

submission to the State/Area Office along with supporting documentary justification, rather than during the appeal process.

(c) Requests for exclusions and modifications that do not include supporting documentary justification will not be considered.

(d) Indicator #2, modernization, shall be automatically excluded by the State/Area Office if a PHA does not have an open modernization program.

(e) Indicator #7, resident services and community building, shall be automatically excluded by the State/Area Office for PHAs with fewer than 250 units, or with 100% elderly developments, unless they request to be assessed at the time of the PHMAP certification submission.

(f) Indicator #8, security, shall be automatically excluded by the State/Area Office for PHAs with fewer than 250 units unless they request to be assessed at the time of the PHMAP certification submission.

§ 901.115 PHA score and status.

(a) PHAs that achieve a total weighted score of 90% or greater shall be designated high performers. A PHA shall not be designated as a high performer if it scores below a grade of C for any indicator. High performers will be afforded incentives that include relief from reporting and other requirements, as described in § 901.130.

(b) PHAs that achieve a total weighted score of 90% or greater on its overall PHMAP score and on indicator #2, modernization, shall be designated mod-high performers.

(c) PHAs that achieve a total weighted score of less than 90% but not less than 60% shall be designated standard. Standard performers will be afforded incentives that include relief from reporting and other requirements, as described in § 901.130.

(d) PHAs that achieve a total weighted score of less than 60% shall be designated as troubled.

(e) PHAs that achieve 60% of the maximum calculation for indicator #2, modernization, shall be designated as mod-troubled.

(f) Each PHA shall post a notice of its final PHMAP score and status in appropriate conspicuous and accessible

locations in its offices within two weeks of receipt of its final score and status. In addition, HUD will publish every PHA's score and status in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(g) A PHA that cannot provide justifying documentation to HUD during the conduct of a confirmatory review, or other verification review(s), for any indicator(s) or component(s) certified to, shall receive a failing grade in that indicator(s) or component(s), and its overall PHMAP score shall be lowered.

(h) If the data for any indicator(s) or component(s) that a PHA certified to cannot be verified by HUD during the conduct of a confirmatory review, or any other verification review(s), the State/Area Office shall change a PHA's grade for any indicator(s) or component(s), and its overall PHMAP score, as appropriate, to reflect the verified data obtained during the conduct of such review.

(i) A PHA that cannot provide justifying documentation to the independent auditor for the indicator(s) or component(s) that the PHA certified to, as reflected in the audit report, will receive a grade of F for that indicator(s), and its overall PHMAP score will be lowered.

(j) A PHA's PHMAP score for individual an indicator(s), component(s) or its overall PHMAP score may be changed by the State/Area Office pursuant to the data included in the independent audit report, as applicable.

(k) In *exceptional circumstances*, even though a PHA has satisfied all of the indicators for high or standard performer designation, the State/Area Office may conduct any review as necessary, including a confirmatory review, and deny or rescind incentives or high performer status, as described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section in the case of a PHA that:

(1) Is operating under a special agreement with HUD;

(2) Is involved in litigation that bears directly upon the management of a PHA;

(3) Is operating under a court order;

(4) Demonstrates substantial evidence of fraud or misconduct, including evidence that the PHA's certification of indicators is not supported by the facts, resulting from such sources as a

confirmatory review, routine reports and reviews, an Office of Inspector General investigation/audit, an independent auditor's audit or an investigation by any appropriate legal authority; or

(5) Demonstrates substantial non-compliance in one or more areas (including areas not assessed by the PHMAP). Areas of substantial non-compliance include, but are not limited to, noncompliance with statutes (e.g., Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity statutes); regulations (e.g., 24 CFR § 85); or the Annual Contributions Contract (ACC) (e.g., the ACC, form HUD-53012A, Section 4, Mission of the PHA). Substantial noncompliance would cast doubt on the PHA's capacity to preserve and protect its public housing developments and operate them consistent with Federal law and regulations.

(l) When a State/Area Office Public Housing Director acts for any of the reasons stated in paragraph (k) of this section, the State/Area Office will send written notification to the PHA with a specific explanation of the reasons. An information copy will be forwarded to the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.

(m) A PHA may appeal denial of high performer status in accordance with § 901.125.

§ 901.120 State/Area Office functions.

(a) The State/Area Office will assess each PHA within its jurisdiction on an annual basis:

(1) The State/Area Office will make determinations for high-performing, standard, troubled PHAs and mod-troubled PHAs in accordance with a PHA's PHMAP weighted score.

(2) The State/Area Office will also make determinations for exclusion and modification requests.

(b) Each State/Area Office will notify each PHA of the PHA's grade and the grade of the RMC (if any) assuming management functions at any of the PHA's developments, in each indicator; the PHA's management assessment total weighted score and status, and if applicable; its adjustment for physical condition and neighborhood environment; any determinations concerning exclusion and modification requests;

and any deadline date by which appeals must be received. PHA notification should include offers of pertinent technical assistance in problem areas, suggestions for means of improving problem areas, and areas of relief and incentives as a result of high performer status. The PHA must notify the RMC (if any) in writing, immediately upon receipt of the State/Area Office notification, of the RMC's grades.

(c) An on-site confirmatory review may be conducted of a PHA by HUD. The purpose of the on-site confirmatory review is to verify those indicators for which a PHA provides certification, as well as the accuracy of the information received in the State/Area Office pertaining to the remaining indicators.

(1) Whenever practicable, a confirmatory review should be conducted by HUD prior to the issuance of a PHA's initial notification letter. The results of the confirmatory review shall be included in the PHA's initial notification letter.

(2) If, in an exceptional circumstance, a confirmatory review is conducted after the State/Area Office issues the initial notification letter, the State/Area Office shall explain the results of the confirmatory review in writing, correct the PHA's total weighted score, as appropriate, and re-issue the initial notification letter to the PHA.

(3) The State/Area Office shall conduct a confirmatory review of a PHA with 100 or more units under management that scores less than 60% for its total weighted score, or less than 60% on indicator #2, modernization, before initially designating the PHA as troubled or mod-troubled. The results of the confirmatory review shall be included in the PHA's initial notification letter.

(4) The State/Area Office shall conduct a confirmatory review on a yearly basis of all troubled and mod-troubled PHAs.

(5) The State/Area Office shall conduct a confirmatory review of a PHA with 100 or more units under management prior to the removal of troubled or mod-troubled designation.

(6) Independent confirmatory reviews (team members from other State/ Area