

§ 58.2

of 1992, in accordance with section 1011(o) (42 U.S.C. 4852(o));

(6)(i) Public Housing Programs under Title I of the United States Housing Act of 1937, in accordance with section 26 (42 U.S.C. 1437x);

(ii) Indian Housing Programs under Title I of the United States Housing Act of 1937, including the Mutual Help Program, in accordance with section 26 (42 U.S.C. 1437x); and

(iii) Assistance administered by a public housing agency or Indian housing authority under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, except for assistance provided under 24 CFR part 886, in accordance with section 26 (42 U.S.C. 1437x);

(7) Special Projects appropriated under an appropriation act for HUD, such as special projects under the heading "Annual Contributions for Assisted Housing" in Title II of various Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Acts, in accordance with section 305(c) of the Multifamily Housing Property Disposition Reform Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 3547);

(8) The FHA Multifamily Housing Finance Agency Pilot Program under section 542(c) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992, in accordance with section 542(c)(9)(12) U.S.C. 1707 note); and

(9) The Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program under section 11 of the Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-120, 110 Stat. 834), in accordance with section 11(m)).

§ 58.2 Terms, abbreviations and definitions.

(a) For the purposes of this part, the following definitions supplement the uniform terminology provided in 40 CFR part 1508:

(1) *Activity* means an action that a grantee or recipient puts forth as part of an assisted project, regardless of whether its cost is to be borne by the HUD assistance or is an eligible expense under the HUD assistance program.

(2) *Certifying Officer* means the official who is authorized to execute the Request for Release of Funds and Cer-

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tification and has the legal capacity to carry out the responsibilities of § 58.13.

(3) *Extraordinary Circumstances* means a situation in which an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) is not normally required, but due to unusual conditions, an EA or EIS is appropriate. Indicators of unusual conditions are:

(i) Actions that are unique or without precedent;

(ii) Actions that are substantially similar to those that normally require an EIS;

(iii) Actions that are likely to alter existing HUD policy or HUD mandates; or

(iv) Actions that, due to unusual physical conditions on the site or in the vicinity, have the potential for a significant impact on the environment or in which the environment could have a significant impact on users of the facility.

(4) *Project* means an activity, or a group of integrally related activities, designed by the recipient to accomplish, in whole or in part, a specific objective.

(5) *Recipient* means any of the following entities, when they are eligible recipients or grantees under a program listed in § 58.1(b):

(i) A State that does not distribute HUD assistance under the program to a unit of general local government;

(ii) Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Palau;

(iii) A unit of general local government;

(iv) An Indian tribe;

(v)(A) With respect to Public Housing Programs under § 58.1(b)(6)(i), a public housing agency;

(B) With respect to Indian Housing Programs under § 58.1(b)(6)(ii), an Indian housing authority;

(C) With respect to section 8 assistance under § 58.1(b)(6)(iii), a public housing agency or Indian housing authority;

(vi) Any direct grantee of HUD for a special project under § 58.1(b)(7);

(vii) With respect to the FHA Multifamily Housing Finance Agency Pilot Program under § 58.1(b)(8), a qualified housing finance agency; and

(viii) With respect to the Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program under § 58.1(b)(9), any direct grantee of HUD.

(6) *Release of funds.* In the case of the FHA Multifamily Housing Finance Agency Pilot Program under § 58.1(b)(8), Release of Funds, as used in this part, refers to HUD issuance of a firm approval letter, and Request for Release of Funds refers to a recipient's request for a firm approval letter.

(7) *Responsible Entity* means:

(i) With respect to environmental responsibilities under programs listed in § 58.1(b) (1) through (5), a recipient under the program.

(ii) With respect to environmental responsibilities under the programs listed in § 58.1(b) (6) through (9), a State, unit of general local government, Indian tribe or Alaska native village, when it is the recipient under the program. Non-recipient responsible entities are designated as follows:

(A) For qualified housing finance agencies, the State or a unit of general local government, Indian tribe or Alaska native village whose jurisdiction contains the project site;

(B) For public housing agencies, the unit of general local government within which the project is located that exercises land use responsibility, or if HUD determines this infeasible, the county, or if HUD determines this infeasible, the State;

(C) For non-profit organizations and other entities, the unit of general local government, Indian tribe or Alaska native village within which the project is located that exercises land use responsibility, or if HUD determines this infeasible, the county, or if HUD determines this infeasible, the State;

(D) For Indian housing authorities (outside of Alaska), the Indian tribe in whose jurisdiction the project is located, or if the project is located outside of a reservation, the Indian tribe that established the authority; and

(E) For Indian housing authorities in Alaska, the Alaska native village in whose community the project is located, or if HUD determines this infeasible, a unit of general local government or the State, as designated by HUD.

(8) *Unit Density* refers to a change in the number of dwelling units. Where a threshold is identified as a percentage change in density that triggers review requirements, no distinction is made between an increase or a decrease in density.

(9) *Tiering* means the evaluation of an action or an activity at various points in the development process as a proposal or event becomes ripe for an Environment Assessment or Review.

(10) *Vacant Building* means a habitable structure that has been vacant for more than one year.

(b) The following abbreviations are used throughout this part:

(1) CDBG—Community Development Block Grant;

(2) CEQ—Council on Environmental Quality;

(3) EA—Environmental Assessment;

(4) EIS—Environmental Impact Statement;

(5) EPA—Environmental Protection Agency;

(6) ERR—Environmental Review Record;

(7) FONSI—Finding of No Significant Impact;

(8) HUD—Department of Housing and Urban Development;

(9) NAHA—Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990;

(10) NEPA—National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended;

(11) NOI/EIS—Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS;

(12) NOI/RROF—Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds;

(13) ROD—Record of Decision;

(14) ROF—Release of Funds; and

(15) RROF—Request for Release of Funds.

§ 58.4 Assumption authority.

(a) *Assumption authority for responsible entities: General.* Responsible entities shall assume the responsibility for environmental review, decision-making, and action that would otherwise apply to HUD under NEPA and other provisions of law that further the purposes of NEPA, as specified in § 58.5. Responsible entities that receive assistance directly from HUD assume these responsibilities by execution of a grant agreement with HUD and/or a legally