



ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR  
POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-6000

SEP 20 2011

Ms. Carol Gore  
President/CEO  
Cook Inlet Housing Authority  
3510 Spenard Road, Suite 100  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Ms. Gore:

Thank you for your recent response to our letter. We appreciate your careful consideration of the important issues at play as we develop the study and the survey instruments. We have not copied your comments, but refer to them by the number assigned in your letter dated August 22, 2011.

**Response to Comment 1: Household Screener, Sections S1c and S1f — Tribal Affiliation**

Our instrument now primarily relies on the Census based question as you suggest. The tribal enrollment question was added as suggested by Outreach Session participants and by the expert panel. This question is as an informational item and will not be used for analytical purposes. We do not plan to ask any question pertaining to tribal affiliation. The study will not make a statement about the level of tribal enrollment in Alaska or any other region. No regional generalizations at all will be based on the household survey data. If you would like us to include additional definitions as part of the enrollment question that are used particularly in Alaska we are happy to do so. At this time, we propose to keep the question on the survey, at least through the OMB clearance process so that we will have the option of using it in the field.

**Response to Comment 2: Household Survey, Section H2 — Maintenance Performance of Tribes and TDHEs**

The context of these questions is a general perception of a community member about how well the housing agency is doing its job—it can later be compared to the answers of those people actually living in assisted housing. We will also be assessing the quality of both assisted and unassisted units. A few perception questions are legitimate in this kind of work and will simply be part of the very big picture. This is all getting at the canard of assisted housing being regarded as undesirable and poorly maintained. It is after this section that the questions are limited to those living in assisted housing.

For reference, these are the questions:

*INTERVIEWER READ: I would like your opinion about the quality of tribally assisted housing on the reservation/native village/tribal service area (OK only), and your sense of the federal government and tribal role in providing housing.*

H1	<i>INTEVIEWER: ASK ALL RESIDENTS</i> How well does the [INSERT NAME OF TRIBAL HOUSING AUTHORITY] do its share of keeping the units in good condition? Again, please use a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is a poor job and 5 is an excellent job.
H2	<i>INTEVIEWER: ASK ALL RESIDENTS</i> How well do residents do their share of keeping the units in good condition? Please use a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is a poor job and 5 is an excellent job.

**Response to Comment 3: Tribal/TDHE Telephone Survey, Section H6 (page 20) — IHBG Rules and Practices**

We respectfully disagree that these questions are redundant. This is a new data collection using a different sampling approach and with a different context for the questions. While it is not an assessment of NAHASDA, a few limited questions about the functioning of HUD's main source of funding to tribes is an appropriate part of the assessment of housing needs. If our programs are not meeting the housing needs of the families for whom they are intended, that is important information.

Thank you again for your comments and careful attention to these important matters. We hope to continue to work together to make this a worthwhile and useful study for HUD and all of our tribal partners.

Sincerely,



Raphael W. Bostic, Ph.D.  
Assistant Secretary for Policy  
Development and Research

cc: Mr. Rodger Boyd  
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