

**PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (PIA) FOR:
“HOMEOWNERSHIP VOUCHER PROGRAM SURVEY”
(OMB #2577-0240)
September 2004**

NOTE: See Section 2 for PIA answers, and Section 3 for Privacy Advocate’s determination.

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

Importance of Privacy Protection – Legislative Mandates:

HUD is responsible for ensuring the privacy and confidentiality of the information it collects on members of the public, beneficiaries of HUD programs, business partners, and its own employees. These people have a right to expect that HUD will collect, maintain, use, and disseminate identifiable personal information only as authorized by law and as necessary to carry out agency responsibilities.

The information HUD collects is protected by the following legislation and regulations:

- [Privacy Act of 1974, as amended](http://www.usdoj.gov/foia/privstat.htm) affords individuals the right to privacy in records that are maintained and used by Federal agencies. (See <http://www.usdoj.gov/foia/privstat.htm>; see also [HUD Handbook 1325.1 at www.hudclips.org](http://www.hudclips.org));
- Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988 is an amendment to the Privacy Act that specifies the conditions under which private information may (or may not) be shared among government agencies. (See <http://www.usdoj.gov/foia/privstat.htm>);
- [Freedom of Information Act of 1966, as amended](http://www.usdoj.gov/oip/foia_updates/Vol_XVII_4/page2.htm) ([http://www.usdoj.gov/oip/foia_updates/Vol XVII 4/page2.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/oip/foia_updates/Vol_XVII_4/page2.htm)) provides for the disclosure of information maintained by Federal agencies to the public, while allowing limited protections for privacy. See also [HUD’s Freedom of Information Act Handbook \(HUD Handbook 1327.1 at www.hudclips.org\)](http://www.hudclips.org));
- [E-Government Act of 2002](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=107_cong_public_laws&docid=f:publ347.107.pdf) requires Federal agencies to conduct Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs) on its electronic systems. (See [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=107 cong public laws&docid=f:publ347.107.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=107_cong_public_laws&docid=f:publ347.107.pdf); see also the summary of the E-Government Act at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/egov/pres_state2.htm);
- [Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002](http://uscode.house.gov/search/criteria.php) (which superseded the Computer Security Act of 1987) provides a comprehensive framework for ensuring the effectiveness of information security controls over information resources that support Federal operations and assets, etc. See also the codified version of Information Security regulations at [Title 44 U.S. Code chapter 35 subchapter II](http://uscode.house.gov/search/criteria.php) (<http://uscode.house.gov/search/criteria.php>); and
- [OMB Circular A-130, Management of Federal Information Resources, Appendix I](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a130/appendix_i.pdf) (http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a130/appendix_i.pdf) defines Federal Agency responsibilities for maintaining records about individuals.

Access to personally identifiable information will be restricted to those HUD staff who have been authorized because of their duties; and they will be held accountable for ensuring privacy and confidentiality.

What is the Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) Process?

The Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) is a process that evaluates issues related to the privacy of personally identifiable information in electronic systems. See background and questions to answer at: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cio/privacy/pia/pia.cfm>. Personally identifiable information is defined as information that actually identifies an individual, e.g., name, address, social security number (SSN) or other identifying number or code, financial information, telephone number, email address, etc. Of particular concern is the combination of multiple identifying elements. For example, knowing name + SSN + birth date + financial information would pose more risk to privacy than just name + SSN alone.

The PIA:

- Identifies the type of personally identifiable information in the system (including any ability to combine multiple identifying elements on an individual);
- Identifies who has access to that information (whether full access or limited access rights); and
- Describes the administrative controls that ensure that only information that is necessary and relevant to HUD's mission is included.

Who Completes the PIA?

Both the program area system owner and IT project leader work together to complete the PIA. The system owner describes what personal data types are collected, how the data is used, and who has access to the personal data. The IT project leader describes whether technical implementation of the system owner's requirements presents any risks to privacy, and what controls are in place to restrict access of personally identifiable information.

When is a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) Required?

- 1. New Systems:** Any new system that will contain personal information on members of the public requires a PIA, per OMB requirements (this covers both major and non-major systems).
- 2. Existing Systems:** Where there are significant modifications involving personal information on members of the public, or where significant changes been made to the system that may create a new privacy risk, a PIA is required.
- 3. Information Collection Requests, per the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA):** Agencies must obtain OMB approval for new information collections from ten or more members of the public. If the information collection is both a new collection and automated, then a PIA is required.

Privacy Act. The Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (<http://www.usdoj.gov/foia/privstat.htm>) requires that agencies publish a Federal Register Notice for public comment on any intended

information collection. Privacy Act Systems of Records are created when information pertaining to an individual is collected and maintained by the Department, and is retrieved by the name of the individual or by some other identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular assigned to an individual. The [E-Government Act of 2002](#) requires PIAs for electronic systems as well as information collection requests that are automated. So, there is a relationship between the new PIA requirement (when automation is involved) and the long-standing Privacy Act System of Records Notices (for both paper-based and automated records that are of a private nature). For additional information, contact the Departmental Privacy Act Officer in the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Publication of PIA summary. The E-Government Act of 2002 requires that the analysis and determinations resulting from the PIA be made publicly available. The Privacy Act Advocate in HUD's Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) is responsible for publishing the PIA summary on HUD's web site. See: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cio/privacy/pia/pia.cfm>.

SECTION 2 – COMPLETING A PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Please submit answers to the Departmental Privacy Advocate in the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO). If any question does not apply, state Not Applicable (N/A) for that question, and briefly explain why it is not applicable.

Program area: Office of Public and Indian Housing

Subject matter expert in the program area: Michael Dennis, Acting Director, Housing Voucher Management and Operations Division, 202-708-0477 ext. 4059

Program area manager: Joe Gray, Special Assistant, Office of Housing Voucher Programs, 202-708-1380 ext. 7141

IT project leader: Art Grammer, Housing Voucher Management and Operations Division, 202-708-0477 ext. 4146

For IT Systems:

- **Name of system:**
- **PCAS #:**
- **OMB Unique Project Identifier # (if submitting an Exhibit 300 to OMB):**

For Information Collection Requests:

- **Name of Information Collection Request:** Homeownership Voucher Program Survey
- **OMB Control #:** 2577-0240

Question 1: Provide a brief description of what information is collected.

The survey is a new Information Collection Request (OMB #2577-0240) of public housing agencies (PHAs). The survey collects information at the agency level, including aggregate numbers of households served by that PHA. No personal or individual-level data is collected. The data helps HUD Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) measure the PHA's level of participation in the homeownership voucher program. It also helps determine where technical assistance and/or training are required for successful implementation of this program.

The Privacy Act Statement on the Survey form says: "The information is provided pursuant to Public Law 93-579 (Privacy Act of 1974). AUTHORITY: Section 1302, 3301, and 7201 of Title 5 of the U.S. Code. The collection is authorized by the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 *et seq.*). PURPOSE AND ROUTINE USES: The data collected by this form will be used to inform public officials and others regarding the effectiveness of the program. A HUD contractor will have access to the responses for the purpose of compiling and reporting the data to HUD."

If this automated system (or Information Collection Request) involves personally identifiable information on members of the public, then **mark any of the categories that apply below:**

Personal Identifiers:

	Name
	Social Security Number (SSN)
	Other identification number (specify type):
	Birth date
	Home address
	Home telephone
X	Personal e-mail address (NOTE: Survey asks for “e-mail address”, so they may give either a business or a personal e-mail address of the PHA Homeownership Coordinator or Executive Director.)
	Fingerprint/ other “biometric”
X	Other (specify): (NOTE: The Survey asks for business contact – name of the PHA as well as the Homeownership Coordinator or Executive Director name.)
X	None (NOTE: In the Supporting Statement for PRA Submissions, item 10 says: “Confidentiality is not an issue. Specific participants in the Homeownership Program are not being identified. Only program components are being requested.”)
	Comment:

Personal/ Sensitive Information:

	Race/ ethnicity
	Gender/ sex
	Marital status
	Spouse name
	# of children
	Income/ financial data (specify type of data, such as salary, Federal taxes paid, bank account number, etc.):
	Employment history
	Education level
	Medical history/ information
	Criminal record
	Other (specify):
X	None

Question 2: Type of electronic system or information collection. Fill out Section A, B, or C as applicable.

A. If a new electronic system (or one in development): Is this a new electronic system (implemented after April 2003, the effective date of the E-Government Act of 2002)?

	Yes
	No

B. If an existing electronic system: Mark any of the following conditions for your existing system that OMB defines as a “trigger” for requiring a PIA (if not applicable, mark N/A):

	Conversion: When paper-based records that contain personal information are
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	converted to an electronic system
	From Anonymous (Non-Identifiable) to “Non-Anonymous” (Personally Identifiable): When any systems application transforms an existing database or data collection so that previously anonymous data becomes personally identifiable
	Significant System Management Changes: When new uses of an existing electronic system significantly change how personal information is managed in the system. (Example #1: when new “relational” databases could combine multiple identifying data elements to more easily identify an individual. Example #2: when a web portal extracts data elements from separate databases, and thereby creates a more open environment for exposure of personal data)
	Merging Databases: When government databases are merged, centralized, matched, or otherwise significantly manipulated so that personal information becomes more accessible (with special concern for the ability to combine multiple identifying elements)
	New Public Access: When <u>new</u> public access is given to members of the public or to business partners (even if the system is protected by password, digital certificate, or other user-authentication technology)
	Commercial Sources: When agencies systematically incorporate into databases any personal data from commercial or public sources (ad hoc queries of such sources using existing technology does not trigger the need for a PIA)
	New Inter-agency Uses: When agencies work together (such as the federal E-Gov initiatives), the lead agency should prepare the PIA
	Business Process Re-engineering: When altering a business process results in significant new uses, disclosures, or additions of personal data
	Alteration in Character of Data: When adding new personal data raises the risks to personal privacy (for example, adding financial information to an existing database that contains name and address)

C. If an Information Collection Request (ICR): Is this a new Request that will collect data that will be in an automated system? Agencies must obtain OMB approval for information collections from 10 or more members of the public. The E-Government Act of 2002 requires a PIA for ICRs only if the collection of information is a new request and the collected data will be in an automated system.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes, this is a new ICR and the data will be automated
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, the ICR does not require a PIA because it is not <u>new</u> or <u>automated</u>
	Comment:

Question 3: Why is the personally identifiable information being collected? How will it be used? Mark any that apply:

Homeownership:

	Credit checks (eligibility for loans)
	Loan applications and case-binder files (via lenders) – including borrower SSNs, salary, employment, race, and other information
	Loan servicing (MIP collections/ refunds and debt servicing for defaulted loans)

	assigned to HUD)
	Loan default tracking
	Issuing mortgage and loan insurance
	Other (specify):
	Comment:

Rental Housing Assistance:

	Eligibility for rental assistance or other HUD program benefits
	Characteristics on those receiving rental assistance (for example, race/ethnicity, # of children, age)
	Property inspections
X	Other (specify): Aggregated statistics for the Public Housing Authority (PHA) – no individual level data is collected
	Comment:

Grants:

	Grant application scoring and selection – if any personal information on the grantee is included
	Disbursement of funds to grantees – if any personal information is included
	Other (specify):
	Comment:

Fair Housing:

	Housing discrimination complaints and resulting case files
	Other (specify):
	Comment:

Internal operations:

	Employee payroll or personnel records
	Payment for employee travel expenses
	Payment for services or products (to contractors) – if any personal information on the payee is included
	Computer security files – with personal information in the database, collected in order to grant user Ids
	Other (specify):
	Comment:

Other lines of business (specify uses):

Question 4: Will you share the information with others (e.g., another agency for a programmatic purpose, or outside the government)? Mark any that apply:

	Federal agencies? (specify):
X	State, local, or tribal governments? (NOTE: PHAs are part of State and local governments; see below)
X	Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) or Section 8 property owners/ agents?
	FHA-approved lenders?
	Credit bureaus?
	Local and national organizations?
	Non-profits?
	Faith-based organizations?
	Builders/ developers?
X	Others? (specify): (NOTE: In the Supporting Statement for PRA Submissions, item 16 says: “While it is not the intent to make the results of this survey available to the general public, a report to the U.S. Congress may be required. In addition, the respondents to the survey may receive a final report as well.” Data may also be used to determine where technical assistance and training are needed and therefore may be provided to the technical assistance or training provider.)
	Comment:

Question 5: Can individuals “opt-out” by declining to provide personal information or by consenting only to particular use (e.g., allowing their financial information to be used for basic rent eligibility determination, but not for sharing with other government agencies)?

	Yes, they can “opt-out” by declining to provide private information or by consenting only to particular use
	No, they can’t “opt-out” – all personal information is required
X	Comment: (NOTE: No personal or individual-level data is collected, other than the name of the PHA’s homeownership coordinator or executive director.)

If Yes, please explain the issues and circumstances of being able to opt-out (either for specific data elements or specific uses of the data): _____

Question 6: How will the privacy of the information be protected/ secured? What are the administrative and technological controls? Mark any that apply and give details if requested:

	System users must log-in with a password
	When an employee leaves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How soon is the user ID terminated (1 day, 1 week, 1 month, unknown)?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do you know that the former employee no longer has access to your system? (explain your procedures or describe your plan to improve):
	<p>Are access rights selectively granted, depending on duties and need-to-know? If Yes, specify the approximate # of authorized users who have either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full access rights to all data in the system (specify #)? Limited/ restricted access rights to only selected data (specify #)?
	Are disks, tapes, and printouts that contain personal information locked in cabinets when not in use? (explain your procedures, or describe your plan to improve):
	If data from your system is shared with another system or data warehouse, who is responsible for protecting the privacy of data that came from your system but now resides in another? Explain the existing privacy protections, or your plans to improve:
X	Other methods of protecting privacy (specify): The Survey responses are not part of an automated system, but there will be some analysis of the data in order to produce a summary report.
	Comment:

Question 7: If private information is involved, by what data elements can it be retrieved?

Mark any that apply:

	Name
	Social Security Number (SSN)
	Identification number (specify type):
	Birth date
	Race/ ethnicity
	Marital status
	Spouse name
	Home address
	Home telephone
	Personal e-mail address
X	Other (specify): (NOTE: No personal or individual-level data is collected, other than the name of the PHA's homeownership coordinator or executive director.)
	None
	Comment:

Other Comments (or details on any Question above):

SECTION 3: DETERMINATION BY HUD PRIVACY ADVOCATE

This information collection is not a privacy concern because the survey only collects information about the public housing agency's level of activity and aggregate numbers of households served. No personal or individual-level data is collected, except for the PHA Homeownership Coordinator or Executive Director name and e-mail.

/signed/
Eric M. Stout
Privacy Advocate, Office of the Chief Information Officer
U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

October 13, 2004
date