SUBJECT: COVID-19 Statutory and Regulatory Waivers for Housing Choice Voucher and Section Eight Management Assessment Program

A. PURPOSE

Pursuant to the authority provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act (Public Law 116-136), HUD is waiving and establishing alternative requirements for numerous statutory and regulatory requirements for the Public Housing program, Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) program, and Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) program. These waivers provide administrative flexibilities and relief to public housing agencies (PHAs), Indian tribes, and tribally designated housing entities (TDHEs) in response to the COVID-19 national emergency. With respect to the Public Housing and HCV programs, use of these waivers is at the discretion of the PHA; however, HUD strongly encourages PHAs to utilize any and all waivers and alternative requirements as necessary to keep public housing and HCV programs operational to the extent practicable.

This notice also provides information on additional actions HUD is taking, including the temporary suspension of the Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS) and the Section Eight Management Assessment Program (SEMAP).

B. BACKGROUND

An outbreak of a respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus has as of this date been detected in over 200 countries world-wide, including in the United States. The virus has been named “severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2” (SARS-CoV-2) and the disease it causes has been named “Coronavirus Disease 2019” (“COVID-19”). On January 31, 2020, Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19. On March 13, 2020, President Trump declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national emergency.
The Federal Government is working closely with state, local, Tribal, and territorial partners, as well as public health partners, to respond to this public health threat. While various parts of the country are experiencing different levels of COVID-19 activity all 50 states have reported cases of COVID-19 to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The COVID-19 pandemic presents significant challenges for HUD and our PHA, Tribal, and TDHE partners to continue to carry out HUD’s fundamental mission to provide decent, safe, and sanitary affordable housing for low-income families. Program operations have been severely impacted as PHAs, tribes, and TDHEs comply with critically important advisories and directives from public health professionals, including social distancing and other preventive practices that will slow the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the risk of exposure.

On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed the CARES Act into law, which authorizes over $2 trillion in emergency assistance and health care response for individuals, families and businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and emergency appropriations to support Executive Branch agency operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act further provides HUD with broad authority, in the context of the current public health emergency, to waive statutes and regulations (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment) for the Public Housing and HCV programs, IHBG program, and ICDBG program. Through issuance of this notice, HUD is exercising this authority to provide PHAs, Indian tribes, and TDHEs with flexibility to adjust program practices where necessary to prioritize mission critical functions when normal operations are restricted and severely constrained, further prevent the spread of COVID-19, and mitigate the health risks posed by COVID-19 to PHA, Tribal, and TDHE staff, families, landlords, and their communities at large.

Note that the CARES Act also provides supplemental funding for the Public Housing and HCV programs as well as additional funding flexibilities with Operating and Capital funds for the Public Housing program. HUD will publish additional guidance describing the eligible uses of these additional funds, the allowable fungibility between the Operating and Capital Funds, and the process by which HUD will distribute the funds for the public housing and HCV program. HUD will also publish Implementation Notices in the very near future for both the IHBG and ICDBG programs funded under the CARES Act. These Notices will further describe eligible uses as well as the process by which HUD will distribute these funds.

C. CONTINUED OPERATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 NATIONAL EMERGENCY

The waivers implemented through this notice provide administrative relief and allow for alternative approaches to various aspects of PHA, Tribal, and TDHE operations. With this flexibility, HUD strongly encourages PHAs, Indian tribes, and TDHEs to continue using available funding to house families, keep families in their homes, and conduct critical operations that can be done remotely and safely. Some critical functions for PHAs include, but are not limited to issuing vouchers so families can find housing, processing Requests for
Tenancy Approvals (RFTAs) so families can be approved to move into a unit, processing requests for portability moves, ensuring occupancy of Public Housing units, processing minimum rent hardship exemptions, and completing reexaminations for participants who have experienced a decrease in income. Some critical functions for Indian tribes and TDHEs include but are not limited to ensuring low income Native American families remain housed, alleviating severe overcrowding, and carrying out eligible affordable housing activities.

HUD encourages PHAs, Indian tribes, and TDHEs to apply the waivers authorized in this notice based on local circumstances and needs. HUD also encourages PHAs, Indian tribes, and TDHEs to document and expeditiously implement plans for alternative procedures in order to provide stable housing for some of our country’s most vulnerable families. Alternative processes may include electronic transmission of information to families, conducting briefings online, conducting conference calls, or using self-service features on the PHA’s, Indian tribe’s, or TDHE’s website if available, and providing business-reply envelopes or secure drop-box apparatuses for document or rent submission for assisted families that do not have access to the Internet.

PHAs and industry groups are encouraged to work together with each other and with HUD during this challenging time to share ideas on how these critical functions can continue in order to house families. Likewise, it is imperative that Indian tribes, as well as regional and national organizations representing Native American housing interests, work together and with HUD’s Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) and its area offices to find and share safe and efficient methods to carry out affordable housing activities to support low-income Indian families and their health in Indian Country and across the nation.

It is important to note that, for the Public Housing and HCV programs, HUD has not provided waiver authority that would allow tenants to stop paying their portion of the rent as determined by the PHA. Thus, it is critically important for PHAs to have revised procedures in place to allow for the timely completion of interim reexaminations for decreases in family income (see further discussion of this topic and the waiver authority/alternative requirement (PH and HCV-3) provided in section 7 of this notice).

D. WAIVER AND ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENT AUTHORITY

These waivers and alternative requirements are established under the authority of the CARES Act as well as Secretary Carson’s finding that these waivers and alternative requirements are necessary for the safe and effective administration of the Public Housing and HCV programs, consistent with the purposes described under the CARES Act, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.

The Secretary may waive and/or establish alternative requirements for additional statutory and regulatory provisions in addition to these waivers by subsequent notice.

With respect to the waivers and alternative requirements under Native American programs, such waivers and alternative requirements are also established under the authority of the CARES Act and Secretary Carson’s finding that all waivers provided under this Notice are
necessary to expedite or facilitate the use of Indian Housing Block Grant and Indian Community Development Block Grant funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus. HUD plans to continue to issue more waiver relief as the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds, and Indian tribes and TDHEs are encouraged to submit any additional waiver requests to their area ONAPs. HUD will consider all requests and determine whether to approve additional relief.

E. WAIVER AND ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENT APPLICABILITY

Through this notice HUD is making the waivers and alternative requirements listed in this notice effective immediately for those PHAs that elect to adopt them. PHAs may adopt the use of these waivers at any time during the period of availability (see Section 6 below).

With respect to the Public Housing program, the CARES Act provides that the Secretary may waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers in connection with the use of amounts made available under the CARES Act supplemental appropriation, the FY 2020 Operating Fund and Capital Fund appropriations, and any prior Operating Fund or Capital Fund appropriations.

With respect to the HCV program, the CARES Act provides that the Secretary may waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers in connection with the use of amounts made available under the CARES Act supplemental appropriation or under the FY 2020 Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) appropriation. This means the waiver/alternative requirements are applicable to the HCV program, including special purpose vouchers such as Mainstream vouchers, Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers, and HUD-VASH vouchers, provided that HCV program operations including those special purpose vouchers are supported by amounts provided by the FY 2020 TBRA appropriation (including FY 2020 renewal funding, FY 2020 administrative fees, and FY 2020 new special purpose voucher allocations) or amounts from the CARES Act supplemental appropriation during the period of applicability.

The use of these waivers is at the discretion of the individual PHA. A PHA may choose to apply all, some, or none of the waivers to their Public Housing and HCV programs. (PHAs may continue to request regulatory waivers from HUD in accordance with Notice PIH 2018-16 for waivers that are not covered by this notice, however, the PHA may not implement those waivers until the waiver request is approved by HUD.)

Some of the waivers require the use of alternative requirements. If the PHA adopts a waiver with an alternative requirement, the PHA must comply with all the terms and conditions of the alternative requirement. Please see the individual waiver descriptions for information on the applicable alternative requirements.

PHAs are required to keep written documentation that record which waivers the PHA applied to their programs(s) and the effective dates. A summary of the available waivers/alternative requirements and a suggested format for such documentation is included as an attachment to
this notice. A PHA does not need to notify HUD or receive HUD approval to begin utilizing these waivers/alternative requirements. However, HUD may subsequently require the PHA to provide information to HUD on the waivers used by the PHA and the date the PHA applied the waiver to its program(s).

If a PHA chooses to apply any of the waivers provided for in this notice, the PHA is required to notify residents and owners of any impacts that the waiver and alternative requirement (where applicable) may have on them by whatever means it considers most effective as soon as practicable. HUD recognizes that the COVID-19 public health emergency presents unique challenges from a staffing and communication perspective and encourages PHAs to adapt their communications in consideration of local conditions and resources. For example, a PHA may need to initially provide this notification by placing information on its website and as a voice-mail message and following up with more formal written notice as circumstances allow.

HUD reminds PHAs that all materials, notices, and communications to families regarding the use of the waiver authorities must be clearly communicated and provided in a manner that is effective for persons with hearing, visual, and other communication-related disabilities consistent with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) and HUD’s Section 504 regulation, and Titles II or III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and implementing regulations. Section 504 and the ADA require recipients to ensure effective communication with applicants, participants, and members of the public and to provide appropriate auxiliary aids and services where necessary to afford individuals with hearing, vision, and other communication-related disabilities an equal opportunity to access information. PHAs must provide appropriate auxiliary aids and services necessary to ensure effective communication in all notices and communications, which includes ensuring that information is provided in appropriate accessible formats as needed, e.g., Braille, audio, large type, assistive listening devices, and sign language interpreters, accessible websites and other electronic communications (See 24 CFR 8.6, 28 CFR 35.160, and 28 CFR 36.303). PHAs must also continue to take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to their programs and activities to Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals. As an aid to recipients, HUD published Final Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients: Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons (LEP Guidance) in the Federal Register on January 22, 2007 (72 FR 2732). LEP guidance and information is available here: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2007/01/22/07-217/final-guidance-to-federal-financial-assistance-recipients-regarding-title-vi-prohibition-against

F. **PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY.**

With respect to the Public Housing and HCV programs, pursuant to the CARES Act, the waivers/alternative requirements are effective for immediate use by PHAs as of the date of
this notice. The specific statute and regulation being waived (or solely the regulation if no statutory requirement is being waived), the period of availability, and the alternative requirement (if applicable), are found in sections 7 through 12 of this notice. The period of availability for these waivers/alternative requirements, collectively or individually, may be extended by PIH notice should HUD determine this to be necessary. PHAs are not required to keep the waiver/alternative requirement in-place for the full period of availability (including any extension) but may at any time choose to revert to regular program requirements and operations.

The period of availability for the Public Housing and HCV waivers is in most cases either one of short-term or longer-term duration. Short-term waivers generally end on July 31, 2020, while the longer-term waivers typically expire on December 31, 2020. Short term waivers provide PHAs with essential flexibilities when normal operations are severely disrupted. Longer term waivers include waivers that permit PHAs to defer important but less critical functions to focus on their most vital responsibilities and effectively manage their transition back to normal operations. Other waivers have unique dates, such as when the period of availability is dependent on a PHA’s fiscal year end date or based on a specific action or activity.

With respect to Native American programs, pursuant to the CARES Act, waivers and alternative requirements provided under the IHBG program and the ICDBG program are deemed to be effective as of the date the Indian tribe or TDHE began preparing for COVID-19. In accordance with the Act, this waiver relief is available only for IHBG funding and ICDBG funding provided under the CARES Act, and IHBG and ICDBG funding appropriated under the FY20 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 116-94).

The waivers and alternative requirements issued under the IHBG and ICDBG programs are generally available until funds are expended, unless otherwise noted under specific waivers below. HUD is allowing waivers and alternative requirements to remain available to Indian tribes and TDHEs until funds are expended because all funds subject to these waivers and alternative requirements must be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.

**PHA Policy is to adopt this waiver**

1. **PH and HCV: Family Income and Composition: Delayed Annual Examinations**

   Statutory Authority: Section 3(a)(1) of the USHA of 1937
   Regulatory Authority: 24 CFR § 982.516(a)(1) - HCV
   Regulatory Authority: 24 CFR § 960.257(a) - Public Housing

   Description: PHAs are required to conduct a reexamination of family income and composition at least annually. Recognizing the foreseeable difficulties in complying with this requirement
in light of the COVID-19 emergency, HUD is waiving this statutory and regulatory requirement to permit PHAs to delay annual reexaminations of HCV and public housing families. However, if the PHA delays annual reexaminations for HCV families under this authority, it must also comply with the alternative requirement regarding the application of an increase in the payment standard amount during the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) contract term (see HCV-7 below) if applicable, so as not to delay the application of the increased payment standard amount to the family’s HAP calculation.

**Period of Availability:** All annual recertifications due in Calendar Year (CY) 2020 must be completed by December 31, 2020.

**PHA Policy is to adopt this waiver**

2. **PH and HCV: Family Income and Composition: Annual Examination - Income Verification requirements**

Regulatory Authority: 24 CFR § 5.233(a)(2)
Sub-regulatory Guidance: PIH Notice 2018-18

**Description:** PHAs are required to use the Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) System for verification of family income at the annual examination. 24 CFR § 5.233(a)(2) requires PHAs to use EIV as a third-party source to verify tenant employment and income information during mandatory reexaminations or recertifications of family composition and income in accordance with §5.236 and administrative guidance issued by HUD. PIH Notice 2018-18 describes the required verification hierarchy process PHAs must follow. HUD understands that documentation may be difficult to obtain as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. PHAs are also facing challenges with securely accessing HUD systems while many if not all staff are working remotely.

To address these challenges, HUD is waiving the requirements to use the income hierarchy described by PIH Notice 2018-18 and will allow PHAs to forgo third-party income verification requirements for annual reexaminations, including the use of EIV, if the PHA wishes to conduct the annual recertification rather than delaying the family’s annual recertification (as permitted under PH and HCV-2 above).

During the allowable period of availability, PHAs may consider self-certification as the highest form of income verification to process annual reexaminations. This may occur over the telephone (but must be documented by PHA staff with a contemporaneous written record), through an email or postal mail with a self-certification form by the tenant, or through other electronic communications. PHAs are encouraged to incorporate procedures to remind families of the obligation to provide true and complete information when adopting these flexibilities.
PHAs are further reminded that there is no HUD requirement that income and family composition examinations and recertifications must be conducted in-person unless determined necessary as a reasonable accommodation as long as applicable public health guidelines are followed (e.g., social distancing) and any state or local ordinance is followed.

PHAs that conduct annual examinations under this waiver/alternative requirement will be responsible for addressing any material discrepancies that may arise later. For example, if a tenant self-certified that the tenant lost their job, but later the EIV Income Validation Tool (IVT) shows the tenant’s employment continued, the PHA must take enforcement action in accordance with their policies and procedures.

Period of Availability: The period of availability to conduct annual reexaminations using these modified verification requirements ends on July 31, 2020.

**PHA Policy is to adopt this waiver**

3. **PH and HCV: Family Income and Composition: Interim Examinations**

Statutory Authority: Section 3(a)(1) of the USHA of 1937
Regulatory Authority: 24 CFR § 5.233(a)(2) - HCV and Public Housing
Regulatory Authority: 24 CFR § 982.516(c)(2) - HCV
Regulatory Authority: 24 CFR § 960.257(b) and (d) - Public Housing
Sub-regulatory Guidance: PIH Notice 2018-18

Description: For the HCV and public housing programs, PHAs are required to adopt policies (in their Administrative Plans and Admissions and Continued Occupancy Plans (ACOPs), respectively) prescribing when and under what conditions the family must report a change in family income or composition. However, at any time that a family requests an interim determination of family income or composition because of any changes since the last determination, the PHA must make the interim determination within a reasonable time after the family’s request. In most cases, the reason a family requests an interim determination is due to a loss in income or a change in family composition.

PHAs are required to use EIV for verification of family income at interim reexamination. 24 CFR § 5.233(a)(2) requires PHAs to use EIV as a third-party source to verify tenant employment and income information during mandatory reexaminations or recertifications of family composition and income in accordance with §5.236 and administrative guidance issued by HUD. PIH Notice 2018-18 further describes the required verification hierarchy process PHAs must follow.

To assist PHAs that may be prioritizing the processing of interim reexaminations due to decreases in family income and mitigate the challenges of transferring documentation during periods of shelter-in-place/stay-at-home efforts in response to the COVID-19 emergency, HUD is waiving the requirements to use the income verification hierarchy as described by
PIH Notice 2018-18. HUD will allow PHAs to forgo third-party income verification requirements for interim reexaminations, including the required use of EIV. During the allowable period of eligibility, PHAs may consider self-certification as the highest form of income verification to process interim reexaminations. This may occur over the telephone (with a contemporaneous written record by the PHA staff person), through an email with a self-certification form by the family, or through other electronic communications.

As noted in the previous waiver description, there is no HUD requirement that income and family composition examinations and recertifications must be conducted in-person unless it may be necessary as a reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability as long as applicable public health guidelines are followed (e.g., social distancing) and any local and state ordinances is followed.

PHAs that conduct interim reexaminations under this waiver/alternative requirement will be responsible for addressing any material discrepancies that may arise later. For example, if a tenant self-certified that the tenant lost their job, but later the EIV IVT Report shows the tenant’s employment continued, the PHA must take enforcement action that is consistent with its policies and procedures.

PHAs may wish to review and adjust their interim reexamination policies (e.g., revising the PHA requirements when families must report increases in income between annual reexaminations or revising the policy regarding how to determine the effective date of an interim examination). PHAs should see HCV-1 and PH-4 for information on how these types of changes can be expedited.

**Period of Availability:** The period of availability ends on July 31, 2020.

**PHA Policy is to adopt this waiver**

4. **PH and HCV: Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) Monitoring**

   Regulatory Authority: 24 CFR § 5.233  
   Sub-regulatory Guidance: PIH Notice 2018-18

Description: PIH Notice 2018-18 specifies the required monitoring of EIV reports. For example, PHAs are required to monitor the Deceased Tenants Report, the Identity Verification Report, the Immigration Report, the IVT Report, and the Multiple Subsidy Report and the New Hires Report on a monthly basis. Recognizing the challenges PHAs are facing with many if not all staff working remotely, HUD is waiving the mandatory EIV monitoring requirements.

**Period of Availability:** The period of availability ends on July 31, 2020.
**PHA Policy is to adopt this waiver**

5. **Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Contract of Participation: Contract Extension**

Regulatory Authority: 24 CFR § 984.303(d)

Description: Part 984 establishes the requirements for the Section 8 and Public Housing FSS Program. Section 984.303(d) authorizes a PHA to extend a family’s contract of participation for a period not to exceed two years upon a finding of good cause. HUD has made a determination that the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 qualify as “good cause” to extend family contracts, and FSS programs may consider this expanded definition of “good cause” as they make their determinations on each family’s eligibility for an extension.

Period of Availability: The period of availability during which the PHA may extend the family’s contract of participation using COVID-19 as the “good cause” ends on December 31, 2020.

**PHA Policy is to adopt this waiver**

6. **HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM WAIVERS – HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS (HQS) INSPECTIONS**

Introduction: HUD recognizes the unprecedented challenge the COVID-19 pandemic poses to PHAs in carrying out the most essential of their HCV program administrative responsibilities – ensuring that assisted families are living in decent, safe, and sanitary housing. HQS inspections protect the health and safety of HCV families. However, conducting physical inspections of units in many communities during this national emergency poses its own health risks for families, participating owners, and PHA personnel, and may run counter to public health orders, directives, or recommendations such as shelter-in-place or other social distancing practices designed to contain and reduce exposure to COVID-19. In order to provide PHAs with the necessary flexibilities to continue to allow families to lease units and to postpone normally required HQS inspections for units under HAP contract, HUD is authorizing the use of the HQS-related waivers and alternative requirements listed in this section. PHAs are in the best position to determine which (if any) of these waivers should be applied to their HCV programs based on the needs and current conditions in their local communities.

PHAs that delay inspections under these waivers must inspect the units as soon as reasonably possible when it is again safe to do so but must complete all delayed unit inspections no later than the date specified in this notice (or subsequent extensions provided by HUD). HUD has established relatively short periods of availability for these HQS waivers given the health and safety nature of these requirements. However, HUD will consider extending these HQS waivers and alternative requirements if HUD determines an extension is necessary.
Any PHA that applies any of these waivers to its HCV program retains the right to conduct an HQS inspection on any assisted unit at any time. Likewise, the PHA may always choose to conduct an initial inspection on a unit a family wishes to lease if such an inspection is determined to be warranted by the PHA, regardless of whether the PHA chooses to apply the initial HQS inspection waivers to its HCV program. Crucially, use of any of these waivers by the PHA does not relieve owners of their responsibility to maintain the unit in accordance with HQS as required in the HAP contract, nor does it in any way restrict the PHA from taking action to enforce the owner’s obligations. Furthermore, use of any of these waivers by the PHA does not create any right in any third party (such as with the assisted family) to require enforcement of the HQS requirements by HUD or the PHA, or to assert any claim against HUD or the PHA, for damages, injunction or other relief, for alleged failure to enforce the HQS (see § 982.407).

**PHA Policy is to adopt this waiver**

6-1. Initial Inspection Requirements

Statutory Authority: Section 8(o)(8)(A)(i), Section 8(o)(8)(C) of the USHA of 1937

Regulatory Authority: 24 CFR §§ 982.305(a), 982.305(b), 982.405

Description: Section 8(o)(8)(A)(i) requires that the PHA must inspect the unit before any assistance payment is made to determine whether the unit meets HQS. Section 8(o)(8)(C) requires the PHA to conduct the initial inspection within certain time frames after receiving the RFTA. Section 982.305 provides that the PHA may not approve the assisted tenancy or execute a HAP contract until the unit has been inspected by the PHA and passes HQS. Additionally, Section 982.305 requires that the PHA must inspect the unit to determine that the unit satisfies the HQS before the beginning of the initial lease term, and that the PHA must perform this inspection within either 15 days or within a reasonable time depending on the size of the PHA.

HUD is waiving these requirements and providing an alternative requirement. In order to place the unit under HAP contract and commence making payments, the PHA may rely on the owner’s certification that the owner has no reasonable basis to have knowledge that life threatening conditions exist in the unit or units in question instead of conducting an initial inspection. At minimum the PHA must require this owner certification. However, the PHA may add other requirements or conditions in addition to the owner’s certification but is not required to do so. The PHA is required to conduct an HQS inspection on the unit as soon as reasonably possible but no later than October 31, 2020.

This waiver and alternative requirement may also be applied to PHA-owned units if the independent entity is unable to perform the inspection.

Period of Availability: The period of availability for PHAs to accept owner’s self-certification for an initial inspection ends on July 31, 2020. The period of availability for the
PHA to inspect a unit that was placed under HAP contract based on the owner’s self-certification ends on October 31, 2020.

**PHA Policy is to adopt this waiver**

6-2. **Initial Inspection: Non-Life-Threatening Deficiencies (NLT) Option**

Statutory Authority: Section 8(o)(8)(A)(ii) of the USHA of 1937


**Description:** Section 8(o)(8)(A)(ii) provides the PHA with the option to choose to approve an assisted tenancy, execute the HAP contract, and begin making housing assistance payments on a unit that fails the initial HQS inspection, provided the unit’s failure to meet HQS is the result only of NLT conditions. The statute further requires that the PHA must withhold housing assistance payments from the owner if the NLT conditions are not corrected within 30 days.

HUD is waiving the requirement that the PHA must withhold the payment if the NLT repairs are not made in 30 days. Instead, the PHA may provide an extension of up to an additional 30 days to the owner to make the NLT repairs and continue to make payments to the owner during the period of that maximum 30-day extension. If the owner has not made the NLT repairs by the end of the PHA extension period, the PHA must withhold payments.

This NLT initial inspection option is available to the PHA for both tenant-based units and project-based units. This waiver and alternative requirement may also be applied to PHA-owned units if the independent entity is unable to perform the inspection.

**Period of Availability:** The period of availability for the PHA to approve an extension of up to an additional 30 days ends on July 31, 2020. The extension to make the NLT repairs may extend beyond July 31, 2020, depending on the date the PHA approved the extension. For example, if the PHA approved the extension on July 15th, the maximum extension provided to the owner would be August 15th.
**PHA Policy is to adopt this waiver**

6-3. **HQS Inspection Requirement – Biennial Inspections**

Statutory Authority: Section 8(o)(D) of the USHA of 1937  
Regulatory Authority: 24 CFR §§ 982.405(a), 983.103(d)

**Description:** The statute and the regulations require the PHA to inspect the unit not less often than biennially during the term of the HAP contract. (Per the recent Federal Register Notice, 85 Fed. Reg. 11381 (Feb. 27, 2020), small rural PHAs may instead inspect the unit not less often than triennially, but since small rural PHAs do not have the authority to begin using a three-year inspection interval until after the next scheduled inspection after Feb. 27, 2020 is carried out, the majority of small rural PHAs have not yet moved from a biennial to a triennial requirement.) HUD is waiving this requirement and is allowing PHAs to delay biennial inspections for both tenant-based and PBV units. All delayed biennial inspections must be completed as soon as reasonably possible but no later than October 31, 2020.

This waiver and alternative requirement may also be applied to PHA-owned units if the independent entity is unable to perform the inspection.

**Period of Availability:** The period of availability ends on October 31, 2020.

**PHA Policy is to adopt this waiver**

6-4. **HQS Interim Inspections**

Statutory Authority: Section 8(o)(8)(F) of the USHA of 1937  
Regulatory Authority: 24 CFR §§ 982.405(g), 983.103(e)

**Description:** The statute requires that upon notification to the PHA by a family or government official that the assisted unit does not comply with the HQS, the PHA must inspect the unit within 24 hours of when the PHA received the notification if the condition is life-threatening. 24 CFR 982.405(g) provides that if the reported condition is not life-threatening, the PHA must inspect the unit within 15 days. The regulation further provides that in the event of extraordinary circumstances HUD may waive the 24-hour or the 15-day inspection requirement until such time as an inspection is feasible.

HUD is waiving these requirements and establishing an alternative requirement for both tenant-based and PBV units. If the reported deficiency is life-threatening, the PHA must notify the owner of the reported life-threatening deficiency and that the owner must either correct the life-threatening deficiency within 24 hours of the PHA notification or provide documentation (e.g., text or email a photo to the PHA) that the reported deficiency does not exist. In the case of a reported non-life-threatening deficiency, the PHA must notify the owner of the reported deficiency within 30 days and the owner must either make the repair or
document that the deficiency does not exist within 30 days of the PHA notification or any approved PHA extension. The PHA may add other requirements or conditions in addition to the owner’s documentation but is not required to do so.

As is the case under the current HCV program requirements, the PHA is not required to conduct an on-site inspection to verify the repairs have been made but may rely on alternative verification methods (e.g., photos submitted by the owner, tenant certification, etc.).

This waiver may also be applied to PHA-owned units if the independent entity is unable to perform the inspection.

Period of Availability: The period of availability ends on July 31, 2020. After July 31, 2020, the PHA must conduct the HQS inspection in accordance with the applicable time periods upon notification by a family or government official that the assisted unit does not comply with the HQS.

**PHA Policy is to adopt this waiver**

6-5. **HQS Quality Control Inspections**

Regulatory Authority: 24 CFR § 982.405(b)

Description: The regulations require PHAs to conduct supervisory quality control inspections of a sampling of units under contract. HUD is waiving this regulatory requirement.


**PHA Policy is to adopt this waiver**

6-6. **Housing quality standards: Space and Security**

Regulatory Authority: § 982.401(d)

Description: The regulation establishes a minimum standard for adequate space for both an HCV and PBV-assisted family. Specifically, it requires that each dwelling unit have at least 1 bedroom or living/sleeping room for each 2 persons. HUD is waiving this requirement for PHAs where the PHA wishes to assist a current participant that needs to add a member or members to the assisted household as a result of the COVID-19 emergency, and the additional family members would result in the unit not meeting the space and security standards. This provision does not apply to an initial or new lease. A participant must not enter into a new lease for a unit that does not comply with the space and security standards.
Period of availability: For any family occupying a unit that does not meet the space and security requirements pursuant to this waiver, the waiver will be in effect for the duration of the current lease term or one year from the date of this notice, whichever period of time is longer.

7. **HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM WAIVERS – GENERAL**

**PHA Policy is to adopt this waiver**

7-1: **Administrative plan**

Regulatory Authority: 24 CFR § 982.54 (a)

**Description:** The regulation requires that any revisions of the PHA’s administrative plan must be formally adopted by the PHA Board of Commissioners or other authorized PHA officials. Recognizing the foreseeable difficulties in complying with this requirement in light of the COVID-19 emergency, HUD is waiving the requirement to allow the PHA administrative plan to be revised on a temporary basis without Board approval. As an alternative requirement any informally adopted revisions under this waiver authority must be formerly adopted as soon as practicable following June 30, 2020, but no later than July 31, 2020.

**Period of Availability:** The period of availability ends on July 31, 2020.

**PHA Policy is to adopt this waiver**

7-2: **Information When Family is Selected - PHA Oral Briefing**

Regulatory Authority: 24 CFR § 982.301(a)(3), § 983.252(a)

**Description:** The regulation requires when the PHA selects a family to participate in either the HCV or PBV program, the PHA must give the family an oral briefing. HUD is waiving this requirement and as an alternative requirement allowing the PHA to conduct the briefing by other means such as a webcast, video call, or expanded information packet. Section 504 and the ADA require PHAs to ensure effective communication with applicants, participants and members of the public in all communications and notices. The PHA must ensure that the method of communication for the briefing effectively communicates with, and allows for equal participation of, each family member, including those with vision, hearing, and other communication-related disabilities, and ensures meaningful access for persons with limited English proficiency.

**Period of Availability:** The period of availability ends on July 31, 2020.
**PHA Policy is to adopt this waiver**

7-3: **Term of Voucher – Extensions of Term**

Regulatory Authority: 24 CFR § 982.303(b)(1)

Description: The regulation provides that at its discretion, the PHA may grant a family one or more extensions of the initial voucher term in accordance with the PHA policy as described in the PHA administrative plan. HUD is waiving the requirement that the extension(s) must be accordance with the PHA’s administrative plan in order to allow the PHA to provide extensions even though it has been unable to formally amend its policy in the administrative plan.


**PHA Policy is to adopt this waiver**

7-4: **PHA Approval of Assisted Tenancy – When HAP Contract is Executed**

Regulatory Authority: 24 CFR § 982.305(c)

Description: The PHA may not make any housing assistance payments to the owner until the HAP contract is executed. The regulation provides that PHA must use best efforts to execute the HAP contract before the beginning of the lease term and that the HAP contract must be executed no later than 60 days from the beginning of the lease term. Any HAP contract executed after the 60-day period is void and the PHA may not pay any housing assistance payments to the owner. HUD is waiving the regulatory requirement to allow PHAs to execute the HAP contract after the 60-day deadline has passed and make housing assistance payments back to the beginning of the lease term. However, the PHA and owner must execute the HAP contract no later than 120 days from the beginning of the lease term.

Period of Availability: The period of availability to execute the HAP contract after the normally 60-day period from the beginning of the lease term ends on July 31, 2020.

**PHA Policy is to adopt this waiver**

7-5: **Absence from Unit**

Regulatory Authority: 24 CFR § 982.312

Description: The regulation requires that a family may not be absent from the unit for a period of more than 180 consecutive calendar days for any reason. HUD is waiving this regulatory requirement to allow the PHA at its discretion to continue housing assistance
payments and not terminate the HAP contract due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., hospitalization, extended stays at nursing homes, caring for family members).

Period of Availability: The period of availability for the PHA to choose to continue making HAP payments despite the family’s absence of more than 180 consecutive days ends on December 31, 2020. The PHA may not make payments beyond December 31, 2020, and the HAP contract will terminate on that date if the family is still absent from the unit.

**PHA Policy is to adopt this waiver**

7-6: **Automatic Termination of HAP contract**

Regulatory Authority: 24 CFR § 982.455

**Description:** When an HCV family’s income increases to the extent that the housing assistance payment is reduced to $0, PHAs are required by this regulation to automatically terminate HAP contracts 180 days after the last housing assistance payment to the owner. In recognition that the COVID-19 emergency is creating economic and employment instability for many families, as well as situations where families may on a temporary basis be adding members whose additional income may result in a $0 HAP subsidy calculation, HUD is waiving this requirement. As an alternative requirement, the PHA, upon written notice to the owner and family, may extend the period of time following the last payment to the owner that triggers the automatic termination of the HAP contract. The extension beyond the normally applicable 180 days is determined by the PHA but may not extend beyond December 31, 2020.


**PHA Policy is to adopt this waiver**

7-7: **Increase in payment standard under HAP contract term**

Regulatory Authority: 24 CFR § 982.505(c)(4)

**Description:** The regulation requires that if the payment standard amount is increased during the term of the HAP contract, the increased payment standard amount shall be used to calculate the monthly housing assistance payment for the family beginning at the effective date of the family’s first regular reexamination on or after the effective date of the increase in the payment standard amount.

HUD is waiving this requirement and as an alternative requirement allowing the PHAs to apply the increased payment standard at any time (e.g., interim reexamination, owner rent increase) after the effective date of the increase in the payment standard amount, provided the increased payment standard is used to calculate the HAP no later than the effective date
of the family’s first regular reexamination following the change.

Note that if the PHA has delayed the family’s annual recertification under the waiver authority described earlier in this notice (see PH and HCV-2), the PHA must use the increased payment standard amount to calculate the family’s HAP beginning the date that the family’s first regular examination would have been effective in the absence of the waiver.

Alternatively, the PHA may conduct an interim reexamination where the only change is the increased payment standard amount. Regardless of the method used, the participant must receive the increased payment standard no later than the effective date of the family’s first regular reexamination following the increased payment standard.

Period of Availability: The waiver period of availability ends on December 31, 2020.

**PHA Policy is to adopt this waiver**

8. **Tenant Notifications for Changes to Project Rules and Regulations**

Regulatory Authority: 24 CFR § 966.5

Description: PHAs are required by this regulation to provide 30-day notice to impacted families for changes to policies, rules and special charges to families. HUD is waiving the requirement to provide such advance notice, except advance notice must be provided for any changes related to tenant charges. Although HUD is waiving the advanced notice, PHAs must still provide adequate notification to impacted families within 30 days of making such changes.


9. **SEMAP and Uniform Financial Reporting Standards**

9a. **SEMAP**

Regulatory Authority: 24 CFR Part 985

Description: Part 985 sets out the requirements by which Section 8 tenant-based assistance programs are assessed. For PHAs that have a SEMAP score pending as of the date of this notice, and for any PHA with a fiscal year ending on or before December 31, 2020, HUD will not issue a new SEMAP score unless the PHA requests a that new SEMAP score be issued. HUD will instead carry forward the most recent SEMAP score on record.

Period of Availability: HUD will resume issuing new SEMAP scores beginning with PHAs with fiscal year end dates of March 31, 2021.
9b. Uniform financial reporting standards; Filing of financial reports; Reporting Compliance Dates

Regulatory Authority: 24 CFR §§ 5.801(c), 5.801(d)(1)

Description: Section 5.801 establishes uniform financial reporting standards (UFRS) for PHAs (and other entities). Section 5.801(c) requires that PHAs submit financial information in accordance with 24 CFR § 5.801(b) annually, not later than 60 days after the end of the fiscal year of the reporting period. Section 5.801(d)(1) requires that PHAs submit their unaudited financial statements not later than 60 calendar days after the end of their fiscal year, and that PHAs submit their audited financial statements not later than 9 months after the end of their fiscal year.

HUD is waiving these requirements and is providing the alternative requirements for the following PHAs:

i. PHAs with a FYE of June 30, 2019; September 30, 2019; December 31, 2019; and March 31, 2020, and a deadline to submit audited financial information in accordance with 24 CFR § 5.801(b) and (d); and

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Extended Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/30/2019</td>
<td>3/31/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/30/2019</td>
<td>6/30/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/31/2019</td>
<td>9/30/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/31/2020</td>
<td>12/31/2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ii. PHAs with a FYE of December 31, 2019 and March 31, 2020, and a deadline to submit unaudited financial information in accordance with 24 CFR § 5.801(b) and (d).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FYE</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Extended Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/31/2019</td>
<td>2/29/2020</td>
<td>8/31/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/31/2020</td>
<td>5/31/2020</td>
<td>11/30/2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Period of Availability: Varies by PHA by FYE, see description for details.
8. Other Waivers and Administrative Relief.

b. PHA Reporting Requirements on HUD Form 50058.

Regulatory Authority: 24 CFR Part 908, § 982.158
Sub-regulatory Guidance: PIH Notice 2011-65

Description: PHAs must submit form HUD-50058 no later than 60 calendar days from the effective date of any action recorded on line 2b of the form HUD-50058 or form HUD-50058 MTW. The Notice states HUD will monitor timeliness of reporting and may sanction a PHA for late reporting.

HUD recognizes that PHAs that implement waivers and alternative requirements under this notice likely will submit form HUD-50058 later than 60 calendar days from the effective date of certain actions, particularly related to reexaminations and inspections. HUD is waiving the 60-day deadline and providing that PHAs must submit form HUD-50058 or HUD-50058 MTW for transactions impacted by implemented waivers and alternative requirements within 90 days of the effective date of action.

Although this waiver provides up to 90 days for PHAs to submit HUD-50058 forms into IMS-PIC, HUD encourages those PHAs that are have operational capacity to do so to continue submitting HUD-50058 forms within the normal 60-day timeframe.

PIH recognizes this Notice and any subsequent Notices providing waiver authority to HUD-50058 submission requirements could impact the PHA’s ability to submit HUD-50058 forms into the IMS-PIC system and potentially result in fatal errors. In order to minimize the occurrence of these errors resulting from implementing these waivers, PIH will be issuing guidance in the near future that will provide PHAs with workarounds to avoid any potential issues in the PIC system.

For PHAs that submit HUD-50058 forms and receive a fatal error, PIH will not require these HUD-50058 forms to be re-submitted consistent with the waiver of reporting provisions in the Notice. PIH encourages these PHAs to not re-submit these forms until after PIH issues the revised guidance for HUD-50058 reporting. For PHAs that submit HUD-50058 forms successfully in the interim period before the new reporting guidance is issued, PIH may require corrections to these HUD-50058 forms and re-submission to IMS-PIC.

Attachment: Summary of Public Housing and HCV Waivers and Alternative Requirements
(Refer back to the Notice using the item code for a full description and more detailed information.)

This chart summarizes the waivers authorized under this notice and the availability period for each. As stated in Section 5, PHAs must keep written documentation on the waivers applied by the PHA as well as the effective dates. To fulfill those requirements, PHAs may but are not required to utilize the last two columns to record this information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Statutory and regulatory waivers</th>
<th>Summary of alternative requirements</th>
<th>Availability Period Ends</th>
<th>Did PHA implement waiver and alternative requirement?</th>
<th>Date of PHA adoption</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>PH and HCV Family income and composition – delayed annual reexaminations</td>
<td><strong>Statutory Authority</strong> Section 3(a)(1)</td>
<td>• Permits the PHA to delay the annual reexamination of income and family composition • HCV PHAs must implement HCV-7 for impacted families if they implement this waiver</td>
<td>• 12/31/20</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>PH and HCV Annual</td>
<td><strong>Regulatory Authority</strong> § 5.233(a)(2)</td>
<td>• Waives the requirements to use the income</td>
<td>• 7/31/20</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item</td>
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<tr>
<td>reexamination Income Verification</td>
<td>Sub-regulatory Guidance PIH Notice 2018-18</td>
<td>hierarchy, including the use of EIV, and will allow PHAs to consider self-certification as the highest form of income verification • PHAs that implement this waiver will be responsible for addressing material income discrepancies</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>04/10/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.PH and HCV Interim reexaminations</td>
<td>Statutory Authority Section 3(a)(1)</td>
<td>• Waives the requirement to use the income verification requirements, including the use of EIV, for interim reexaminations</td>
<td>7/31/20</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>04/10/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regulatory Authority § 5.233(2), 982.516(c)(2), 960.257(b) and (d)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sub-regulatory Guidance PIH Notice 2018-18</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.PH and HCV EIV System Monitoring</td>
<td>Regulatory Authority § 5.233</td>
<td>• Waives the mandatory EIV monitoring requirements.</td>
<td>7/31/20</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>04/10/2020</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Sub-regulatory Guidance</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.PH and HCV FSS Contract of Participation</td>
<td>PIH Notice 2018-18</td>
<td>Provides for extensions to FSS contract of participation</td>
<td>12/31/20</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>04/10/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-1.HQS Initial inspection</td>
<td>Regulatory Authority § 984.303(d)</td>
<td>Changes initial inspection requirements, allowing for owner certification that there are no life-threatening deficiencies</td>
<td>7/31/20</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>04/10/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-2.HQS Non-Life Threatening HQS - Initial Unit Approval</td>
<td>Statutory Authority Section 8(o)(8)(A)(i)</td>
<td>Allows for extension of up to 30 days for owner repairs of non-life threatening conditions</td>
<td>7/31/20</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>04/10/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 6-3. HQS Biennial Inspections | **Statutory Authority** Section 8(o)(D)  
**Regulatory Authority** §§ 982.405(a), 983.103(d) | • Allows for delay in biennial inspections  
• All delayed biennial inspections must be completed as soon as reasonably possible but by no later than October 31, 2020. | 10/31/20 | Yes | 04/10/20 |
| 6-4. HQS Interim Inspections | **Statutory Authority** Section 8(o)(8)(F)  
**Regulatory Authority** §§ 982.405(g), § 983.103(e) | • Waives the requirement for the PHA to conduct interim inspection and requires alternative method  
• Allows for repairs to be verified by alternative methods | 7/31/20 | Yes | 04/10/20 |
<p>| 6-5. HQS HQS QC Inspections | <strong>Regulatory Authority</strong> § 982.405(b) | • Provides for a suspension of the requirement for QC sampling inspections | 10/31/20 | Yes | 04/10/20 |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-6.HQS HQS Space and Security</td>
<td>Regulatory Authority § 982.401(d)</td>
<td>• Waives the requirement that each dwelling unit have at least 1</td>
<td>Remains in effect one year from lease term or date of notice, whichever is longer</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>04/10/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-1.HCV Administrative Plan</td>
<td>Regulatory Authority § 982.54 (a)</td>
<td>• Waives the requirement to adopt revisions to the admin plan</td>
<td>7/31/20</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>04/10/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-2.HCV PHA Oral Briefing</td>
<td>Regulatory Authority § 982.301(a)(3) § 983.252(a)</td>
<td>• Waives the requirement for an oral briefing Provides for alternative methods to conduct required voucher briefing</td>
<td>7/31/20</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>04/10/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-3.HCV Term of Voucher - Extensions of Term</td>
<td>Regulatory Authority § 982.303(b)(1)</td>
<td>• Allows PHAs to provide voucher extensions regardless of current PHA policy</td>
<td>7/31/20</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>04/10/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-4.HCV PHA Approval of Assisted Tenancy</td>
<td>Regulatory Authority § 982.305(c)</td>
<td>• Provides for HAP payments for contracts not executed within 60 days PHA must not pay HAP to</td>
<td>• 7/31/20</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>04/10/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-5.HCV Absence from unit</td>
<td>Regulatory Authority § 982.312</td>
<td>• Allows for PHA discretion on absences from units longer than 180 days • PHAs must not make HAP payments beyond 12/31/20 for units</td>
<td>• 12/31/20</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>04/10/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-6.HCV Automatic Termination of the HAP Contract</td>
<td>Regulatory Authority § 982.455</td>
<td>• Allows PHA to extend the period of time after the last HAP payment is made before the HAP contract terminates automatically.</td>
<td>• 12/31/20</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>04/10/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-7.HCV Increase in Payment Standard</td>
<td>Regulatory Authority § 982.505(c)(4)</td>
<td>• Provides PHAs with the option to increase the payment standard for the family at any time after the effective date of the increase, rather than</td>
<td>• 12/31/20</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>04/10/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. PH-10 Tenant notifications</td>
<td>Notice: Notice PIH 2019-11</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>7/31/20</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>04/10/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9a. SEMAP</td>
<td>Regulatory Authority § 966.5</td>
<td>Advance notice not required except for policies related to tenant</td>
<td>7/31/20</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>04/10/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9b. Financial reporting</td>
<td>Regulatory Authority §§ 5.801(c), 5.801(d)(1)</td>
<td>• Allows for extensions of financial reporting</td>
<td>Varies by PHA FYE</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>04/10/2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 10. Form HUD 50058 | Regulatory Authority 24 CFR Part 908, § 982.158, Sub-regulatory Guidance PIH Notice 2011-65 | • Waives the requirement to submit 50058 within 60 days
• Alternative requirement to submit within 90 days of the effective | 12/31/20 | Yes | 04/10/2020 |