 Year and Annual Plans
X	Consolidated Plan for the jurisdiction/s in which the PHA is located (which includes the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI)) and any additional backup data to support statement of housing needs in the jurisdiction	Annual Plan: Housing Needs
	Most recent board-approved operating budget for the public housing program	Annual Plan: Financial Resources;
	Public Housing Admissions and (Continued) Occupancy Policy (A&O), which includes the Tenant Selection and Assignment Plan [TSAP]	Annual Plan: Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions Policies
X	Section 8 Administrative Plan	Annual Plan: Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions Policies
	Public Housing Deconcentration and Income Mixing Documentation: 1. PHA board certifications of compliance with deconcentration requirements (section 16(a) of the US Housing Act of 1937, as implemented in the 2/18/99 <i>Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act Initial Guidance; Notice</i> and any further HUD guidance) and 2. Documentation of the required deconcentration and income mixing analysis	Annual Plan: Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions Policies
	Public housing rent determination policies, including the methodology for setting public housing flat rents <input type="checkbox"/> check here if included in the public housing A & O Policy	Annual Plan: Rent Determination
	Schedule of flat rents offered at each public housing development <input type="checkbox"/> check here if included in the public housing A & O Policy	Annual Plan: Rent Determination
X	Section 8 rent determination (payment standard) policies <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> check here if included in Section 8 Administrative Plan	Annual Plan: Rent Determination
	Public housing management and maintenance policy documents, including policies for the prevention or eradication of pest infestation (including cockroach infestation)	Annual Plan: Operations and Maintenance

<b>List of Supporting Documents Available for Review</b>		
<b>Applicable &amp; On Display</b>	<b>Supporting Document</b>	<b>Applicable Plan Component</b>
	Public housing grievance procedures <input type="checkbox"/> check here if included in the public housing A & O Policy	Annual Plan: Grievance Procedures
X	Section 8 informal review and hearing procedures <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> check here if included in Section 8 Administrative Plan	Annual Plan: Grievance Procedures
	The HUD-approved Capital Fund/Comprehensive Grant Program Annual Statement (HUD 52837) for the active grant year	Annual Plan: Capital Needs
	Most recent CIAP Budget/Progress Report (HUD 52825) for any active CIAP grant	Annual Plan: Capital Needs
	Most recent, approved 5 Year Action Plan for the Capital Fund/Comprehensive Grant Program, if not included as an attachment (provided at PHA option)	Annual Plan: Capital Needs
	Approved HOPE VI applications or, if more recent, approved or submitted HOPE VI Revitalization Plans or any other approved proposal for development of public housing	Annual Plan: Capital Needs
	Approved or submitted applications for demolition and/or disposition of public housing	Annual Plan: Demolition and Disposition
	Approved or submitted applications for designation of public housing (Designated Housing Plans)	Annual Plan: Designation of Public Housing
	Approved or submitted assessments of reasonable revitalization of public housing and approved or submitted conversion plans prepared pursuant to section 202 of the 1996 HUD Appropriations Act	Annual Plan: Conversion of Public Housing
	Approved or submitted public housing homeownership programs/plans	Annual Plan: Homeownership
	Policies governing any Section 8 Homeownership program <input type="checkbox"/> check here if included in the Section 8 Administrative Plan	Annual Plan: Homeownership
	Any cooperative agreement between the PHA and the TANF agency	Annual Plan: Community Service & Self-Sufficiency
	FSS Action Plan/s for public housing and/or Section 8	Annual Plan: Community Service & Self-Sufficiency
	Most recent self-sufficiency (ED/SS, TOP or ROSS or other resident services grant) grant program reports	Annual Plan: Community Service & Self-Sufficiency
	The most recent Public Housing Drug Elimination Program (PHEDEP) semi-annual performance report for any open grant and most recently submitted PHDEP application (PHDEP Plan)	Annual Plan: Safety and Crime Prevention
	The most recent fiscal year audit of the PHA conducted under section 5(h)(2) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437c(h)), the results of that audit and the PHA's response to any findings	Annual Plan: Annual Audit
	Troubled PHAs: MOA/Recovery Plan	Troubled PHAs
	Other supporting documents (optional) (list individually; use as many lines as necessary)	(specify as needed)

# 1. Statement of Housing Needs

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (a)]

## A. Housing Needs of Families in the Jurisdiction/s Served by the PHA

Based upon the information contained in the Consolidated Plan/s applicable to the jurisdiction, and/or other data available to the PHA, provide a statement of the housing needs in the jurisdiction by completing the following table. In the "Overall" Needs column, provide the estimated number of renter families that have housing needs. For the remaining characteristics, rate the impact of that factor on the housing needs for each family type, from 1 to 5, with 1 being "no impact" and 5 being "severe impact." Use N/A to indicate that no information is available upon which the PHA can make this assessment.

Housing Needs of Families in the Jurisdiction by Family Type							
Family Type	Overall	Afford-ability	Supply	Quality	Access-ibility	Size	Loca-tion
Income <= 30% of AMI	3285	5	5	3	3	5	3
Income >30% but <=50% of AMI	2905	5	4	3	3	4	3
Income >50% but <80% of AMI	1781	5	3	3	3	4	3
Elderly	2857	5	4	3	3	2	3
Families with Disabilities	N/A						
Race/Ethnicity Black	791	5	4	3	3	3	3
Race/Ethnicity Hispanic	655	5	4	3	3	4	3

What sources of information did the PHA use to conduct this analysis? (Check all that apply; all materials must be made available for public inspection.)

- Consolidated Plan of the Jurisdiction/s  
Indicate year: **2005 (5 year Plan-2005-2009)**
- U.S. Census data: the Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy ("CHAS") dataset
- American Housing Survey data  
Indicate year:
- Other housing market study  
Indicate year:
- Other sources: (list and indicate year of information)

## B. Housing Needs of Families on the Public Housing and Section 8 Tenant- Based Assistance Waiting Lists

State the housing needs of the families on the PHA's waiting list/s. **Complete one table for each type of PHA-wide waiting list administered by the PHA.** PHAs may provide separate tables for site-based or sub-jurisdictional public housing waiting lists at their option.

Housing Needs of Families on the Waiting List			
Waiting list type: (select one)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Section 8 tenant-based assistance			
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Housing			
<input type="checkbox"/> Combined Section 8 and Public Housing			
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Housing Site-Based or sub-jurisdictional waiting list (optional)			
If used, identify which development/subjurisdiction:			
	# of families	% of total families	Annual Turnover
Waiting list total	1177		
Extremely low income <=30% AMI	953		
Very low income (>30% but <=50% AMI)	216		
Low income (>50% but <80% AMI)	8		
Families with children	900		
Elderly families	32		
Families with Disabilities	148		
Race/ethnicity	Black-817		
Race/ethnicity	Hispanic-173		
Race/ethnicity	White-172		
Race/ethnicity	Other-15		
Characteristics by Bedroom Size (Public Housing Only)			
1BR			
2 BR			
3 BR			
4 BR			

Housing Needs of Families on the Waiting List			
5 BR			
5+ BR			
Is the waiting list closed (select one)? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes: How long has it been closed (# of months)? <b>56</b> Does the PHA expect to reopen the list in the PHA Plan year? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Does the PHA permit specific categories of families onto the waiting list, even if generally closed? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes			

### C. Strategy for Addressing Needs

Provide a brief description of the PHA's strategy for addressing the housing needs of families in the jurisdiction and on the waiting list **IN THE UPCOMING YEAR**, and the Agency's reasons for choosing this strategy.

#### (1) Strategies

**Need: Shortage of affordable housing for all eligible populations**

**Strategy 1. Maximize the number of affordable units available to the PHA within its current resources by:**

Select all that apply

- Employ effective maintenance and management policies to minimize the number of public housing units off-line
- Reduce turnover time for vacated public housing units
- Reduce time to renovate public housing units
- Seek replacement of public housing units lost to the inventory through mixed finance development
- Seek replacement of public housing units lost to the inventory through section 8 replacement housing resources
- Maintain or increase section 8 lease-up rates by establishing payment standards that will enable families to rent throughout the jurisdiction
- Undertake measures to ensure access to affordable housing among families assisted by the PHA, regardless of unit size required
- Maintain or increase section 8 lease-up rates by marketing the program to owners, particularly those outside of areas of minority and poverty concentration
- Maintain or increase section 8 lease-up rates by effectively screening Section 8 applicants to increase owner acceptance of program
- Participate in the Consolidated Plan development process to ensure coordination with broader community strategies
- Other (list below)

**Strategy 2: Increase the number of affordable housing units by:**

Select all that apply

- Apply for additional section 8 units should they become available
- Leverage affordable housing resources in the community through the creation of mixed - finance housing
- Pursue housing resources other than public housing or Section 8 tenant-based assistance.
- Other: (list below)

**Need: Specific Family Types: Families at or below 30% of median**

**Strategy 1: Target available assistance to families at or below 30 % of AMI**

Select all that apply

- Exceed HUD federal targeting requirements for families at or below 30% of AMI in public housing
- Exceed HUD federal targeting requirements for families at or below 30% of AMI in tenant-based section 8 assistance
- Employ admissions preferences aimed at families with economic hardships
- Adopt rent policies to support and encourage work
- Other: (list below)

**Need: Specific Family Types: Families at or below 50% of median**

**Strategy 1: Target available assistance to families at or below 50% of AMI**

Select all that apply

- Employ admissions preferences aimed at families who are working
- Adopt rent policies to support and encourage work
- Other: (list below)

**Need: Specific Family Types: The Elderly**

**Strategy 1: Target available assistance to the elderly:**

Select all that apply

- Seek designation of public housing for the elderly
- Apply for special-purpose vouchers targeted to the elderly, should they become available
- Other: (list below)

**Need: Specific Family Types: Families with Disabilities**

**Strategy 1: Target available assistance to Families with Disabilities:**

Select all that apply

- Seek designation of public housing for families with disabilities
- Carry out the modifications needed in public housing based on the section 504 Needs Assessment for Public Housing
- Apply for special-purpose vouchers targeted to families with disabilities, should they become available
- Affirmatively market to local non-profit agencies that assist families with disabilities
- Other: (list below)

**Need: Specific Family Types: Races or ethnicities with disproportionate housing needs**

**Strategy 1: Increase awareness of PHA resources among families of races and ethnicities with disproportionate needs:**

Select if applicable

- Affirmatively market to races/ethnicities shown to have disproportionate housing needs
- Other: (list below)

**Strategy 2: Conduct activities to affirmatively further fair housing**

Select all that apply

- Counsel section 8 tenants as to location of units outside of areas of poverty or minority concentration and assist them to locate those units
- Market the section 8 program to owners outside of areas of poverty /minority concentrations
- Other: (list below)

**Other Housing Needs & Strategies: (list needs and strategies below)**

**(2) Reasons for Selecting Strategies**

Of the factors listed below, select all that influenced the PHA's selection of the strategies it will pursue:

- Funding constraints
- Staffing constraints
- Limited availability of sites for assisted housing
- Extent to which particular housing needs are met by other organizations in the community



- Evidence of housing needs as demonstrated in the Consolidated Plan and other information available to the PHA
- Influence of the housing market on PHA programs
- Community priorities regarding housing assistance
- Results of consultation with local or state government
- Results of consultation with residents and the Resident Advisory Board
- Results of consultation with advocacy groups
- Other: (list below)

## **2. Statement of Financial Resources**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (b)]

List the financial resources that are anticipated to be available to the PHA for the support of Federal public housing and tenant-based Section 8 assistance programs administered by the PHA during the Plan year. Note: the table assumes that Federal public housing or tenant based Section 8 assistance grant funds are expended on eligible purposes; therefore, uses of these funds need not be stated. For other funds, indicate the use for those funds as one of the following categories: public housing operations, public housing capital improvements, public housing safety/security, public housing supportive services, Section 8 tenant-based assistance, Section 8 supportive services or other.

<b>Financial Resources: Planned Sources and Uses</b>		
<b>Sources</b>	<b>Planned \$</b>	<b>Planned Uses</b>
<b>1. Federal Grants (FY 2004 grants)</b>		
a) Public Housing Operating Fund		
b) Public Housing Capital Fund		
c) HOPE VI Revitalization		
d) HOPE VI Demolition		
e) Annual Contributions for Section 8 Tenant-Based Assistance	\$3,500,000	
f) Public Housing Drug Elimination Program (including any Technical Assistance funds)		
g) Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency Grants		
h) Community Development Block Grant	\$2,243,736	Miscellaneous
i) HOME	\$2,095,073	Very low income rental housing; homeownership
Other Federal Grants (list below)		
<b>Emergency Shelter Grant</b>	\$86,678	Homeless shelter
<b>2. Prior Year Federal Grants (unobligated funds only) (list below)</b>		

<b>Financial Resources: Planned Sources and Uses</b>		
<b>Sources</b>	<b>Planned \$</b>	<b>Planned Uses</b>
<b>3. Public Housing Dwelling Rental Income</b>		
<b>4. Other income</b> (list below)		
<b>4. Non-federal sources</b> (list below)		
<b>County</b>	\$1,000,000	Senior housing
<b>Total resources</b>	\$8,925,487	

### **3. PHA Policies Governing Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (c)]

#### **A. Public Housing**

Exemptions: PHAs that do not administer public housing are not required to complete subcomponent 3A.

##### **(1) Eligibility**

a. When does the PHA verify eligibility for admission to public housing? (select all that apply)

- When families are within a certain number of being offered a unit: (state number)
- When families are within a certain time of being offered a unit: (state time)
- Other: (describe)

b. Which non-income (screening) factors does the PHA use to establish eligibility for admission to public housing (select all that apply)?

- Criminal or Drug-related activity
- Rental history
- Housekeeping
- Other (describe)

c.  Yes  No: Does the PHA request criminal records from local law enforcement agencies for screening purposes?

d.  Yes  No: Does the PHA request criminal records from State law enforcement agencies for screening purposes?

e.  Yes  No: Does the PHA access FBI criminal records from the FBI for screening purposes? (either directly or through an NCIC-authorized source)

##### **(2) Waiting List Organization**

a. Which methods does the PHA plan to use to organize its public housing waiting list (select all that apply)

- Community-wide list
- Sub-jurisdictional lists
- Site-based waiting lists
- Other (describe)

b. Where may interested persons apply for admission to public housing?

- PHA main administrative office
- PHA development site management office
- Other (list below)

c. If the PHA plans to operate one or more site-based waiting lists in the coming year, answer each of the following questions; if not, skip to subsection (3) **Assignment**

1. How many site-based waiting lists will the PHA operate in the coming year?

2.  Yes  No: Are any or all of the PHA's site-based waiting lists new for the upcoming year (that is, they are not part of a previously-HUD-approved site based waiting list plan)?

If yes, how many lists?

3.  Yes  No: May families be on more than one list simultaneously  
If yes, how many lists?
4. Where can interested persons obtain more information about and sign up to be on the site-based waiting lists (select all that apply)?
- PHA main administrative office
  - All PHA development management offices
  - Management offices at developments with site-based waiting lists
  - At the development to which they would like to apply
  - Other (list below)

**(3) Assignment**

- a. How many vacant unit choices are applicants ordinarily given before they fall to the bottom of or are removed from the waiting list? (select one)
- One
  - Two
  - Three or More
- b.  Yes  No: Is this policy consistent across all waiting list types?
- c. If answer to b is no, list variations for any other than the primary public housing waiting list/s for the PHA:

**(4) Admissions Preferences**

a. Income targeting:

- Yes  No: Does the PHA plan to exceed the federal targeting requirements by targeting more than 40% of all new admissions to public housing to families at or below 30% of median area income?

b. Transfer policies:

In what circumstances will transfers take precedence over new admissions? (list below)

- Emergencies
- Overhoused
- Underhoused
- Medical justification
- Administrative reasons determined by the PHA (e.g., to permit modernization work)
- Resident choice: (state circumstances below)
- Other: (list below)

c. Preferences

1.  Yes  No: Has the PHA established preferences for admission to public housing (other than date and time of application)? (If “no” is selected, skip to subsection **(5) Occupancy**)
2. Which of the following admission preferences does the PHA plan to employ in the coming year? (select all that apply from either former Federal preferences or other preferences)

Former Federal preferences:

- Involuntary Displacement (Disaster, Government Action, Action of Housing Owner, Inaccessibility, Property Disposition)
- Victims of domestic violence

- Substandard housing
- Homelessness
- High rent burden (rent is > 50 percent of income)

Other preferences: (select below)

- Working families and those unable to work because of age or disability
- Veterans and veterans' families
- Residents who live and/or work in the jurisdiction
- Those enrolled currently in educational, training, or upward mobility programs
- Households that contribute to meeting income goals (broad range of incomes)
- Households that contribute to meeting income requirements (targeting)
- Those previously enrolled in educational, training, or upward mobility programs
- Victims of reprisals or hate crimes
- Other preference(s) (list below)

3. If the PHA will employ admissions preferences, please prioritize by placing a "1" in the space that represents your first priority, a "2" in the box representing your second priority, and so on. If you give equal weight to one or more of these choices (either through an absolute hierarchy or through a point system), place the same number next to each. That means you can use "1" more than once, "2" more than once, etc.

Date and Time

Former Federal preferences:

- Involuntary Displacement (Disaster, Government Action, Action of Housing Owner, Inaccessibility, Property Disposition)
- Victims of domestic violence
- Substandard housing
- Homelessness
- High rent burden

Other preferences (select all that apply)

- Working families and those unable to work because of age or disability
- Veterans and veterans' families
- Residents who live and/or work in the jurisdiction
- Those enrolled currently in educational, training, or upward mobility programs
- Households that contribute to meeting income goals (broad range of incomes)
- Households that contribute to meeting income requirements (targeting)
- Those previously enrolled in educational, training, or upward mobility programs
- Victims of reprisals or hate crimes
- Other preference(s) (list below)

4. Relationship of preferences to income targeting requirements:

- The PHA applies preferences within income tiers
- Not applicable: the pool of applicant families ensures that the PHA will meet income targeting requirements

**(5) Occupancy**

a. What reference materials can applicants and residents use to obtain information about the rules of occupancy of public housing (select all that apply)

- The PHA-resident lease
- The PHA's Admissions and (Continued) Occupancy policy
- PHA briefing seminars or written materials
- Other source (list)

b. How often must residents notify the PHA of changes in family composition? (select all that apply)

- At an annual reexamination and lease renewal
- Any time family composition changes
- At family request for revision
- Other (list)

**(6) Deconcentration and Income Mixing**

a.  Yes  No: Did the PHA's analysis of its family (general occupancy) developments to determine concentrations of poverty indicate the need for measures to promote deconcentration of poverty or income mixing?

b.  Yes  No: Did the PHA adopt any changes to its **admissions policies** based on the results of the required analysis of the need to promote deconcentration of poverty or to assure income mixing?

c. If the answer to b was yes, what changes were adopted? (select all that apply)

- Adoption of site based waiting lists  
If selected, list targeted developments below:
- Employing waiting list "skipping" to achieve deconcentration of poverty or income mixing goals at targeted developments  
If selected, list targeted developments below:
- Employing new admission preferences at targeted developments  
If selected, list targeted developments below:
- Other (list policies and developments targeted below)

d.  Yes  No: Did the PHA adopt any changes to **other** policies based on the results of the required analysis of the need for deconcentration of poverty and income mixing?

e. If the answer to d was yes, how would you describe these changes? (select all that apply)

- Additional affirmative marketing
- Actions to improve the marketability of certain developments
- Adoption or adjustment of ceiling rents for certain developments
- Adoption of rent incentives to encourage deconcentration of poverty and income-mixing
- Other (list below)

f. Based on the results of the required analysis, in which developments will the PHA make special efforts to attract or retain higher-income families? (select all that apply)

- Not applicable: results of analysis did not indicate a need for such efforts
- List (any applicable) developments below:

g. Based on the results of the required analysis, in which developments will the PHA make special efforts to assure access for lower-income families? (select all that apply)

- Not applicable: results of analysis did not indicate a need for such efforts  
 List (any applicable) developments below:

## B. Section 8

Exemptions: PHAs that do not administer section 8 are not required to complete sub-component 3B. **Unless otherwise specified, all questions in this section apply only to the tenant-based section 8 assistance program (vouchers, and until completely merged into the voucher program, certificates).**

### (1) Eligibility

- a. What is the extent of screening conducted by the PHA? (select all that apply)
- Criminal or drug-related activity only to the extent required by law or regulation  
 Criminal and drug-related activity, more extensively than required by law or regulation  
 More general screening than criminal and drug-related activity (list factors below)  
 Other (list below)
- b.  Yes  No: Does the PHA request criminal records from local law enforcement agencies for screening purposes?
- c.  Yes  No: Does the PHA request criminal records from State law enforcement agencies for screening purposes?
- d.  Yes  No: Does the PHA access FBI criminal records from the FBI for screening purposes? (either directly or through an NCIC-authorized source)
- e. Indicate what kinds of information you share with prospective landlords? (select all that apply)
- Criminal or drug-related activity  
 Other (describe below)  
**Name of present landlord, present address, family composition**

**(2) Waiting List Organization**

a. With which of the following program waiting lists is the section 8 tenant-based assistance waiting list merged? (select all that apply)

- None
- Federal public housing
- Federal moderate rehabilitation
- Federal project-based certificate program
- Other federal or local program (list below)

b. Where may interested persons apply for admission to section 8 tenant-based assistance? (select all that apply)

- PHA main administrative office (**waiting list will not be open in 2005**)
- Other (list below)

**Mail, when list is open**

**(3) Search Time**

a.  Yes  No: Does the PHA give extensions on standard 60-day period to search for a unit?

If yes, state circumstances below:

*The PHA always allows 120 days because of the tight and very expensive rental market in Middlesex County. Extensions beyond that are not normally allowed.*

**(4) Admissions Preferences**

a. Income targeting

Yes  No: Does the PHA plan to exceed the federal targeting requirements by targeting more than 75% of all new admissions to the section 8 program to families at or below 30% of median area income?

b. Preferences

1.  Yes  No: Has the PHA established preferences for admission to section 8 tenant-based assistance? (other than date and time of application) (if no, skip to subcomponent (5) Special purpose section 8 assistance programs)

2. Which of the following admission preferences does the PHA plan to employ in the coming year? (select all that apply from either former Federal preferences or other preferences)



Former Federal preferences

- Involuntary Displacement (Disaster, Government Action, Action of Housing Owner, Inaccessibility, Property Disposition)
- Victims of domestic violence
- Substandard housing
- Homelessness
- High rent burden (rent is > 50 percent of income)

Other preferences (select all that apply)

- Working families and those unable to work because of age or disability
- Veterans and veterans' families
- Residents who live and/or work in your jurisdiction
- Those enrolled currently in educational, training, or upward mobility programs
- Households that contribute to meeting income goals (broad range of incomes)
- Households that contribute to meeting income requirements (targeting)
- Those previously enrolled in educational, training, or upward mobility programs
- Victims of reprisals or hate crimes
- Other preference(s) (list below)

3. If the PHA will employ admissions preferences, please prioritize by placing a "1" in the space that represents your first priority, a "2" in the box representing your second priority, and so on. If you give equal weight to one or more of these choices (either through an absolute hierarchy or through a point system), place the same number next to each. That means you can use "1" more than once, "2" more than once, etc.

1      Date and Time

Former Federal preferences

- Involuntary Displacement (Disaster, Government Action, Action of Housing Owner, Inaccessibility, Property Disposition)
- Victims of domestic violence
- Substandard housing
- Homelessness
- High rent burden

Other preferences (select all that apply)

- Working families and those unable to work because of age or disability
- Veterans and veterans' families
- 1      Residents who live and/or work in your jurisdiction
- Those enrolled currently in educational, training, or upward mobility programs
- Households that contribute to meeting income goals (broad range of incomes)
- Households that contribute to meeting income requirements (targeting)

- Those previously enrolled in educational, training, or upward mobility programs
- Victims of reprisals or hate crimes
- Other preference(s) (list below)

4. Among applicants on the waiting list with equal preference status, how are applicants selected? (select one)

- Date and time of application
- Drawing (lottery) or other random choice technique

5. If the PHA plans to employ preferences for “residents who live and/or work in the jurisdiction” (select one)

- This preference has previously been reviewed and approved by HUD
- The PHA requests approval for this preference through this PHA Plan

6. Relationship of preferences to income targeting requirements: (select one)

- The PHA applies preferences within income tiers
- Not applicable: the pool of applicant families ensures that the PHA will meet income targeting requirements

#### **(5) Special Purpose Section 8 Assistance Programs**

a. In which documents or other reference materials are the policies governing eligibility, selection, and admissions to any special-purpose section 8 program administered by the PHA contained? (select all that apply)

- The Section 8 Administrative Plan
- Briefing sessions and written materials
- Other (list below)

b. How does the PHA announce the availability of any special-purpose section 8 programs to the public?

- Through published notices
- Other (list below)

#### **4. PHA Rent Determination Policies**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (d)]

##### **A. Public Housing**

Exemptions: PHAs that do not administer public housing are not required to complete sub-component 4A.

##### **(1) Income Based Rent Policies**

Describe the PHA's income based rent setting policy/ies for public housing using, including discretionary (that is, not required by statute or regulation) income disregards and exclusions, in the appropriate spaces below.

a. Use of discretionary policies: (select one)

- The PHA will not employ any discretionary rent-setting policies for income based rent in public housing. Income-based rents are set at the higher of 30% of adjusted monthly income, 10% of unadjusted monthly income, the welfare rent, or minimum rent (less HUD mandatory deductions and exclusions). (If selected, skip to sub-component (2))

--or---

- The PHA employs discretionary policies for determining income based rent (If selected, continue to question b.)

b. Minimum Rent

1. What amount best reflects the PHA's minimum rent? (select one)

- \$0  
 \$1-\$25  
 \$26-\$50

2.  Yes  No: Has the PHA adopted any discretionary minimum rent hardship exemption policies?

3. If yes to question 2, list these policies below:

c. Rents set at less than 30% than adjusted income

1.  Yes  No: Does the PHA plan to charge rents at a fixed amount or percentage less than 30% of adjusted income?

2. If yes to above, list the amounts or percentages charged and the circumstances under which these will be used below:

d. Which of the discretionary (optional) deductions and/or exclusions policies does the PHA plan to employ (select all that apply)

- For the earned income of a previously unemployed household member  
 For increases in earned income  
 Fixed amount (other than general rent-setting policy)  
If yes, state amount/s and circumstances below:  
 Fixed percentage (other than general rent-setting policy)  
If yes, state percentage/s and circumstances below:  
 For household heads  
 For other family members  
 For transportation expenses  
 For the non-reimbursed medical expenses of non-disabled or non-elderly families  
 Other (describe below)

e. Ceiling rents

1. Do you have ceiling rents? (rents set at a level lower than 30% of adjusted income)  
(select one)

- Yes for all developments
- Yes but only for some developments
- No

2. For which kinds of developments are ceiling rents in place? (select all that apply)

- For all developments
- For all general occupancy developments (not elderly or disabled or elderly only)
- For specified general occupancy developments
- For certain parts of developments; e.g., the high-rise portion
- For certain size units; e.g., larger bedroom sizes
- Other (list below)

3. Select the space or spaces that best describe how you arrive at ceiling rents (select all that apply)

- Market comparability study
- Fair market rents (FMR)
- 95<sup>th</sup> percentile rents
- 75 percent of operating costs
- 100 percent of operating costs for general occupancy (family) developments
- Operating costs plus debt service
- The "rental value" of the unit
- Other (list below)

f. Rent re-determinations:

1. Between income reexaminations, how often must tenants report changes in income or family composition to the PHA such that the changes result in an adjustment to rent? (select all that apply)

- Never
- At family option
- Any time the family experiences an income increase
- Any time a family experiences an income increase above a threshold amount or percentage: (if selected, specify threshold)\_\_\_\_\_
- Other (list below)

g.  Yes  No: Does the PHA plan to implement individual savings accounts for residents (ISAs) as an alternative to the required 12 month disallowance of earned income and phasing in of rent increases in the next year?

**(2) Flat Rents**

1. In setting the market-based flat rents, what sources of information did the PHA use to establish comparability? (select all that apply.)

- The section 8 rent reasonableness study of comparable housing
- Survey of rents listed in local newspaper
- Survey of similar unassisted units in the neighborhood
- Other (list/describe below)

## B. Section 8 Tenant-Based Assistance

Exemptions: PHAs that do not administer Section 8 tenant-based assistance are not required to complete sub-component 4B. **Unless otherwise specified, all questions in this section apply only to the tenant-based section 8 assistance program (vouchers, and until completely merged into the voucher program, certificates).**

### (1) Payment Standards

Describe the voucher payment standards and policies.

a. What is the PHA's payment standard? (select the category that best describes your standard)

- At or above 90% but below 100% of FMR
- 100% of FMR
- Above 100% but at or below 110% of FMR
- Above 110% of FMR (if HUD approved; describe circumstances below)

b. If the payment standard is lower than FMR, why has the PHA selected this standard? (select all that apply)

- FMRs are adequate to ensure success among assisted families in the PHA's segment of the FMR area
- The PHA has chosen to serve additional families by lowering the payment standard
- Reflects market or submarket
- Other (list below)

c. If the payment standard is higher than FMR, why has the PHA chosen this level? (select all that apply)

- FMRs are not adequate to ensure success among assisted families in the PHA's segment of the FMR area
- Reflects market or submarket
- To increase housing options for families
- Other (list below)

d. How often are payment standards reevaluated for adequacy? (select one)

- Annually
- Other (list below)  
**As needed**

e. What factors will the PHA consider in its assessment of the adequacy of its payment standard? (select all that apply)

- Success rates of assisted families
- Rent burdens of assisted families
- Other (list below)

**(2) Minimum Rent**

a. What amount best reflects the PHA's minimum rent? (select one)

- \$0
- \$1-\$25
- \$26-\$50

b.  Yes  No: Has the PHA adopted any discretionary minimum rent hardship exemption policies? (if yes, list below)

## **5. Operations and Management**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (e)]

Exemptions from Component 5: High performing and small PHAs are not required to complete this section. Section 8 only PHAs must complete parts A, B, and C(2)

### **A. PHA Management Structure**

Describe the PHA's management structure and organization.

(select one)

- An organization chart showing the PHA's management structure and organization is attached.
- A brief description of the management structure and organization of the PHA follows:

#### **Management Structure and Organization of the Middlesex County Public Housing Agency**

The Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the County's elected legislative and executive body, governs the Public Housing Agency.

The Public Housing Agency provides Section 8 Rental Assistance but does not own or operate any public housing.

For administrative purposes, the Public Housing Agency is located within the County Department of Housing and Community Development, which also operates the Urban County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the County consortium's HOME Investment Partnerships program, both of which are funded by HUD. The Department also prepares the County's Consolidated Plan and the PHA's plans, insuring coordination between all plans and programs.

The Executive Director of the Public Housing Agency, a certified Public Housing Manager (PHM) and a licensed Professional Planner (PP) in the State of New Jersey, is also the department head.

The Public Housing Agency has three Housing Assistance Technicians who work directly with Section 8 tenants and landlords, supervised by a Housing Supervisor who also oversees the County's Housing Preservation Program.

Two licensed Residential Building Inspectors carry out Housing Quality Standards (HQS) inspections of Section 8 housing units. A shared secretary provides clerical support as needed.

A fee accountant prepares required Section 8 budgets and reports, assisted by the Department's Management Specialist, who is shared by all programs.

**B. HUD Programs Under PHA Management**

List Federal programs administered by the PHA, number of families served at the beginning of the upcoming fiscal year, and expected turnover in each. (Use “NA” to indicate that the PHA does not operate any of the programs listed below.)

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Units or Families Served at Year Beginning</b>	<b>Expected Turnover</b>
Public Housing		
Section 8 Vouchers	395	7.5%
Section 8 Certificates		
Section 8 Mod Rehab		
Special Purpose Section 8 Certificates/Vouchers (list individually)		
Public Housing Drug Elimination Program (PHDEP)		
Other Federal Programs(list individually)		

**C. Management and Maintenance Policies**

List the PHA’s public housing management and maintenance policy documents, manuals and handbooks that contain the Agency’s rules, standards, and policies that govern maintenance and management of public housing, including a description of any measures necessary for the prevention or eradication of pest infestation (which includes cockroach infestation) and the policies governing Section 8 management.

(1) Public Housing Maintenance and Management: (list below)

(2) Section 8 Management: (list below)

**Administrative Plan**



## **6. PHA Grievance Procedures**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (f)]

Exemptions from component 6: High performing PHAs are not required to complete component 6. Section 8-Only PHAs are exempt from sub-component 6A.

### **A. Public Housing**

1.  Yes  No: Has the PHA established any written grievance procedures in addition to federal requirements found at 24 CFR Part 966, Subpart B, for residents of public housing?

If yes, list additions to federal requirements below:

2. Which PHA office should residents or applicants to public housing contact to initiate the PHA grievance process? (select all that apply)
- PHA main administrative office
  - PHA development management offices
  - Other (list below)

### **B. Section 8 Tenant-Based Assistance**

1.  Yes  No: Has the PHA established informal review procedures for applicants to the Section 8 tenant-based assistance program and informal hearing procedures for families assisted by the Section 8 tenant-based assistance program in addition to federal requirements found at 24 CFR 982?

If yes, list additions to federal requirements below:

2. Which PHA office should applicants or assisted families contact to initiate the informal review and informal hearing processes? (select all that apply)
- PHA main administrative office
  - Other (list below)

## **7. Capital Improvement Needs**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (g)]

Exemptions from Component 7: Section 8 only PHAs are not required to complete this component and may skip to Component 8.

### **A. Capital Fund Activities**

Exemptions from sub-component 7A: PHAs that will not participate in the Capital Fund Program may skip to component 7B. All other PHAs must complete 7A as instructed.

#### **(1) Capital Fund Program Annual Statement**

Using parts I, II, and III of the Annual Statement for the Capital Fund Program (CFP), identify capital activities the PHA is proposing for the upcoming year to ensure long-term physical and social viability of its public housing developments. This statement can be completed by using the CFP Annual Statement tables provided in the table library at the end of the PHA Plan template **OR**, at the PHA's option, by completing and attaching a properly updated HUD-52837.

Select one:

The Capital Fund Program Annual Statement is provided as an attachment to the PHA Plan at Attachment (state name)

-or-

The Capital Fund Program Annual Statement is provided below: (if selected, copy the CFP Annual Statement from the Table Library and insert here)

#### **(2) Optional 5-Year Action Plan**

Agencies are encouraged to include a 5-Year Action Plan covering capital work items. This statement can be completed by using the 5 Year Action Plan table provided in the table library at the end of the PHA Plan template **OR** by completing and attaching a properly updated HUD-52834.

a.  Yes  No: Is the PHA providing an optional 5-Year Action Plan for the Capital Fund? (if no, skip to sub-component 7B)

b. If yes to question a, select one:

The Capital Fund Program 5-Year Action Plan is provided as an attachment to the PHA Plan at Attachment (state name)

-or-

The Capital Fund Program 5-Year Action Plan is provided below: (if selected, copy the CFP optional 5 Year Action Plan from the Table Library and insert here)

### **B. HOPE VI and Public Housing Development and Replacement Activities (Non-Capital Fund)**

Applicability of sub-component 7B: All PHAs administering public housing. Identify any approved HOPE VI and/or public housing development or replacement activities not described in the Capital Fund Program Annual Statement.

Yes  No: a) Has the PHA received a HOPE VI revitalization grant? (if no, skip to question c; if yes, provide responses to question b for each grant, copying and completing as many times as necessary)

b) Status of HOPE VI revitalization grant (complete one set of questions for each grant)

1. Development name:

2. Development (project) number:

3. Status of grant: (select the statement that best describes the current status)

Revitalization Plan under development

- Revitalization Plan submitted, pending approval
- Revitalization Plan approved
- Activities pursuant to an approved Revitalization Plan underway

Yes  No: c) Does the PHA plan to apply for a HOPE VI Revitalization grant in the Plan year?

If yes, list development name/s below:

Yes  No: d) Will the PHA be engaging in any mixed-finance development activities for public housing in the Plan year?

If yes, list developments or activities below:

Yes  No: e) Will the PHA be conducting any other public housing development or replacement activities not discussed in the Capital Fund Program Annual Statement?

If yes, list developments or activities below:

### **8. Demolition and Disposition**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (h)]

Applicability of component 8: Section 8 only PHAs are not required to complete this section.

1.  Yes  No: Does the PHA plan to conduct any demolition or disposition activities (pursuant to section 18 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437p)) in the plan Fiscal Year? (If “No”, skip to component 9; if “yes”, complete one activity description for each development.)

2. Activity Description

Yes  No: Has the PHA provided the activities description information in the **optional** Public Housing Asset Management Table? (If “yes”, skip to component 9. If “No”, complete the Activity Description table below.)

<b>Demolition/Disposition Activity Description</b>
1a. Development name: 1b. Development (project) number:
2. Activity type: Demolition <input type="checkbox"/> Disposition <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Application status (select one) Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted, pending approval <input type="checkbox"/> Planned application <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Date application approved, submitted, or planned for submission: <u>(DD/MM/YY)</u>
5. Number of units affected: 6. Coverage of action (select one) <input type="checkbox"/> Part of the development <input type="checkbox"/> Total development
7. Timeline for activity: a. Actual or projected start date of activity: b. Projected end date of activity:

**9. Designation of Public Housing for Occupancy by Elderly Families or Families with Disabilities or Elderly Families and Families with Disabilities**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (i)]

Exemptions from Component 9; Section 8 only PHAs are not required to complete this section.

1.  Yes  No: Has the PHA designated or applied for approval to designate or does the PHA plan to apply to designate any public housing for occupancy only by the elderly families or only by families with disabilities, or by elderly families and families with disabilities or will apply for designation for occupancy by only elderly families or only families with disabilities, or by elderly families and families with disabilities as provided by section 7 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437e) in the upcoming fiscal year? (If “No”, skip to component 10. If “yes”, complete one activity description for each development, unless the PHA is eligible to complete a streamlined submission; PHAs completing streamlined submissions may skip to component 10.)

2. Activity Description

Yes  No: Has the PHA provided all required activity description information for this component in the **optional** Public Housing Asset Management Table? If “yes”, skip to component 10. If “No”, complete the Activity Description table below.

<b>Designation of Public Housing Activity Description</b>	
1a. Development name:	
1b. Development (project) number:	
2. Designation type:	Occupancy by only the elderly <input type="checkbox"/> Occupancy by families with disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Occupancy by only elderly families and families with disabilities <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Application status (select one)	Approved; included in the PHA’s Designation Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted, pending approval <input type="checkbox"/> Planned application <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Date this designation approved, submitted, or planned for submission:	<u>(DD/MM/YY)</u>
5. If approved, will this designation constitute a (select one)	<input type="checkbox"/> New Designation Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of a previously-approved Designation Plan?
6. Number of units affected:	
7. Coverage of action (select one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part of the development <input type="checkbox"/> Total development

## **10. Conversion of Public Housing to Tenant-Based Assistance**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (j)]

Exemptions from Component 10; Section 8 only PHAs are not required to complete this section.

### **A. Assessments of Reasonable Revitalization Pursuant to section 202 of the HUD FY 1996 HUD Appropriations Act**

1.  Yes  No: Have any of the PHA's developments or portions of developments been identified by HUD or the PHA as covered under section 202 of the HUD FY 1996 HUD Appropriations Act? (If "No", skip to component 11; if "yes", complete one activity description for each identified development, unless eligible to complete a streamlined submission. PHAs completing streamlined submissions may skip to component 11.)

#### 2. Activity Description

Yes  No: Has the PHA provided all required activity description information for this component in the **optional** Public Housing Asset Management Table? If "yes", skip to component 11. If "No", complete the Activity Description table below.

<b>Conversion of Public Housing Activity Description</b>	
1a. Development name:	
1b. Development (project) number:	
2. What is the status of the required assessment?	<input type="checkbox"/> Assessment underway <input type="checkbox"/> Assessment results submitted to HUD <input type="checkbox"/> Assessment results approved by HUD (if marked, proceed to next question) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain below)
3. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No: Is a Conversion Plan required? (If yes, go to block 4; if no, go to block 5.)	
4. Status of Conversion Plan (select the statement that best describes the current status)	<input type="checkbox"/> Conversion Plan in development <input type="checkbox"/> Conversion Plan submitted to HUD on: (DD/MM/YYYY) <input type="checkbox"/> Conversion Plan approved by HUD on: (DD/MM/YYYY) <input type="checkbox"/> Activities pursuant to HUD-approved Conversion Plan underway
5. Description of how requirements of Section 202 are being satisfied by means other than conversion (select one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Units addressed in a pending or approved demolition application (date submitted or approved: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Units addressed in a pending or approved HOPE VI demolition application (date submitted or approved: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Units addressed in a pending or approved HOPE VI Revitalization Plan (date submitted or approved: _____)

- Requirements no longer applicable: vacancy rates are less than 10 percent
- Requirements no longer applicable: site now has less than 300 units
- Other: (describe below)

**B. Reserved for Conversions pursuant to Section 22 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937**

**C. Reserved for Conversions pursuant to Section 33 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937**

**11. Homeownership Programs Administered by the PHA**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (k)]

**A. Public Housing**

Exemptions from Component 11A: Section 8 only PHAs are not required to complete 11A.

1.  Yes  No: Does the PHA administer any homeownership programs administered by the PHA under an approved section 5(h) homeownership program (42 U.S.C. 1437c(h)), or an approved HOPE I program (42 U.S.C. 1437aaa) or has the PHA applied or plan to apply to administer any homeownership programs under section 5(h), the HOPE I program, or section 32 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437z-4). (If “No”, skip to component 11B; if “yes”, complete one activity description for each applicable program/plan, unless eligible to complete a streamlined submission due to **small PHA** or **high performing PHA** status. PHAs completing streamlined submissions may skip to component 11B.)

2. Activity Description

- Yes  No: Has the PHA provided all required activity description information for this component in the **optional** Public Housing Asset Management Table? (If “yes”, skip to component 12. If “No”, complete the Activity Description table below.)

<b>Public Housing Homeownership Activity Description (Complete one for each development affected)</b>
1a. Development name: 1b. Development (project) number:
2. Federal Program authority: <input type="checkbox"/> HOPE I <input type="checkbox"/> 5(h) <input type="checkbox"/> Turnkey III <input type="checkbox"/> Section 32 of the USHA of 1937 (effective 10/1/99)
3. Application status: (select one) <input type="checkbox"/> Approved; included in the PHA’s Homeownership Plan/Program <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted, pending approval <input type="checkbox"/> Planned application
4. Date Homeownership Plan/Program approved, submitted, or planned for submission: (DD/MM/YYYY)
5. Number of units affected:

6. Coverage of action: (select one)

- Part of the development  
 Total development

## B. Section 8 Tenant Based Assistance

1.  Yes  No: Does the PHA plan to administer a Section 8 Homeownership program pursuant to Section 8(y) of the U.S.H.A. of 1937, as implemented by 24 CFR part 982 ? (If “No”, skip to component 12; if “yes”, describe each program using the table below (copy and complete questions for each program identified), unless the PHA is eligible to complete a streamlined submission due to high performer status. **High performing PHAs** may skip to component 12.)

2. Program Description:

a. Size of Program

Yes  No: Will the PHA limit the number of families participating in the section 8 homeownership option?

If the answer to the question above was yes, which statement best describes the number of participants? (select one)

- 25 or fewer participants  
 26 - 50 participants  
 51 to 100 participants  
 more than 100 participants

b. PHA-established eligibility criteria

Yes  No: Will the PHA’s program have eligibility criteria for participation in its Section 8 Homeownership Option program in addition to HUD criteria?

If yes, list criteria below:

## **12. PHA Community Service and Self-sufficiency Programs**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (l)]

Exemptions from Component 12: High performing and small PHAs are not required to complete this component. Section 8-Only PHAs are not required to complete sub-component C.

### **A. PHA Coordination with the Welfare (TANF) Agency**

#### 1. Cooperative agreements:

- Yes  No: Has the PHA entered into a cooperative agreement with the TANF Agency, to share information and/or target supportive services (as contemplated by section 12(d)(7) of the Housing Act of 1937)?

If yes, what was the date that agreement was signed? DD/MM/YY

#### 2. Other coordination efforts between the PHA and TANF agency (select all that apply)

- Client referrals  
 Information sharing regarding mutual clients (for rent determinations and otherwise)  
 Coordinate the provision of specific social and self-sufficiency services and programs to eligible families  
 Jointly administer programs  
 Partner to administer a HUD Welfare-to-Work voucher program  
 Joint administration of other demonstration program  
 Other (describe)

### **B. Services and programs offered to residents and participants**

#### **(1) General**

##### a. Self-Sufficiency Policies

Which, if any of the following discretionary policies will the PHA employ to enhance the economic and social self-sufficiency of assisted families in the following areas? (select all that apply)

- Public housing rent determination policies  
 Public housing admissions policies  
 Section 8 admissions policies  
 Preference in admission to section 8 for certain public housing families  
 Preferences for families working or engaging in training or education programs for non-housing programs operated or coordinated by the PHA  
 Preference/eligibility for public housing homeownership option participation  
 Preference/eligibility for section 8 homeownership option participation  
**(at such time as the PHA initiates such a program)**



Other policies (list below)

b. Economic and Social self-sufficiency programs

Yes  No: Does the PHA coordinate, promote or provide any programs to enhance the economic and social self-sufficiency of residents? (If “yes”, complete the following table; if “no” skip to sub-component 2, Family Self Sufficiency Programs. The position of the table may be altered to facilitate its use. )

<b>Services and Programs</b>				
Program Name & Description (including location, if appropriate)	Estimated Size	Allocation Method (waiting list/random selection/specific criteria/other)	Access (development office / PHA main office / other provider name)	Eligibility (public housing or section 8 participants or both)

**(2) Family Self Sufficiency program/s**

a. Participation Description

<b>Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Participation</b>		
Program	Required Number of Participants (start of FY 2004 Estimate)	Actual Number of Participants (As of: DD/MM/YY)
Public Housing		
Section 8	0	0

b.  Yes  No: If the PHA is not maintaining the minimum program size required by HUD, does the most recent FSS Action Plan address

the steps the PHA plans to take to achieve at least the minimum program size?

If no, list steps the PHA will take below:

**C. Welfare Benefit Reductions**

1. The PHA is complying with the statutory requirements of section 12(d) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (relating to the treatment of income changes resulting from welfare program requirements) by: (select all that apply)

- Adopting appropriate changes to the PHA's public housing rent determination policies and train staff to carry out those policies
- Informing residents of new policy on admission and reexamination
- Actively notifying residents of new policy at times in addition to admission and reexamination.
- Establishing or pursuing a cooperative agreement with all appropriate TANF agencies regarding the exchange of information and coordination of services
- Establishing a protocol for exchange of information with all appropriate TANF agencies
- Other: (list below)

**D. Reserved for Community Service Requirement pursuant to section 12(c) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937**

### **13. PHA Safety and Crime Prevention Measures**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (m)]

Exemptions from Component 13: High performing and small PHAs not participating in PHDEP and Section 8 Only PHAs may skip to component 15. High Performing and small PHAs that are participating in PHDEP and are submitting a PHDEP Plan with this PHA Plan may skip to sub-component D.

#### **A. Need for measures to ensure the safety of public housing residents**

1. Describe the need for measures to ensure the safety of public housing residents

(select all that apply)

- High incidence of violent and/or drug-related crime in some or all of the PHA's developments
- High incidence of violent and/or drug-related crime in the areas surrounding or adjacent to the PHA's developments
- Residents fearful for their safety and/or the safety of their children
- Observed lower-level crime, vandalism and/or graffiti
- People on waiting list unwilling to move into one or more developments due to perceived and/or actual levels of violent and/or drug-related crime
- Other (describe below)

2. What information or data did the PHA use to determine the need for PHA actions to improve safety of residents (select all that apply).

- Safety and security survey of residents
- Analysis of crime statistics over time for crimes committed "in and around" public housing authority
- Analysis of cost trends over time for repair of vandalism and removal of graffiti
- Resident reports
- PHA employee reports
- Police reports
- Demonstrable, quantifiable success with previous or ongoing anticrime/anti drug programs
- Other (describe below)

3. Which developments are most affected? (list below)

#### **B. Crime and Drug Prevention activities the PHA has undertaken or plans to undertake in the next PHA fiscal year**

1. List the crime prevention activities the PHA has undertaken or plans to undertake:

(select all that apply)

- Contracting with outside and/or resident organizations for the provision of crime- and/or drug-prevention activities
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
- Activities targeted to at-risk youth, adults, or seniors
- Volunteer Resident Patrol/Block Watchers Program
- Other (describe below)

2. Which developments are most affected? (list below)

#### **C. Coordination between PHA and the police**

1. Describe the coordination between the PHA and the appropriate police precincts for carrying out crime prevention measures and activities: (select all that apply)

- Police involvement in development, implementation, and/or ongoing evaluation of drug-elimination plan
- Police provide crime data to housing authority staff for analysis and action
- Police have established a physical presence on housing authority property (e.g., community policing office, officer in residence)
- Police regularly testify in and otherwise support eviction cases
- Police regularly meet with the PHA management and residents
- Agreement between PHA and local law enforcement agency for provision of above-baseline law enforcement services
- Other activities (list below)

2. Which developments are most affected? (list below)

**D. Additional information as required by PHDEP/PHDEP Plan**

PHAs eligible for FY 2000 PHDEP funds must provide a PHDEP Plan meeting specified requirements prior to receipt of PHDEP funds.

- Yes  No: Is the PHA eligible to participate in the PHDEP in the fiscal year covered by this PHA Plan?
- Yes  No: Has the PHA included the PHDEP Plan for FY 2000 in this PHA Plan?
- Yes  No: This PHDEP Plan is an Attachment. (Attachment Filename: \_\_\_\_)

**14. RESERVED FOR PET POLICY**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (n)]

## **15. Civil Rights Certifications**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (o)]

Civil rights certifications are included in the PHA Plan Certifications of Compliance with the PHA Plans and Related Regulations.

## **16. Fiscal Audit**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (p)]

1.  Yes  No: Is the PHA required to have an audit conducted under section 5(h)(2) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437c(h))?  
(If no, skip to component 17.)
2.  Yes  No: Was the most recent fiscal audit submitted to HUD?
3.  Yes  No: Were there any findings as the result of that audit?
4.  Yes  No: If there were any findings, do any remain unresolved?  
If yes, how many unresolved findings remain? \_\_\_\_\_
5.  Yes  No: Have responses to any unresolved findings been submitted to HUD?  
If not, when are they due (state below)?

## **17. PHA Asset Management**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (q)]

Exemptions from component 17: Section 8 Only PHAs are not required to complete this component. High performing and small PHAs are not required to complete this component.

1.  Yes  No: Is the PHA engaging in any activities that will contribute to the long-term asset management of its public housing stock, including how the Agency will plan for long-term operating, capital investment, rehabilitation, modernization, disposition, and other needs that have **not** been addressed elsewhere in this PHA Plan?
2. What types of asset management activities will the PHA undertake? (select all that apply)  
 Not applicable  
 Private management  
 Development-based accounting  
 Comprehensive stock assessment  
 Other: (list below)
3.  Yes  No: Has the PHA included descriptions of asset management activities in the **optional** Public Housing Asset Management Table?

## **18. Other Information**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (r)]

### **A. Resident Advisory Board Recommendations**

1.  Yes  No: Did the PHA receive any comments on the PHA Plan from the Resident Advisory Board/s?
2. If yes, the comments are: (if comments were received, the PHA **MUST** select one)  
 Attached at Attachment (File name)  
 Provided below:

### **Summary of Resident Advisory Board Meeting of -- 3 October 2005, 6:30 PM**

RAB Members: Jennifer Giles, Tonya Halliburton-Kemp, Gabriel Kovacs, Shelley Samocki

PHA Staff: John Sully, Jack Balog, Eleanor Kukulya, Evelyn Rivera, Jean Settle

#### **RESIDENT ADVISORY BOARD**

3 October 2005  
6:30 PM

#### AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Summary of comments from last meeting
3. Review and comments on draft 2005 PHA Plan
4. Status of American Dream Downpayment Initiative / Section 8 Homeownership program
5. Matters on the mind of Board members
6. Matters on the mind of PHA staff
7. Adjournment

1. Executive Director John Sully opened the meeting by welcoming the four members present, and invitng everyone to re-introduce themselves to each other, and the Board members to tell what they presently are doing.

2. Mr. Sully passed out a summary of members' comments from the 2004 meeting, noting that the comments, previously sent to all members, had been included with the FY 2005 PHA Plan sent to HUD in October of last year.

3. Mr. Sully noted that all members had been sent draft copies of the FY 2006 PHA Plan, and asked if there were any comments on the draft. He also noted that the required legal ad notifying the public of the availability of the draft Plan for review had

been placed in the Home News-Tribune, and that he had received no public comments. Board members had no comments on the 2006 Plan.

4. Mr. Sully reported on the American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI) program, which the Department of Housing and Community Development plans to offer early in 2006, once a new staff member has been trained. This plan will provide downpayment and closing cost assistance to a limited number of qualified low and moderate income first time homebuyers who live or work in the HOME consortium municipalities of Middlesex County.

Mr. Sully noted that while this new HUD program has no direct link to Section 8, it is possible to combine it with a Section 8 homeownership program, if and when the County PHA has the capacity to run such a program. The Department intends to start the ADDI program apart from Section 8, and has yet to decide how far to extend it beyond the limited additional federal funds that have been provided exclusively for this program. The program can use regular HOME Investment Partnerships funds to supplement the ADDI funds, but to the degree that it does this, the HOME funds available for the County's main focus, creating additional very low income rental units, will be reduced accordingly. However, the most relevant thing at present for Section 8 clients is that once the regular ADDI program is underway, if adequate staffing becomes available it may be possible to begin a Section 8 Homeownership program in tandem with it, as HUD is encouraging. Right now the PHA staff is at capacity because of the increased number of portable clients, and cannot undertake Section 8 Homeownership.

Members and staff discussed various aspects of a potential homeownership program. Ms. Giles noted that she hoped to get into a first-time homebuyer program, because she has been working for the State for two years and expects raises each year in the future, which may enable her to become a homeowner. Mr. Sully noted that the housing market in Middlesex County is at an all-time high, and is concerned that some entry-level homebuyers entering the market at this stage may get burned as in the "bubble" of the late 1980s, when many condo and townhouse values dropped below the amounts of their mortgages. The chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank has noted that the current creative mortgages being offered by banks allow people to pay top dollar by keeping monthly payments low, but may lead to trouble later if values drop or interest rates significantly rise.

Evelyn Rivera noted that Section 8 homeownership program rules require two years of steady employment before a client is eligible for the program.

5. Gabriel Kovacs asked if a phrase in the 2006 PHA Plan implied that time limits were going to be placed on Section 8 assistance. Mr. Sully replied that this had been proposed by someone, but that there was no official HUD proposal for time limits, and in view of the time limit presently placed on TANF recipients, many of whom also are

on Section 8, he doubted if the Section program would be similarly limited, though no doubt there were members of Congress who would approve of this.

Ms. Samocki asked if her family size was reduced when a child moved out, would she have to move to a smaller unit? Ms. Settle said that while the size of the unit on which Ms. Samocki's Section 8 payment was based would indeed be reduced at the next recertification (following reduction in family size) from 2 bedroom to 1 bedroom, this did not mean she would have to move, as long as she could afford to pay more of her rent in order to stay in the larger apartment. A new client or a moving client cannot pay more than 40% of income for rent, but a client staying in the same place can if they can afford to do so.

Ms. Halliburton-Kemp asked what was going to happen to Section 8 in the light of all the federal funds being spent on Hurricane Katrina, the Iraq war, etc? Mr. Sully said that the huge amount of funding spent on these efforts might impact other HUD programs such as CDBG, but he doubted that it would directly affect Section 8. At the same time, he said that it was clear that the Administration was trying to contain costs on Section 8, which could result in either downsizing the program or requiring clients to pay more of their rent.

Ms. Giles asked if the PHA had any direct linkages with the TANF office or job training programs, in order to make vouchers available to people who complete job training. Mr. Sully said that while we do interact with the Board of Social Services as needed, we do not have the kind of arrangement she is suggesting, in part because we provide vouchers only to people on our waiting list, and partly because we can't guarantee that we would have any vouchers available when needed. Staff noted that the Board of Social Services in some cases provides up to one year's rental assistance for clients in job training.

Ms. Samocki noted that her apartment had not been painted for four years, and was showing wear. She was encouraged to contact the landlord, and also mention this to our inspector at the next inspection.

Mr. Kovacs asked if there could be utility allowance adjustments in the middle of a lease, considering the expected major increases in the cost of heating this winter. Staff responded that this was possible, and that we will be reviewing our utility allowance factors to make sure that they take into account the higher costs.

6. PHA Staff members had no further comments.

7. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

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3. In what manner did the PHA address those comments? (select all that apply)
- Considered comments, but determined that no changes to the PHA Plan were necessary.
  - The PHA changed portions of the PHA Plan in response to comments  
List changes below:
  - Other: (list below)

**B. Description of Election process for Residents on the PHA Board**

1.  Yes  No: Does the PHA meet the exemption criteria provided section 2(b)(2) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937? (If no, continue to question 2; if yes, skip to sub-component C.)

*This question presently is under review by County Counsel.*

2.  Yes  No: Was the resident who serves on the PHA Board elected by the residents? (If yes, continue to question 3; if no, skip to sub-component C.)

3. Description of Resident Election Process

a. Nomination of candidates for place on the ballot: (select all that apply)

- Candidates were nominated by resident and assisted family organizations
- Candidates could be nominated by any adult recipient of PHA assistance
- Self-nomination: Candidates registered with the PHA and requested a place on ballot
- Other: (describe)

b. Eligible candidates: (select one)

- Any recipient of PHA assistance
- Any head of household receiving PHA assistance
- Any adult recipient of PHA assistance
- Any adult member of a resident or assisted family organization
- Other (list)

c. Eligible voters: (select all that apply)

- All adult recipients of PHA assistance (public housing and section 8 tenant-based assistance)
- Representatives of all PHA resident and assisted family organizations
- Other (list)

**C. Statement of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan**

For each applicable Consolidated Plan, make the following statement (copy questions as many times as necessary).

- 1. Consolidated Plan jurisdiction: Middlesex County (Urban County and HOME consortium)
- 2. The PHA has taken the following steps to ensure consistency of this PHA Plan with the Consolidated Plan for the jurisdiction: (select all that apply)

- The PHA has based its statement of needs of families in the jurisdiction on the needs expressed in the Consolidated Plan/s.
- The PHA has participated in any consultation process organized and offered by the Consolidated Plan agency in the development of the Consolidated Plan.
- The PHA has consulted with the Consolidated Plan agency during the development of this PHA Plan.
- Activities to be undertaken by the PHA in the coming year are consistent with the initiatives contained in the Consolidated Plan. (list below)

Other: (list below)

- 4. The Consolidated Plan of the jurisdiction supports the PHA Plan with the following actions and commitments: (describe below)

*The Middlesex County 2005 5-year Consolidated Plan and 2005 Annual Plan (1 July 2005-30 June 2006) includes the County PHA among its strategies and activities for serving very low income renters, and also targets the HOME program exclusively toward increasing the supply of rental housing for this population.*

**D. Other Information Required by HUD**

Use this section to provide any additional information requested by HUD.

## **Attachments**

Use this section to provide any additional attachments referenced in the Plans.

1. Progress in meeting 5-Year Plan Mission and Goals
2. Resident Membership of the PHA Governing Board
3. Membership of the Resident Advisory Board
4. Certifications (separately supplied)
5. Public Notices (separately supplied)
6. Board of Chosen Freeholders resolutions (separately supplied)

## **PHA Plan - Attachment 1: Progress in meeting 5-Year Plan Mission and Goals**

During 2005 the PHA pursued its mission of promoting adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity and a suitable living environment free from discrimination.

### **HUD Strategic Goal: Increase the availability of decent, safe and affordable housing.**

The PHA has improved consistency of voucher utilization, presently at 97%. Because of a very tight rental market, the PHA has found it difficult to meet HUD's utilization target through issuance of new vouchers alone, so has absorbed portable clients as needed to keep utilization high. Many new vouchers have been issued to clients on the waiting list, but many clients have not been able to find suitable housing within the permitted 120 days. The PHA will continue to issue new vouchers and to absorb existing portable clients as necessary in 2006 to attempt to gain a 98% or better utilization rate.

PHA staff worked in conjunction with the County's HOME Investment Partnerships program to create new affordable housing in Middlesex County. In April 2005 Maher Manor, a 100 unit building for very low income seniors, opened. The County assisted this rental project with both HOME and County funds. In June, South River Landing, a 75 unit very low income senior rental project, opened. The County assisted HUD Section 202 project with HOME funds. In July 2005, HOME and County agreements were executed providing funding for a 40 very low income senior rental project in South Amboy.

In 2005, for the third year, the Board of Chosen Freeholders allocated \$1,000,000 in County funds for new affordable senior housing, and expects to allocate the same amount in 2006 and 2007. \$500,000 of the 2005 funds were awarded to South Amboy senior housing project.

The County's HOME program funds only projects which produce very low income housing units, and seeks to get a longer guaranteed period of affordability than HUD regulations require, if possible. The HOME funds allocated to these projects leverage very substantial amounts of other public (federal, state, local) funds as well as private funds.

Middlesex County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds continue to be allocated for housing rehabilitation loans to low income homeowners, and some CDBG funds are being used to create low income units in the southern part of the county.

Client satisfaction with Section 8 housing has been very high because of caring staff work with clients and thorough enforcement of HUD's HQS standards. PHA inspectors respond quickly to complaints from tenants or landlords.

The PHA increased housing choices by providing voucher mobility counseling and materials, and by promptly processing clients coming in from other jurisdictions. The PHA has not yet implemented a voucher homeownership program, but will continue to evaluate its feasibility based on the experience of the NJ Department of Community Affairs' program, which now is operating in Middlesex County. In 2006 the Department of Housing and Community Development will offer a first-time homebuyers' program based on the HUD American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI), and will explore whether integrating that with a Section 8 homebuyer program is feasible.

**HUD Strategic Goal: Improve community quality of life and economic vitality.**

By working carefully with their clients, PHA staff encouraged assisted families to be stable and responsible tenants. There has been a very low incidence of tenant/landlord problems, with landlord complaints on fewer than 2% of clients. There has been only one Section 8 eviction to date in 2005.

**HUD Strategic Goal: Ensure equal opportunity in housing for all Americans**

As recommended (in general) by the PHA, \$82,800 in CDBG funds were allocated for the 2005 program year to help support the Housing Coalition of Central Jersey, the County's designated Fair Housing organization, which handles fair housing cases and takes other actions to insure equal access to assisted and other housing regardless of race, color, religion, national origin,

sex, familial status and disability. The PHA is not aware of any fair housing cases in 2005 involving its clients. However, it is frequently alleged that landlords use credit checks and prior landlord references, both legal means of screening clients, as means of discrimination against Section 8 voucher holders.

The Housing Coalition also provides landlord-tenant counseling and other services which promote housing opportunities for low income persons and families.

## **PHA Plan – Attachment 2: Resident Membership of the PHA Governing Board**

In conjunction with the requirement to appoint a Resident Member to the PHA governing body, County Counsel has researched the PHA's enabling legislation and determined that the PHA was established under a New Jersey law, N.J.S.A. 40:32A-1, which subsequently was repealed and replaced by N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq. The present State enabling legislation appears to require a differently-structured governing body (“authority”) than the PHA now has.

Since its creation under the earlier law in the late 1970s, solely for the purpose of administering Section 8 Rental Assistance, and owning no public housing or other property, the PHA's governing body has been the County's elected governing body, the Board of Chosen Freeholders. All PHA matters requiring governing body action, such as paying rents, approving applications, plans and reports, etc. are handled via the regular agenda of the bi-weekly Freeholder meetings. Present State law may require that this procedure be revised, though the body of law appears to contemplate traditional housing authorities which own and manage property instead of solely providing rental assistance to clients living in private-market housing.

Consequently, County Counsel and the Board of Chosen Freeholders are reviewing the current enabling legislation to determine if a change in the PHA structure is needed.

### **PHA Plan – Attachment 3: Membership in the Resident Advisory Board**

#### Members of the Resident Advisory Board:

Ms. Yolanda Cannady  
101 Jones Drive  
Princeton NJ 08540

Ms. Eva Ferguson  
1407-B Oak Tree Drive  
North Brunswick NJ 08902

Ms. Jennifer Giles  
1701 Muriel Court  
Princeton NJ 08540

Ms. Tonya Haliburton-Kemp  
56 Royal Drive, Apt.266  
Piscataway NJ 08854

Mr. Gabriel Kovacs  
500 Adams Lane 2F  
North Brunswick NJ 08902

Ms. Sharon Martin  
748B Voorhees Avenue  
Middlesex NJ 08846

Ms. Shelley Samocki  
51 Schmidt Lane 22B  
North Brunswick NJ 08902

Ms. Rhonda Taylor  
500 Adams Lane 12G  
North Brunswick NJ 08902





