

**§ 888.115**

using the same data used to update the FMRs.

[60 FR 42226, Aug. 15, 1995, as amended at 64 FR 56911, Oct. 21, 1999; 65 FR 58873, Oct. 2, 2000]

**§ 888.115 Fair market rents for existing housing: Manner of publication.**

FMRs will be published at least annually in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The Department will propose FMRs and provide a comment period of at least 30 days for the purpose of identifying areas where the FMRs are believed to be too high or too low. To be considered for FMR revisions, public comments must include statistically valid rental housing survey data that justify the requested changes. After the comments have been considered, the Department will publish a final notice announcing FMRs to be effective on October 1 each year.

[60 FR 42227, Aug. 15, 1995]

**Subpart B—Contract Rent Annual Adjustment Factors**

**§ 888.201 Purpose.**

Automatic Annual Adjustment Factors are used to adjust rents under the Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program.

[44 FR 75383, Dec. 20, 1979]

**§ 888.202 Manner of publication.**

Adjustment Factors will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER at least annually by Notice. Interim revisions may be published as market conditions indicate. In the case of revised factors applicable only to specific areas, the HUD Field Office will publish a notice appropriate to the limited scope of the revised factors (see § 888.204).

[42 FR 60508, Nov. 25, 1977, as amended at 44 FR 75383, Dec. 20, 1979; 47 FR 4252, Jan. 29, 1982]

**§ 888.203 Use of contract rent automatic annual adjustment factors.**

(a) To compute an adjustment to a Contract Rent, find the schedule of Automatic Annual Adjustment Factors for the appropriate Census Region or Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area—

(1) If the Contract Rent includes all utilities, use the factor shown on the basic schedule for the rent bracket within which the particular Contract Rent falls and for the applicable size of unit (by number of bedrooms).

(2) If the Contract Rent does not include all utilities but does include the highest cost utility, use the appropriate factor shown on the basic schedule.

(3) If the Contract Rent does not include any utilities or includes some utilities but not the highest cost utility, use the Annual Adjustment Factor for Contract Rent (Excluding Utilities).

(b) The adjusted monthly amount of the Contract Rent of a dwelling unit shall be determined by multiplying the Contract Rent in effect on the anniversary date of the contract by the applicable Automatic Annual Adjustment Factor (see paragraph (a) of this section) and rounding the result as follows:

(1) If the result contains a fractional dollar amount ranging from \$0.01 to \$0.49, round to the next lower whole dollar amount;

(2) If the result contains a fractional dollar amount ranging from \$0.50 to \$0.99, round to the next higher whole dollar amount.

[42 FR 60508, Nov. 25, 1977, as amended at 44 FR 21769, Apr. 12, 1979; 47 FR 4252, Jan. 29, 1982; 59 FR 38564, July 29, 1994]

**§ 888.204 Revision to the automatic annual adjustment factors.**

If the application of the Annual Adjustment Factors results in rents that are substantially lower than rents charged for comparable units not receiving assistance under the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, in the area for which the factor was published or a portion thereof, and it is shown to HUD that the costs of operating comparable rental housing have increased at a substantially greater rate than the Adjustment Factors, the HUD Field Office will consider establishing separate or revised Automatic Annual Adjustment Factors for that particular area. Any request for revision of the factors must be accompanied by an identification of the area, its boundaries and evidence that the area constitutes the largest contiguous area in which substantially

the same rent levels prevail. The HUD Field Office will publish appropriate notice of the establishment of any such revised Automatic Annual Adjustment Factors. These factors will remain in effect until superseded by the subsequent publication of Automatic Annual Adjustment Factors pursuant to § 888.202.

[44 FR 21769, Apr. 12, 1979]

**Subpart C—Retroactive Housing Assistance Payments for New Construction, Substantial Rehabilitation, State Finance Agencies, Section 515 Farmers Home Administration, Section 202 Elderly or Handicapped, and Special Allocations Projects**

SOURCE: 56 FR 20084, May 1, 1991, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 888.301 Purpose and scope.**

(a) *Purpose.* This subpart describes the basic policies and procedures for the retroactive payment of Housing Assistance Payments to eligible project owners for the period from October 1, 1979 to May 31, 1991 and for one-time Contract Rent determinations for such eligible project owners.

(b) *Applicability.* This subpart applies to all project-based Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Contracts under New Construction (Part 880); Substantial Rehabilitation (Part 881); State Finance Agencies (Part 883); and Section 515 Farmers Home Administration (Part 884). It also applies to those projects under Section 202 Elderly or Handicapped (Part 885) and Special Allocations (Part 886, Subparts A and C) whose Contract Rents are adjusted by use of the Annual Adjustment Factors (AAFs), as described in subpart B of this part.

(c) *Eligible project owners.* Project owners may be eligible for retroactive payments if, during the period from October 1, 1979 to May 31, 1991:

(1) The use of a comparability study by HUD (or the Contract Administrator), which was conducted as an independent limitation on the amount of rent adjustment that would have re-

sulted from use of the applicable AAF, resulted in the reduction of the maximum monthly Contract Rents for units covered by a Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) contract or resulted in less than the maximum increase for those units than would otherwise be permitted by the AAF; or

(2) The HAP contract required a project owner to request annual rent adjustments, and the project owner certifies that a request was not made because of an anticipated reduction of the maximum monthly Contract Rents resulting from a comparability study.

**§ 888.305 Amount of the retroactive Housing Assistance Payments.**

(a) *Recalculating the total rent adjustment.* To establish the amount of the retroactive HAP payment for which a project owner meeting the criteria in § 888.301(c) is eligible, the total rent adjustment will be recalculated for the period from October 1, 1979 to May 31, 1991. For purposes of establishing the amount of the retroactive payment only, the total rent adjustment will be an amount equal to the Contract Rent, minus the amount of the Contract Rent attributable to debt service, multiplied by the applicable AAF, for each year.

(b) *Calculating the retroactive payment.* HUD (or the Contract Administrator) will pay, as a retroactive Housing Assistance Payment, the amount, if any, by which the total rent adjustment, calculated under paragraph (a) of this section, exceeds the rent adjustments actually approved for the same time period, except that in no event will any payment be an amount less than 30 percent of the aggregate of the full Contract Rent multiplied by the applicable AAF, minus the sum of the rent adjustments actually approved for the same time period, adjusted by the average occupancy rate.

(c) *Occupancy rates.* (1) Retroactive payments will be made only for units that were occupied, based on average occupancy rate, including units qualifying for vacancy payments under 24 CFR 880.611, 881.611, 883.712, 884.106, 885.985, 886.109, or 886.309, during the time period from October 1, 1979 to May 31, 1991.