



HUD To Sponsor Three New LIHC Studies

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The U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) plans to launch a new study examining the social characteristics of low-income housing tax credit (LIHC) project residents in the coming months. This is one of three LIHC-related studies currently in the works by the Clinton administration. The final new study, which is currently accepting bids, will explore LIHC tenant incomes, racial and ethnic composition of tax credit communities, the affect of LIHC properties on surrounding neighborhoods, housing quality, crime and economic opportunities for residents, a HUD analyst revealed. In addition, HUD has a contract with the Washington, D.C.-based think tank the Urban Institute to conduct a survey of LIHC property owners. This study will examine the future of their projects at the end of the 15-year affordability requirement. Using 1990-1994 data, the Urban Institute study will also explore LIHC property owners' experiences with the tax incentive program. The think tank plans to publish the study by the spring of 1999. Finally, HUD plans to expand its current LIHC database, which contains project names, addresses and number of units, to include 1995-1997 information and allow future 1998 and 1999 contracts for the contract winner. HUD expects to award the contract by Sept. 30, the end of the current fiscal year, with a contractor starting research by March 1999. ❖

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