



United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development
Committed to the Future of Rural Communities

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AUG - 6 2014

Dear Mr. Anders:

Thank you for your letter dated June 23, 2014, concerning the Agency's issuance of the Administrative Notice (AN) implementing the most recent amendments to the Violence Against Women Act.

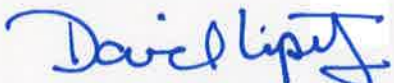

We reviewed the guidance that was issued and realized that additional clarification would be appropriate. In order to better serve our borrowers and tenants, the AN, and the Rural Development Model Emergency Transfer Plan (Attachment B of the AN) will be revised. It will be clearer in presenting the definition of domestic violence so as to be inclusive. Also, the use of "and" should have been "or" in the discussion about eligibility. The Rural Development Model Emergency Transfer Plan will extend the type of available housing beyond units assisted under the Multi-Family Housing program to include any unit under a covered housing program.

In order to ensure an expeditious response to the request for a Letter of Priority Entitlement (LOPE), we will provide Rural Development contact information for the property owner to obtain the LOPE for the resident. We will also clarify in the revision that residents who receive a LOPE and are beneficiaries of the Rental Assistance (RA) program may transfer their assistance to another Rural Development property. The RA will remain with the tenant, however. Property owners can neither prohibit nor disallow such a transfer of RA.

In response to your suggestion, we have advised the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Treasury to note that tenants in Rural Development-financed properties are now covered under the amendment, and to so advise the owners of properties with Low Income Housing Tax Credits or covered by HUD insurance or subsidy.

We appreciate your bringing these issues to our attention. We believe the changes will provide appropriate guidance for Rural Development multi-family borrowers and tenants on this important law. Thank you for your interest in our programs.

Sincerely


for Tony Hernandez
Administrator
Housing and Community Facilities Programs

David Lipsitz
Chief of Staff

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