



Oakland Housing  
Authority

## Contractor's Summary Guide to Section 3 Compliance

The purpose of Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701u) (section 3), and 24 CFR Part 135, is to ensure that training, employment and other economic opportunities generated by certain HUD financial assistance shall, to the greatest extent feasible, and consistent with existing federal, state and local laws and regulations, be directed to low- and very low-income persons, particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing, and to business concerns, which provide economic opportunities to low- and very low-income persons.” **For the complete text of the Section 3 regulations, visit [www.hud.gov/section3](http://www.hud.gov/section3).**

### **Oakland Housing Authority's Section 3 Economic Opportunities Policy (included in bid documents)**

Oakland has one of the highest unemployment rates in the Bay Area. Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) residents make up over 10% of Oakland's population. OHA developed its **Economic Opportunities Policy (EOP)** to comply with the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 3 regulations and ensure that, to the greatest extent feasible, economic opportunities are provided to low- and very low-income persons and to Section 3 business concerns within the city of Oakland. All contractors undertaking Section 3 covered projects and activities on behalf of OHA are expected, to the greatest extent feasible, to meet the numerical goals set forth below. The policy does not apply to contractors who furnish only materials or supplies and do not undertake installation of materials or supplies. The **EOP** is also available from OHA's website [www.oakha.org/procurement/ProcurementPolicy.pdf#page=37](http://www.oakha.org/procurement/ProcurementPolicy.pdf#page=37).

### **Section 3 Requirement for All Bidders**

As part of the application or bidding process, a Section 3 Business Preference and Action Plan are included in bid documents. Contractors have the option to request Certification as a Section 3 business; however, every proposer **MUST** complete the Action Plan and submit it with their bid, even if no hires are projected.

Certification for Business Seeking Section 3 Business Preference form: Everyone must complete the top portion (check one box, name of business etc.) and sign at the bottom. Fill in the other parts **ONLY** if you are claiming Section 3 business status.

Action Plan (3 pages): Everyone must complete the top portion listing your company etc., where applicable, and sign every page. If you **do not** anticipate new hires, note that in the table on page 1 and 3. If you **do** anticipate new hires, then use page 1 to detail the job categories and page 3 to describe how you will fill those positions.

### **Section 3 Requirements for Awardees**

#### **Baseline Reporting and Hiring Projections Form**

Prior to the Notice to Proceed, the contractor/subcontractor will be responsible for documenting the current workforce (baseline) and providing more accurate hiring projections per job classification than those described in the Action Plan. The Plan that is approved will become part of the contractual agreements.

#### **Hiring Goals**

The Section 3 requirement is triggered when there is a need for **new** economic opportunities, such as individual employment, contracting, or subcontracting. The regulation requires that contractors and subcontractors provide, **to the greatest extent feasible**, economic opportunities (training, employment, and contracting) to low and very-low income residents Section 3 businesses.

Contractors and subcontractors are required to make every effort to the greatest extent feasible to meet the OHA's numerical hiring goals of having Section 3 qualified employees make up **30% of their total new-hires**. **Firms must seek to maintain this percentage throughout the life of the project**. If these goals are not met, the contractors are expected to show documentation demonstrating their efforts to hire Section 3 candidates by exhausting all available hiring sources. While a contractor receives credit for hiring low-income residents of Oakland, **first priority should be given to residents of the Oakland Housing Authority**. This includes residents in both the public housing and Section 8 programs.

## Hiring Priorities

First priority (OHA residents): Residents of the development where the work is being performed  
Second priority (OHA residents): Other residents of Oakland Housing Authority owned or managed properties  
Third priority (Oakland residents): Other residents within the city of Oakland that meet the low-income requirements (see definition of **Section 3 Resident** below).

## Resident Referral Process

OHA is committed to working with general contractors and subcontractors to help them reach their Section 3 goals. Therefore, we have established a pre-screening and referral process to identify qualified OHA residents who satisfy the first and second hiring priorities (above). This process ensures that each candidate is in good standing with the housing authority and has a background that qualifies him/her to perform the essential functions of the job.

To ensure the best possible match, it is important that contractors communicate their hiring needs to OHA well in advance of the project start date. We request at least 2 business days' notice before the employee's start date, but earlier notice is preferred. We will work with you to identify a pool of candidates for each position. If we cannot provide you with a candidate, we will grant you a waiver to document your efforts to meet the Section 3 goals.

**Union Contractors:** OHA's Family and Community Partnerships department (FCP) has established a list of current OHA residents in construction trade unions that is sent to contractors on a regular basis. If there is no candidate that meets your hiring needs, you are encouraged to consider sponsoring an OHA resident who is not a member of a trade union to meet your Section 3 hiring goals.

Please contact OHA at [S3hire@oakha.org](mailto:S3hire@oakha.org) or 510-587-5160 for a list of qualified residents, to request a candidate, or verify the Section 3 eligibility of any prospective hire. For more information about providing economic opportunities to OHA resident's contact:

Employment Development Coordinator  
Family & Community Partnerships Department  
Phone: 510.587.5160  
Fax: 510.587.5141  
Email: [S3hire@oakha.org](mailto:S3hire@oakha.org)

## New Hire Section 3 Information Form

General contractors and subcontractors will be provided this form upon award. Every **new hire** should be requested to complete the form. The form provides the means to determine Section 3 eligibility of the employee. The forms should be submitted to OHA as soon as possible after hiring for verification of Section 3 status.

## Monthly Reports

OHA requires monthly reports listing all new hires and Section 3 hires from all contractors and subcontractors on Section 3 covered projects. A sample report will be provided. Reports shall be due on the fifth day of each month for the preceding month. These reports shall be submitted to:

Rufus Davis, Labor and Section 3 Compliance Officer  
Office of Program Administration  
Phone: 510.587.2176  
Fax: 510.587.2124  
Email: [rdavis@oakha.org](mailto:rdavis@oakha.org)

## Record Maintenance and Documentation

All projects and activities that are subject to Section 3 requirements shall maintain comprehensive documentation of their Section 3 outreach efforts and implementation activities. Section 3 documentation files should be clearly maintained and be available for review by Oakland Housing Authority and/or HUD officials.

## Compliance Reviews

OHA staff will conduct regular compliance reviews, which consist of comprehensive analysis and evaluation of the contractor's compliance with Section 3. Where noncompliance is found, OHA will notify the contractor of the deficiency and make recommendations for corrective actions.

## **Useful Definitions**

### **Business Concern**

A business entity formed in accordance with state law, and which is licensed under state, county or municipal law to engage in the type of business activity for which it was formed.

### **“Greatest Extent Feasible”**

Recipients of Section 3 financial assistance must make every effort within their disposal to meet the regulatory requirements. For instance, this may mean going a step beyond normal notification procedures for employment and contracting opportunities by developing strategies that will specifically target Section 3 residents and businesses for these new economic opportunities.

### **Household Income Levels**

Low and very-low income limits are determined annually by HUD. These limits are typically established at 80 percent and 50 percent of the median income for each locality by household size or number of people residing in one house. HUD income limits can be obtained from [www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/il.html](http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/il.html).

### **New Hire**

A new hire means a full-time employee for a new permanent, temporary, or seasonal position that is created as a direct result of the expenditure of federal funds on Section 3 covered projects. Any employee that is not on the payroll of a contractor or developer on the day [i.e., that a purchase order is issued or the day a contract is signed or agreed upon] that the Section 3 covered assistance was provided, is considered a new hire.

### **Section 3 Business Concern**

A business concern that meets one or more of the following requirements:

- 51% or more owned by Section 3 residents
- 30% or more of permanent, full-time workforce consists of Section 3 residents
- Provides evidence to subcontract at least 25% of the dollar awarded to qualified Section 3 businesses

### **Section 3 Resident**

- (1) An Oakland Housing Authority public housing resident or Section 8 voucher holder; or
- (2) An individual who resides in the service area (Oakland) in which the Section 3 covered assistance is expended, and whose income status is as follows:

<b>Number of People in Household</b>	<b>Annual Household Income Limits</b> (Source: 24 CFR 570.3)
1	\$45,100 or less
2	\$51,550 or less
3	\$58,000 or less
4	\$64,400 or less
5	\$69,600 or less
6	\$74,750 or less
7	\$79,900 or less
8	\$85,050 or less

(Income limits eff. 12/11/2012)

Questions regarding the Oakland Housing Authority  
Section 3 Program should be addressed to:

Rufus Davis, Labor and Section 3 Compliance Officer  
Oakland Housing Authority  
1801 Harrison Street, First Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612  
Phone: 510.587.2176  
Fax: 510.587.2124  
Email: [rdavis@oakha.org](mailto:rdavis@oakha.org)

### **SECTION 3 CLAUSE (24 CFR 135.38)**

***This contract is subject to the following conditions under Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, 12 U.S.C. 1701u (Section 3).***

- A. The work to be performed under this contract is subject to the requirements of Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, 12 U.S.C. 1701u (Section 3). The purpose of Section 3 is to ensure that employment and other economic opportunities generated by HUD assistance or HUD-assisted projects covered by Section 3, shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be directed to low and very low-income persons, particularly persons who are recipients of HUD assistance for housing.
- B. The parties to this contract agree to comply with HUD's regulations in 24 CFR Part 135, which implement Section 3. As evidenced by their execution of this contract, the parties to this contract certify that they are under no contractual or other impediment that would prevent them from complying with the Part 135 regulations.
- C. The contractor agrees to send to each labor organization or representative of workers with which the contractor has a collective bargaining agreement or other understanding, if any, a notice advising the labor or organization or workers' representative of the contractor's commitments under this Section 3 clause, and will post copies of the notice in conspicuous places at the work site where both employees and applicants for training and employment positions can see the notice. The notice shall describe the Section 3 preference, shall set forth minimum number and job titles subject to hire, availability of apprenticeship and training positions, the qualifications for each; and the name and location of the person(s) taking applications for each of the positions; and the anticipated date the work shall begin.
- D. The contractor agrees to include this Section 3 clause in every subcontract subject to compliance with regulations in 24 CFR Part 135, and agrees to take appropriate action, as provided in an applicable provision of the subcontract or in this Section 3 clause, upon finding that the subcontractor is in violation of the regulations in 24 CFR Part 135. The contractor will not subcontract with any subcontractor where the contractor has notice or knowledge that the subcontractor has been found in violation of the regulations in 24 CFR Part 135.
- E. The contractor will certify that any vacant employment positions, including training positions that are filled (1) after the contractor is selected but before the contract is executed, and (2) with persons other than those to whom the regulations of 24 CFR Part 135 require employment opportunities to be directed, were not filled to circumvent the contractor's obligations under 24 CFR Part 135.
- F. Noncompliance with HUD's regulations in 24 CFR Part 135 may result in sanctions, termination of this contract for default, and debarment or suspension from future HUD assisted contracts.
- G. With respect to work performed in connection with Section 3 covered Indian housing assistance, Section 7(b) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450e) also applies to the work to be performed under this contract. Section 7(b) requires that to the greatest extent feasible (i) preference and opportunities for training and employment shall be given to Indians, and (ii) preference in the award of contracts and subcontracts shall be given to Indian organizations and Indian-owned Economic Enterprise. Parties to this contract that are subject to the provisions of Section 3 and Section 7(b) agree to comply with Section 3 to the maximum extent feasible, but not in derogation of compliance with Section 7(b).