U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into this fifth day of August, 1997, by and between the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (hereinafter "HUD") and the National Urban League (hereinafter "the Urban League"). This MOU constitutes an expression of hope and intent for HUD and the Urban League to work together, each within its own policies, towards economic and community empowerment in our nation's cities. The MOU represents a starting point for an evolving and flexible relationship between HUD and the Urban League.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, HUD and the National Urban League have identified a range of mutually beneficial areas of cooperation;

WHEREAS, the nation's cities are facing critical challenges in the areas of economic development, education, public safety, affordable housing and homeownership, and a range of additional issues related to the overall health and welfare of community residents;

WHEREAS, the Urban League's 114 affiliates in every part of the nation are already engaged in a wide range of housing, economic development and community development programs, many of which are funded by HUD, and these affiliates are playing a leading role in their communities in alleviating poverty, improving housing, providing job training, assisting small businesses, and overcoming discrimination;

WHEREAS, HUD desires to tap the skills and resources that League affiliates have accumulated in administering a wide variety of HUD programs, including homeless assistance, homeownership counseling, affordable housing development, and/or fair housing;

WHEREAS, HUD's statutory objectives of providing a suitable living environment, creating affordable housing and providing economic opportunities for low-income Americans are closely linked to and supportive of the Urban League's organizational goals and objectives;

WHEREAS, HUD recognizes the special challenges faced by African Americans in terms of employment and housing opportunities in our nation's cities, as reflected in the high concentration of poverty and joblessness in African-American communities in our central cities;

WHEREAS, HUD recently issued its State of the Cities Report, that documented the continuing shift of jobs and people to the suburbs, leaving a widening gap between central cities and the urban edge;

WHEREAS, the shift from the old manufacturing base in central cities to a global, high-tech, information-based economy that is no longer inner-city based but is regional in scope and global in nature, demands new skills and training and which, combined with the challenges of welfare reform, are creating the need for new partnerships between federal, state and local governments as well as the private and non-profit sectors;

WHEREAS, HUD and the Urban League recognize that each has resources and capabilities that can be mutually beneficial. On the one hand, maximum use of HUD's programs and technical assistance by League affiliates will increase their effectiveness in delivering key services to their constituencies. On the other hand, HUD's Field and Headquarters staff can benefit from the insights, expertise and experience and community roots that have been developed by League affiliates through decades of work in each of their communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, HUD and the Urban League agree to the following:

A. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS

At the national level, HUD and Urban League staff are encouraged to meet and work together in every way that will enhance the purpose of this MOU. HUD's point of contact will be the Office of the Secretary, Office of Special Actions. The Urban League's points of contact will be the Urban League's National Office, its New York Office and all local affiliates. These offices will coordinate and facilitate the contacts, relationships and the like which are necessary to bring this MOU to fruition. These principal contacts will be the channels to introduce and coordinate specific opportunities which are identified by either HUD or the Urban League.

B. LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

1. HUD will encourage its Field staff to develop working partnerships that are aimed at increasing understanding of and communication with Urban League affiliates, through the following process:

a. The Secretary will request his Area Representatives and/or Field Offices to convene meetings, within 90 days of this MOU, to discuss ways that local affiliates can work more closely with HUD field offices in implementing HUD programs. These meetings are intended to initiate a dialogue that will focus on ways that local affiliates can gain the know-how they need to leverage their commitment, community base and resources with public and private expertise and capital to improve their communities. These community based resources should include institutions of higher education, particularly those that have received grants from HUD's University Partnership program.

b. Within sixty days of this initial meeting, interested Urban League affiliates will conduct an inventory of their current or proposed HUD-supported or HUD-related activities. These will include, but not be limited to, such HUD activities as the following:

Economic Development

- Workforce preparedness
- Small business development
- Minority contracting opportunities
- Welfare to work initiatives

Housing and Homeownership

- Housing counseling
- Affordable housing initiatives
- Homeownership Zones
- Fair Housing
- Community reinvestment strategies
- Ginnie Mae's "Path to Homeownership" mortgage prequalification software
- Ginnie Mae's "Issuer Mentoring Initiative"
- Developing and/or managing senior housing complexes

Public and Assisted Housing

- Neighborhood Learning Centers
- Tenant management
- Self-sufficiency initiatives
- Building mixed-income communities (HOPE VI)
- Neighborhood Network Centers
- Section 3 programs

Each affiliate will identify its strengths and weaknesses with regard to these programs, technical assistance needs, as well as areas of need that are not currently being met and where the affiliate believes it can play a useful role.

c. HUD and the Urban League's national office will work together to develop a mutually agreeable format for collecting and compiling the data for this inventory, and for reporting on its results. The results of the inventory will be sent to the Urban League's national office, and the Urban League will communicate the results to the Office of Special Actions.

d. Follow-up meetings, either with individual Field Offices or with the Secretary's Representatives will be held shortly after the completion of the inventory, to discuss the inventory's implications and follow-up implementation steps.

2. Private sector partnerships

The Urban League will seek to form new or strengthen existing partnerships with private sector organizations interested in addressing the social and economic needs of communities served by Urban League affiliates. The Urban League will establish these partnerships to further the work that Urban League affiliates are conducting in the housing and community development arena in conjunction with local HUD offices. These partnerships will be aimed at leveraging private sector funds to enhance HUD resources utilized by the Urban League and its affiliates.

C. TRAINING, COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION SHARING

An important goal of this MOU is to foster familiarity of Urban League affiliates with both HUD programs and Field Offices, and to ensure a flow of information to League affiliates wishing to make use of HUD programs and people. This will be accomplished by, but will not be limited to, the following:

1. HUD will provide resource persons for Urban League regional and national meetings.

2. HUD will make Field Office staff available, where feasible, to participate in conferences and training of Urban League staff.

3. The Urban League, through its New York Office, will arrange regular meetings between HUD and League staff in each of the following areas: Public and Indian Housing; Community Planning and Development; Affordable Housing and Homeownership; Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

4. HUD will advise its contractor staff and technical assistance providers of the partnerships

proposed under this MOU.

5. The Urban League will encourage its local affiliates as well as its national leaders to participate in research sponsored by HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research.

6. Since many, if not most, League affiliates can qualify as Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs), HUD Field offices will work with local League affiliates to ensure that they are aware of and take advantage of the CHDO certification process at the local level, and to receive the technical assistance required, through national or local intermediaries, to achieve such certification.

7. HUD will work with local Urban League affiliates to fully engage them in the JOBS Plus demonstration program, which utilizes existing structures to strengthen the ability of communities to actively support and promote work activities.

8. HUD will provide Urban League affiliates with information to facilitate linkages between local affiliates and higher learning institutions that received Community Outreach Partnership Center grants.

9. Since many Urban League affiliates can also qualify as partners under several national public housing programs, HUD field offices will continue to work with local affiliates to ensure that Urban League members are aware of and are able to participate and lend their expertise to public housing authorities and residents on programs such as HOPE VI, Economic Development and Supportive Services, Drug Elimination and the Tenant Opportunities Program.

10. The HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control will encourage its state and local lead hazard control grantees to develop an active cooperative relationship with local Urban League affiliates for the purpose of promoting training, employment, and contracting opportunities for low income residents of the target areas being served by these programs. In addition, members of the Urban League who are interested in attending lead-based paint training offered by the Department will be permitted to do so at nominal or no cost.

11 HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) will direct its field offices to establish partnerships with local Urban Leagues to identify local impediments to fair housing and methods to overcome them. FHEO will also provide the Urban League with printed materials and technical assistance to advance equal housing opportunities. The Urban League will refer alleged cases of discrimination to the Office of Fair Housing.

12. HUD-approved housing counseling agencies provide housing counseling to renters, first-time buyers, and homeowners. Homeowners with problems or potential problems that could result in default of their mortgage or foreclosure on their property need to

immediately contact a HUD-approved housing counseling agency. Urban League affiliates are active in counseling efforts, and HUD will work with Urban League offices to help them become HUD-approved housing counseling agencies and to apply for housing counseling funds if appropriate.

13. Two years ago, President Clinton formed the National Partners in Homeownership, now including 63 member organizations including HUD and the Urban League. HUD is committed to increasing homeownership opportunities for city residents. Many Urban League chapters already participate in local homeownership partnerships. HUD will continue to work directly with Urban League affiliates to facilitate local homeownership partnerships.

D. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

1. HUD intends to utilize technical assistance resources to further the partnerships, information exchange and communication between HUD and the Urban League described above. The specific TA resources and implementation mechanisms will vary depending on need, and will be determined after the Urban League affiliates have conducted their inventory of current HUD-supported or HUD-related activities, and have consulted with HUD field offices through the process described above. TA resources may be utilized by local affiliates as well as the Urban League's national office.

2. Technical assistance resources may be utilized for any partnership activity which is eligible under the relevant statutes and regulations, but are expected to include the following activity areas:

a. Capacity building of Urban League affiliates

HUD will assist individual affiliates to increase their capacity to successfully utilize CDBG and other HUD programs and resources, with a special emphasis on activities that involve developing micro-enterprises aimed at achieving self-sufficiency for families served by League Affiliates. HUD will also assist affiliates to enhance their capacity to qualify as Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs).

b. Making Welfare Reform Work initiative

HUD will provide TA that is aimed at making welfare reform work. Activities that might be assisted could include TA to special demonstrations that expand self-sufficiency, provide daycare or transportation services, but are more likely to focus on conducting training and technical assistance to local service providers, including practical lessons from HUD's Bridges to Work demonstration program that connects inner-city, job ready

residents with suburban job opportunities. Two areas are of special interest to HUD: access to work in suburban communities; and workforce preparedness of welfare recipients for jobs in the new economy.

c. Best Practices

HUD and the Urban League will identify and disseminate Best Practices by League affiliates. These Best Practices will be coordinated with those Best Practices already identified by HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development and by other HUD offices, as a tool for enhancing performance by recipients of HUD grant funds. Tasks that might be undertaken would be to identify and draft a number of case studies in those areas that League affiliates have established exemplary programs; placing these case studies on the world wide web, conducting training sessions for League affiliates and other local organizations; and identifying other modes of disseminating these Best Practices.

d. Public and Assisted Housing

In light of the social and economic forces that affect the tenure of public housing and the challenges presented by for public housing residents to make the transition from welfare to work, the Urban League wishes to offer public housing residents programs including, but not limited to: neighborhood learning centers, tenant management, workforce preparedness, small business development and homeownership opportunities. To the extent permissible under HUD's technical assistance requirements and guidelines, HUD will provide assistance to the Urban League to enable them to address these and other issues facing public housing residents.

Specific areas for technical assistance may include:

- Section 3 Demonstration

HUD, through its Office of Public and Indian Housing, will aid Urban League affiliates in working with selected local PHAs and residents in the development and implementation of Section 3 programs.

- Neighborhood Networks

HUD's Neighborhood Networks initiative helps foster partnerships among private citizens and local institutions to create computer learning centers for residents of assisted housing. These centers help residents access to skills and employment opportunities. Local Urban League affiliates are natural partners for this initiative. HUD field staff will reach out to Urban League offices to offer partnership opportunities in local Neighborhood Network sites. In addition, HUD

affiliates are natural partners for this initiative. HUD field staff will reach out to Urban League offices to offer partnership opportunities in local Neighborhood Network sites. In addition, HUD will offer technical assistance to help Urban League affiliates establish 10 Neighborhood Network sites, through HUD's already established technical assistance contract for Neighborhood Networks, and through the technical assistance of appropriate field offices.

E. ANNUAL REPORTS

Each year, within 90 days after the anniversary date of this MOU, Urban League affiliates will contribute a progress report on the implementation of this MOU. These Reports will be coordinated through the Urban League's National Office. They will include performance-based results on jobs created, units repaired, rehabbed or built, residents trained, and/or other relevant measures of performance as a result of this agreement.

Andrew Cuomo
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U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

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The National Urban League