The objective of this column is to help support Section 3 compliance through the discussion and sharing of best practices being utilized by PHA’s and other recipients to achieve their goals.

**HUD Section 3 Training**

In June of 2018 I attended the HUD “Section 3 National Training Conference” in Dallas Texas. It was the first conference of its type in the history of the statute and commemorated the 50th anniversary of the “HUD Act of 1968” in which Section 3 was established.

Presenters at the conference included Housing and Urban Development, (HUD), Director, Ben Carson and many of his staff including the Assistant Secretary of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, (FHEO), Anna Maria Farias. Farias offered some accounts of how Section 3 and similar programs helped to transform the public housing development she grew up in, from a being a gang and drug infested barrio to a community of working class people. Other attendees included 350+ Section 3 Coordinators, procurement/purchasing officers and representatives of various governmental agencies from across the country. There was also a contingency of Section 3 Business Concerns in attendance.

Director Carson re-emphasized the importance of Section 3 and said it was an area of high priority in his administration. He also spoke of his feelings about how Section 3 could be a useful tool that could put thousands of people to work.

**What is Section 3?**

Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968 is a provision designed to promote growth and economic opportunity for public housing residents and persons in low/very-low income households who live near projects where HUD’s funding is being expended.

HUD’s investment in communities, including Public and Indian Housing, is one the largest sources of federal spending and is oftentimes a jump-starter of economic opportunities.

Section 3 requires that priority be given, to the greatest extent feasible, to Section 3 Residents and the businesses that substantially employ them on a percentage of the new training, employment and contracting opportunities that arise from the expenditure of certain HUD funds.

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