MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

and

GIRL SCOUTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A. Objectives

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a formal partnership between the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA) to facilitate the planning and implementation of a nationwide series of innovative youth development initiatives to foster academic excellence and the prevention of substance abuse, violence, and teen pregnancy among girls and young women residing in public housing developments and other HUD assisted communities.

Both HUD and GSUSA expressly recognize and acknowledge that the successful implementation of this MOU is mutually beneficial to both organizations. Availing HUD resources, either directly or collaboratively with HUD grantees or HUD assisted housing providers will enable GSUSA and its local councils to serve greater numbers of girls. Similarly, facilitating the delivery of the Girl Scout program to public housing developments and other HUD assisted communities will help to ensure the efficiency and efficacy of HUD supported community and supportive services initiatives. The staffs of HUD and GSUSA commit to working collaboratively and diligently to jointly achieve the objectives of this MOU.

Girl Scouts of the USA is a congressionally chartered non-profit corporation. GSUSA is the world's preeminent organization for girls. Today there 3.6 million Girl Scouts – 2.7 million girl members and 860,000 adult members. The Girl Scout program is an informal educational program based upon sound educational and developmental principles, which is adapted to meet the needs and interests of girls. The program is open to all girls ages 5 through 17 (or kindergarten through grade 12) who subscribe to ideals stated in the Girl Scout Promise and Law. The Girl Scout program is delivered through 318 local Girl Scout councils in communities across the nation. The councils have a demonstrable history of successfully administering a myriad of youth development initiatives in the areas of youth leadership, literacy, health and fitness, mentoring, after-school educational and recreational enrichment activities, and community service.

HUD is a cabinet level agency of the government of the United States of America. HUD was established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965.

HUD's mission is to provide a decent, safe, and sanitary home and suitable living environment for every American, fight for fair housing, increase affordable housing and home ownership, reduce homelessness, promote jobs and economic opportunity, empower people and communities and restore the public trust. In furtherance of its mission HUD administers a variety of federally funded community development and revitalization initiatives including among others, the HOPE VI Program, the Resident Opportunity and Supportive Services (ROSS) Program, the Drug Elimination Program, the Drug Elimination Technical Assistance Program, and the Community Development Block Grant Program. HUD both directly or through urban cities and counties, local public housing authorities or other HUD grantees works collaboratively with a variety of community-based organizations, including local Girl Scout councils to deliver these programs to the American public.

B. Responsibilities of HUD

1. As appropriate, the Department will include language in the HUD Notices of Funding Availability advising of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of HUD and Girl Scouts of the USA. Housing agencies may contact the Girl Scouts regarding youth development initiatives.

2. HUD will invite GSUSA, and up to 10 representatives of local Girl Scout councils to be designated by GSUSA, to deliver presentations describing the Girl Scout program as appropriate, at major HUD sponsored conferences, workshops and training events, such as a) HOPE VI Program orientations for senior staff of new HOPE VI grantees and public housing residents, b) Drug Elimination Grants for Low Income Housing Program, and c) Resident Opportunity and Supportive Services (ROSS) Program. HUD agrees to provide Girl Scouts its best effort to give adequate notice of such events.

3. HUD Secretary will prepare and authorize the publication and dissemination of a letter of introduction to be included in a GSUSA brochure describing examples of successful Girl Scout initiatives for girls and young women residing in public housing developments and other HUD assisted communities.

4. HUD Secretary, the Deputy Secretary or an Assistant Secretary will co-author, in collaboration with GSUSA's National Executive Director, National Director, or Director articles describing successful Girl Scout youth development initiatives in HUD assisted communities. HUD will use its best efforts to secure the publication of the articles in affordable housing and community development professional journals such as the *Journal of Housing*, *Shelter Force*, or *Cityscape*.

5. HUD will request the Housing Research Foundation to post on its web site examples of successful Girl Scout initiatives for girls and young women residing in public housing developments and other HUD assisted communities.

6. HUD will facilitate the attendance of HUD staff and consultants with responsibilities for the review and management of HOPE VI Community and Supportive Services Plans at GSUSA hosted briefing sessions on the Girl Scout program, as determined by HUD and GSUSA.

7. HUD executive level staff will serve as presenters at national meetings of Girl Scout council executive directors and others, when appropriate. HUD will also provide advice and assistance on an as needed basis to Girl Scout councils.

8. As appropriate, the Department will ensure that local Girl Scout councils are invited to HUD sponsored training events and conferences conducted on a national or local level to keep the Girl Scouts abreast of funding opportunities under HUD programs.

9. As appropriate, HUD headquarters staff will inform the GSUSA Washington Office of the names and addresses of local organizations receiving funding under HUD programs to enable GSUSA to inform local Girl Scout councils of potential opportunities to forge community-based partnerships with the newly awarded HUD grantees to enhance HUD funded initiatives through the offering of the Girl Scout program.

C. Responsibilities of GSUSA

1. As appropriate, GSUSA will provide HUD with information and materials to enable HUD to include in the HUD Notices of Funding Availability advising of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of HUD and the Girl Scouts of the USA.

2. GSUSA will provide appropriate staff, and up to 10 representatives of local Girl Scout councils, to deliver presentations describing the Girl Scout program at major conferences, workshops and training events such as a) HOPE VI Program orientations for senior staff of new HOPE VI grantees and public housing residents b) Drug Elimination Grants for Low Income Housing Program, and c) Resident Opportunity and Support Services (ROSS) Program.

3. GSUSA senior level staff will be available to provide advisory services to the HUD Secretary, Deputy Secretary and/or an Assistant Secretary on critical issues concerning the healthy development of girls and young women. Such advisory services may include, but are not limited to, participating in briefings and conferences and serving on task forces.

4. GSUSA will prepare a brochure describing successful Girl Scout initiatives for girls and young women residing in public housing developments and other HUD assisted communities.

The brochure will be disseminated to Girl Scout councils, all HUD assisted local public housing authorities and appropriate affordable housing interest groups including among others, the National Association of Housing & Community Development Officials, the Council of Large Public Housing Associations, and the Public Housing Directors Association.

5. GSUSA National Executive Director will co-author, in collaboration with the HUD Secretary, the Deputy Secretary or one of the Assistant Secretaries, articles describing successful youth development initiatives in HUD assisted communities. GSUSA will use its best efforts to secure the publication of articles in child welfare professional journals such as *Child Welfare Journal*, *New Designs in Youth Development*, *Child Welfare Review* (an on-line journal), and *Education Week*.

6. GSUSA will host a workshop for Girl Scout councils, public and assisted housing managers, and other affordable housing practitioners to focus on the issues and challenges facing girls and young women residing in public housing and other HUD assisted communities.

7. GSUSA will provide the Housing Research Foundation, either directly or through HUD, information and materials describing the Girl Scout program required to enable the Housing Research Foundation to post on its web site examples of successful Girl Scout initiatives for girls and young women residing in public housing developments and other HUD assisted communities.

8. GSUSA will invite HUD staff and consultants with responsibilities for the review and management of HOPE VI Community and Supportive Services Plans to GSUSA sponsored briefing sessions on the Girl Scout program. GSUSA agrees to provide HUD its best effort to give adequate notice of such events.

9. GSUSA will invite HUD executive level staff to serve as presenters to national meetings of Girl Scout council executive directors and others, when appropriate. GSUSA agrees to provide HUD with a minimum of eight week's notice of such events.

10. GSUSA will ensure that HUD is invited to Girl Scout sponsored training events and conferences conducted on a national or local level to keep HUD abreast of Girl Scout activities.

11. GSUSA will train adult residents of public and Indian housing communities to become Girl Scout leaders.

12. GSUSA will work with HUD to enhance its outreach efforts to expand the Girl Scout program to girls and young women in public and Indian housing communities.

13. GSUSA Washington Office will provide to local Girl Scout councils the names and addresses of local organizations receiving HUD program grants. Such notification to councils will enable them to forge community-based partnerships with the newly

awarded HUD grantees to enhance HUD funded initiatives through the offering of the Girl Scout program.

14. GSUSA Washington Office will keep abreast of the issuance of Notices of Funding Availability and other grant opportunities under the HUD programs through communication with HUD headquarters staff, visits to the HUD web page, and daily review of the *Federal Register*.

15. GSUSA will post on its web site information advising of the MOU between HUD and GSUSA and examples of successful Girl Scout programs in public housing and assisted HUD communities.

D. Financial Expenditures

No provision of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be construed as obligating either HUD or GSUSA to specific expenditures during the term of this agreement. HUD will not provide preferential treatment to GSUSA.

E. Amendment and Review

GSUSA Washington Office and HUD Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing will serve as liaison to assist in the review and implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding. The MOU will be reviewed periodically, but not less than annually, and may be amended as agreed to in writing by both parties.

F. Effective Date and Termination

GSUSA and HUD shall inform their respective councils or grantees and administrative offices about this Memorandum of Understanding. This MOU shall become effective upon the signature of the authorized officials of the respective parties. It shall remain in effect until terminated by mutual agreement or ninety days advance written notice by either party.

G. Signature of Each Party

10/15/99

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Date

10/28/99

Marsha Johnson Evans
National Executive Director
Girl Scouts of the USA

Date