**March 29, 2022**

**GENERAL NEWS**

### Biden Administration Releases Proposed HUD Budget for FFY 2023

Yesterday the Biden administration released its proposed HUD budget for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2023. Some highlights from the proposed budget:

- The administration's budget requests $71.9 billion to support HUD, approximately $11.6 billion more than the 2022 annualized continuing resolution (CR) level.
- The budget would provide $32.1 billion for the Housing Choice Voucher program, which accommodates 200,000 new vouchers, with a focus on those who are homeless or fleeing domestic violence. This increases the funding level of the tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA) by approximately $6.4 billion more than the 2022 annualized CR level.
- The budget requests $8.8 billion for the public housing fund, which is $974 million more than the 2022 annualized CR level. In prior years, Congress appropriated funds separately to the public housing operating fund and public housing capital fund. However, in the 2021 Appropriations Act, the Congress consolidated the activities of the two funds into the public housing fund.
- The administration is proposing $250 million for Choice Neighborhoods, a $50 million increase over the 2022 annualized CR level.
- The budget proposes $175 million for self-sufficiency programs, which include Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS), Resident Opportunity and Supportive Services (ROSS), and the Jobs-Plus Initiative (JPI).
- The President is requesting $400 million to mitigate health and safety hazards, a $40 million increase over the annualized CR level in 2022.
- The financial plan requests $110 million ($50 million in TBRA and $60 million in PBRA) for RAD conversions that promote the energy efficiency or climate resilience of properties.
- The proposal includes $86 million for Fair Housing programs, a $13.4 million increase over the 2022 annualized CR level, for targeted and coordinated enforcement, education, and outreach.
- The administration requests $9.8 billion for CPD, which is $1.5 billion more than the annualized CR level for 2022.

To read the budget proposal, click here. You can also read an accompanying press release that describes the administration's proposal for the upcoming fiscal year.

### DOL Publishes Proposed Rule on Davis-Bacon and Related Act Regulations

On March 18, 2022, the Department of Labor (DOL) published a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* that would update the Davis-Bacon and related acts regulations in order to provide greater clarity and enhance their usefulness in the modern economy. According to a press release issue by DOL, the proposed changes include:

- Creating several efficiencies in the prevailing wage update system and ensuring prevailing wage rates keep up with actual wages, which over time would mean higher wages for workers.
- Returning to the definition of "prevailing wage" used from 1935 to 1983 to ensure prevailing wages reflect actual wages paid to workers in the local community.
- Periodically updating prevailing wage rates to address out-of-date wage determinations.
- Providing broader authority to adopt state or local wage determinations when certain criteria is met.
- Issuing supplemental rates for key job classifications when no survey data exists.
- Updating the regulatory language to better reflect modern construction practices.
- Strengthening worker protections and enforcement, including debarment and anti-retaliation.

The Davis-Bacon Act, enacted in 1931, requires the payment of minimum prevailing wages determined by DOL to laborers and mechanics working on federal contracts in excess of $2,000 for the construction, alteration, or repair, including painting and decorating, of public buildings and public works. According to the press release, DOL is updating the regulations "to reflect better the needs of workers in the construction industry and planned federal construction investments." This would be the first comprehensive regulatory review in nearly 40 years. The due date for comments on the proposed rule is **May 17, 2022.**

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