

Utilities Expense Level, HUD may in HUD's sole discretion decide to prescribe a procedure under which the PHA may apply for or may receive an increase in operating subsidy.

(d)(1) *Costs resulting from combination of two or more units.* When a PHA redesigns or rehabilitates a project and combines two or more units into one larger unit and the combination of units results in a unit that houses at least the same number of people as were previously served, the AEL for the requested year shall be multiplied by the number of unit months not included in the requested year's unit months available as a result of these combinations that have occurred since the Base Year. The number of people served in a unit will be based on the formula  $((2 \times \text{No. of Bedrooms}) \text{ minus } 1)$ , which yields the average number of people that would be served. An efficiency unit will be counted as a one bedroom unit for purposes of this calculation.

(2) An exception to paragraph (d)(1) of this section is made when a PHA combines two efficiency units into a one-bedroom unit. In these cases, the AEL for the requested year shall be multiplied by the number of unit months not included in the requested year's unit months available as a result of these combinations that have occurred since the Base Year.

(e) *Funding for resident participation activities.*—(1) *Funding amount.* Each PHA shall include in the operating subsidy eligibility calculation, \$25 per occupied unit per year for resident participation activities, including (but not limited to) those described in part 964 of this title. For purposes of this section, a unit may be occupied by a public housing resident, a PHA employee, or a police officer. If, in any fiscal year, appropriations are not sufficient to meet all funding requirements under this part, then the \$25 will be subject to pro-ration.

(2) *Use of vacant rental units.* If there is no community or rental space available for providing resident participation activities, HUD may approve, at the request of the PHA, the use of one or more vacant rental units for resident participation purposes. A unit that satisfies the following conditions

will be eligible for operating subsidy at the rate of the AEL for the number of months the unit is devoted to such use:

(i) The PHA must demonstrate that safe and suitable space for the resident participation activities is not otherwise readily available;

(ii) One or more contiguous units may be used for resident participation activities. However, the units must be located on a single site per public housing development. Further, the number of units involved must be the minimum necessary to support the resident participation activities;

(iii) The PHA must submit a certification with its Operating Fund Formula calculation that the units are being used for the purpose for which they were approved and that any rental income generated as a result of the activity is reported as income in the operating subsidy calculation; and

(iv) The PHA must maintain specific documentation of the units covered. Such documentation must include a listing of the units, the street addresses, and project/management control numbers.

#### § 990.109 Projected operating income level.

(a) *Policy.* The Operating Fund Formula determines the amount of operating subsidy for a particular PHA based in part upon a projection of the actual dwelling rental income and other income for the particular PHA. The projection of dwelling rental income is obtained by computing the average monthly dwelling rental charge per unit for the PHA, and applying an upward trend factor (subject to updating). This amount is then multiplied by the Projected Occupancy Percentage for the Requested Budget Year. There are special provisions for projection of dwelling rental income for new projects.

(b) *Computation of projected average monthly dwelling rental income.*—(1) *General.* The projected average monthly dwelling rental income per unit for the PHA is calculated as follows:

(i) *Step 1: Calculation of the current year and three year averages.* The PHA calculates:

(A) The average monthly dwelling rental charge per unit for the current

budget year (the “current year average” calculated in accordance with paragraph (b)(2) of this section); and

(B) The average monthly dwelling rental charge per unit for the current budget year and the immediate past two budget years (the “three year average” calculated in accordance with paragraph (b)(3) of this section).

(ii) *Step 2: Adjustment for any increase in dwelling rental income.* If the current year average is greater than the three year average, the PHA has increased dwelling rental income. If a PHA has increased dwelling rental income, it shall perform the following calculation. The PHA shall:

(A) Subtract the three year average from the current year average;

(B) Divide the result by 2; and

(C) Add this sum to the three year average.

(iii) *Step 3: Calculating the amount of increased rental revenue that may be retained.* PHAs shall be allowed to retain 50% of any increases in dwelling rental income, so long as the PHA uses the increased revenue for the provision of resident-related improvements and services as described in § 990.116. The retained income will not be recognized in the PHA’s calculation under the Operating Fund Formula. The annual amount of increased revenue retained by the PHA is calculated by subtracting the three year average from the current year average, dividing the result by two, and multiplying the result by the projected occupancy percentage (see § 990.109(b)(6)), and the unit months available (see § 990.102).

(iv) *Step 4: Applying the rental income adjustment factor.* The lower of the amount calculated under paragraph (b)(i)(A) or (b)(ii) of this section is then adjusted by the dwelling rental income adjustment factor described in paragraph (b)(5) of this section.

(2) *Average monthly dwelling rental charge per unit.* (i) The average monthly dwelling rental charge per unit shall be computed using the total dwelling rental charges for all Project Units, as shown on the Tenant Rent Rolls which the PHA is required to maintain, for the first day of the month which is six months before the first day of the Requested Budget Year. However, if a change in the total of the Rent Rolls

has occurred in a subsequent month which is before the beginning of the Requested Budget Year, and before the submission of the Requested Budget Year calculation of operating subsidy eligibility, the PHA may use the latest changed Rent Roll for the purpose of the computation.

(ii) This aggregate dollar amount shall be divided by the number of occupied dwelling units as of the same date.

(iii) The Rent Roll used for calculating the projected operating income level will not reflect decreases resulting from the PHA’s implementation of an optional earned income exclusion authorized by the explanation of “annual income” in 24 CFR 5.609.

(3) *Three year average monthly dwelling rental charge per unit.* The three year average monthly dwelling rental charge shall be computed by averaging the amounts calculated under paragraph (b)(2) of this section for the current budget year and the immediate past two budget years.

(4) *Changes in supply of utilities.* The PHA must adjust the rent rolls used for purposes of the calculations described in paragraphs (b)(2) and (b)(3) of this section to reflect any change from PHA-paid utilities to resident-paid utilities, or vice versa, between the rent roll date and the projected budget year.

(5) *Dwelling rental income adjustment factor.* An adjustment factor will be applied to the calculations described in paragraphs (b)(2) and (b)(3) of this section. In FY 2001, the inflation factor will be 3%. In subsequent years, the average monthly dwelling rental charge per unit will be increased for inflation using a HUD supplied adjustment factor for the requested budget year to obtain the projected average monthly dwelling rental charge per unit of the PHA for the Requested Budget Year.

(6) *Projected occupancy percentage.* The PHA shall determine its projected percentage of occupancy for all Project Units (Projected Occupancy Percentage), as follows:

(1) *General.* Using actual occupancy data collected before the start of the budget year as a beginning point, the PHA will develop estimates for its Requested Budget Year (RBY) of: How

many units the PHA will have available for occupancy; how many of the available units will be occupied and how many will be vacant, and what the average occupancy percentage will be for the RBY. The conditions under which the RBY occupancy percentage will be used as the projected occupancy percentage for purposes of determining operating subsidy eligibility are described below.

(ii) *High Occupancy PHA—No adjustments necessary.* If the PHA's RBY Occupancy Percentage, calculated in accordance with § 990.117, is equal to or greater than 97%, the PHA's Projected Occupancy Percentage is 97%. If the PHA's RBY Occupancy Percentage is less than 97%, but the PHA demonstrates that it will have an average of five or fewer vacant units in the requested budget year, the PHA will use its RBY Occupancy Percentage as its projected occupancy percentage.

(iii) *Adjustments in determining occupancy.* If the PHA's RBY Occupancy Percentage is less than 97% and the PHA has more than 5 vacant units, the PHA will adjust its estimate of vacant units to exclude vacant units undergoing modernization and units that are vacant due to circumstances and actions beyond the PHA's control. After making this adjustment, the PHA will recalculate its estimated vacancy percentage for the RBY.

(A) *High Occupancy PHA after adjustment.* If the recalculated vacancy percentage is 3% or less (or the PHA would have five or fewer vacant units), the PHA will use its RBY Occupancy Percentage as its projected occupancy percentage.

(B) *Low Occupancy PHA—adjustment for long-term vacancies.* If the recalculated vacancy percentage is greater than 3% (or the PHA would have more than 5 vacant units), the PHA will then further adjust its RBY Occupancy Percentage by excluding from its calculation of Unit Months Available (UMAs), those unit months attributable to units that have been vacant for longer than 12 months that are not vacant units undergoing modernization or are not units vacant due to circumstances and actions beyond the PHA's control.

(iv) *Low Occupancy PHA after all adjustments.* A PHA that has determined

its RBY Occupancy Percentage in accordance with paragraph (b)(6)(iii)(B) of this section will be eligible for operating subsidy as follows:

(A) Long-term vacancies removed from the calculation of UMAs will be eligible to receive a reduced operating subsidy calculated at 20% of the PHA's AEL.

(B) If the recalculated RBY Occupancy Percentage is 97% or higher, the PHA will use 97%.

(C) If the recalculated RBY Occupancy Percentage is less than 97%, but the vacancy rate after adjusting for vacant units undergoing modernization and units that are vacant due to circumstances and actions beyond the PHA's control is 3% or less (or the PHA has five or fewer vacant units), the PHA may use its recalculated RBY Occupancy Percentage as its projected occupancy percentage.

(D) If the recalculated RBY Occupancy Percentage is less than 97% and the vacancy percentage is greater than 3% (or the PHA has more than five vacant units) after adjusting for vacant units undergoing modernization and units that are vacant due to circumstances and actions beyond the PHA's control, the PHA will use 97% as its projected occupancy percentage, but will be allowed to adjust the 97% by the number of vacant units undergoing modernization and units that are vacant due to circumstances and actions beyond the PHA's control. For a small PHA using five vacant units as its occupancy objective for the RBY, the PHA will determine what percentage five units represents as a portion of its units available for occupancy and subtract that percentage from 100%. The result will be used as the PHA's projected occupancy percentage, but the PHA will be allowed to adjust the projected occupancy percentage by vacant units undergoing modernization and units that are vacant for circumstances and actions beyond the PHA's control.

(c) *Projected average monthly dwelling rental charge per unit for new Projects.* The projected average monthly dwelling rental charge for new Projects which were not available for occupancy during the budget year prior to the Requested Budget Year and which will

reach the End of the Initial Operating Period (EIOP) within the first nine months of the Requested Budget Year, shall be calculated as follows:

(1) If the PHA has another Project or Projects under management which are comparable in terms of elderly and nonelderly resident composition, the PHA shall use the projected average monthly dwelling rental charge for such Project or Projects.

(2) If the PHA has no other Projects which are comparable in terms of elderly and nonelderly resident composition, the HUD Field Office will provide the projected average monthly dwelling rental charge for such Project or Projects, based on comparable Projects located in the area.

(d) *Estimate of additional dwelling rental income.* After implementation of the provisions of any legislation enacted or any HUD administrative action taken subsequent to the effective date of these regulations, which affects rents paid by residents of Projects, HUD may adjust the projected average monthly dwelling rental charge per unit to reflect such change. HUD also shall have complete discretion to reduce or increase the operating subsidy approved for the PHA current fiscal year in an amount equivalent to the change in the rental income.

(e) *PHA's estimate of other income.* All PHAs shall estimate Other Income based on past experience and a reasonable projection for the Requested Budget Year, which estimate shall be subject to HUD approval. The estimated total amount of Other Income, as approved, shall be divided by the number of Unit Months Available to obtain a per unit per month amount.

(f) *Projected operating income level.* The projected average dwelling rental income per unit (calculated under paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this section) shall be added to the estimated Other Income (calculated under paragraph (e) of this section) to obtain the Projected Operating Income Level. This amount shall not be subject to the provisions regarding program income in 24 CFR 85.25.

#### § 990.110 Adjustments.

Adjustment information submitted to HUD under this section must be ac-

companied by an original or revised calculation of operating subsidy eligibility.

(a) *Adjustment of base year expense level.*—(1) *Eligibility.* A PHA with projects that have been in management for at least one full fiscal year, for which operating subsidy is being requested under the Operating Fund Formula for the first time, may, during its first budget year under the Operating Fund Formula, request HUD to increase its Base Year Expense Level. Included in this category are existing PHAs requesting subsidy for a project or projects in operation at least one full fiscal year under separate ACC, for which operating subsidy has never been paid, except for independent audit costs. This request may be granted by HUD, in its discretion, only where the PHA establishes to HUD's satisfaction that the Base Year Expense Level computed under § 990.105(a) will result in operating subsidy at a level insufficient to support a reasonable level of essential services. The approved increase cannot exceed the lesser of the per unit per month amount by which the top of the Range exceeds the Base Year Expense Level.

(2) *Procedure.* A PHA that is eligible for an adjustment under paragraph (a)(1) of this section may only make a request for such adjustment once for projects under a particular ACC, at the time it submits the calculation of operating subsidy eligibility for the first budget year under the Operating Fund Formula. Such request shall be submitted to the HUD Field Office, which will review, modify as necessary, and approve or disapprove the request. A request under this paragraph must include a calculation of the amount per unit per month of requested increase in the Base Year Expense Level, and must show the requested increase as a percentage of the Base Year Expense Level.

(b) *Adjustments to Utilities Expense Level.* A PHA receiving operating subsidy under § 990.104, excluding those PHAs that receive operating subsidy solely for independent audit (§ 990.108(a)), must submit an adjustment regarding the Utility Expense Level approved for operating subsidy eligibility purposes. This adjustment,