

950 (Indian Housing Programs) of this title;

(4) Provide assistance to eligible low-income housing under part 248 (Prepayment of Low Income Housing Mortgages) of this title; or

(5) Provide assistance (other than tenant-based rental assistance or assistance to a homebuyer to acquire housing previously assisted with HOME funds) to a project previously assisted with HOME funds during the period of affordability established by the grantee under § 954.306 or § 954.307. However, additional HOME funds may be committed to a project up to one year after project completion (see § 954.500), but the amount of HOME funds in the project may not exceed the maximum per-unit subsidy amount established under § 954.400.

(b) Grantees may not charge monitoring, servicing and origination fees in HOME-assisted projects. However, grantees may charge nominal application fees (although these fees are not an eligible HOME cost) to project owners to discourage frivolous applications.

Subpart D—Project Requirements

§ 954.400 Maximum per-unit subsidy amount.

The amount of HOME funds that a grantee may invest on a per-unit basis in affordable housing may not exceed the total development cost standard for the area, as issued by HUD under 24 CFR 950.220. These total development cost standards are available from HUD Area ONAPs.

§ 954.401 Property standards.

(a) Housing that is assisted with HOME funds, at a minimum, must meet the housing quality standards in § 882.109 of this title. In addition, housing that is newly constructed or substantially rehabilitated with HOME funds must meet all applicable local codes, rehabilitation standards, ordinances, and zoning ordinances. The grantee must have written standards for rehabilitation. Newly constructed housing must meet the current edition of the Model Energy Code published by the Council of American Building Officials.

(b) The following requirements apply to housing for homeownership that is to be rehabilitated after transfer of the ownership interest:

(1) Before the transfer of the ownership interest, the grantee must:

(i) Inspect the housing for any defects that pose a danger to health; and

(ii) Notify the prospective purchaser of the work needed to cure the defects and the time by which defects must be cured and applicable property standards met.

(2) The housing must be free from all noted health and safety defects before occupancy and not later than 6 months after the transfer for completion of the transitional housing tenancy period.

(3) The housing must meet the applicable property standards (at a minimum, the housing quality standards in § 882.109 of this title) not later than 2 years after transfer of the ownership interest.

§ 954.402 Tenant and participant protections.

(a) *Lease.* The lease between a tenant and an owner of rental housing assisted with HOME funds must be for not less than one year, unless by mutual agreement between the tenant and the owner.

(b) *Prohibited lease terms.* The lease may not contain any of the following provisions:

(1) *Agreement to be sued.* Agreement by the tenant to be sued, to admit guilt, or to a judgment in favor of the owner in a lawsuit brought in connection with the lease;

(2) *Treatment of property.* Agreement by the tenant that the owner may take, hold, or sell personal property of household members without notice to the tenant and a court decision on the rights of the parties. This prohibition, however, does not apply to an agreement by the tenant concerning disposition of personal property remaining in the housing unit after the tenant has moved out of the unit. The owner may dispose of this personal property in accordance with tribal law (or State law, which may apply if the Indian tribe is not exercising recognized powers of self-government);

(3) *Excusing owner from responsibility.* Agreement by the tenant not to hold

the owner or the owner's agents legally responsible for any action or failure to act, whether intentional or negligent;

(4) *Waiver of notice.* Agreement of the tenant that the owner may institute a lawsuit without notice to the tenant;

(5) *Waiver of legal proceedings.* Agreement by the tenant that the owner may evict the tenant or household members without instituting a civil court proceeding in which the tenant has the opportunity to present a defense, or before a court decision on the rights of the parties;

(6) *Waiver of a jury trial.* Agreement by the tenant to waive any right to a trial by jury;

(7) *Waiver of right to appeal court decision.* Agreement by the tenant to waive the tenant's right to appeal, or to otherwise challenge in court, a court decision in connection with the lease; and

(8) *Tenant chargeable with cost of legal actions regardless of outcome.* Agreement by the tenant to pay attorney's fees or other legal costs even if the tenant wins in a court proceeding by the owner against the tenant. The tenant, however, may be obligated to pay costs if the tenant loses.

(c) *Termination of tenancy.* An owner may not terminate the tenancy or refuse to renew the lease of a tenant of rental housing assisted with HOME funds except for serious or repeated violation of the terms and conditions of the lease; for violation of applicable Federal, or tribal law (or State law, which may apply if the grantee is not exercising recognized powers of self-government); or for other good cause. Any termination or refusal to renew must be preceded by not less than 30 days by the owner's service upon the tenant of a written notice specifying the grounds for the action.

(d) *Maintenance and replacement.* An owner of rental housing assisted with HOME funds must maintain the premises in compliance with all applicable housing quality standards and local code requirements.

(e) *Tenant selection.* An owner of rental housing assisted with HOME funds must adopt written tenant selection policies and criteria that—

(1) Are consistent with the purpose of providing housing for very low-income and low-income families;

(2) Are reasonably related to program eligibility and the applicant's ability to perform the obligations of the lease;

(3) Give reasonable consideration to the housing needs of families that would have a preference under section 6(c)(4)(A) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (Federal selection preferences for admission to public housing); and

(4) Provide for—

(i) The selection of tenants from a written waiting list in the chronological order of their application, insofar as is practicable; and

(ii) The prompt written notification to any rejected applicant of the grounds for any rejection.

Subpart E—Program Administration

§ 954.500 Repayment of investment.

(a) HOME funds will be made available pursuant to a HOME Investment Partnership Agreement. The agreement ensures that HOME funds invested in affordable housing are repayable if the housing ceases to qualify as affordable housing before the period of affordability expires. The amount of HOME funds expended on housing assisted with HOME funds that does not meet the affordability requirements for the period specified in § 954.306 or § 954.307, as applicable, must be repaid in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) Any repayment of HOME funds (including repayment required if the housing no longer qualifies as affordable housing), and any payment of interest or other return on the investment of HOME funds, that is made before grant close out must be deposited in the grantee's account and used in accordance with the requirements of this part. A grantee may retain repayments, interest, and other return on investment of HOME funds that are made after grant closeout if the grantee agrees to use the funds for eligible activities.

(c) HUD will recapture HOME funds that are not expended within five years after the last day of the month in which it obligated the funds.

(d) *Termination before completion.* If a project is terminated before its completion, whether voluntarily by the