
FW: Update HUD TA Programs and OMB-M-25-13

From Schelling, John D <John.D.Schelling@hud.gov>

Date Wed 2/5/2025 8:59 AM

To SEA Seattle CPD <SEA_Seattle_CPD@hud.gov>

 1 attachment (63 KB)

For Immediate Action | Stop Work Under all HUD Funded TA Agreements per OMB-M-25-13;

Forwarding this for your awareness in case you didn't receive it directly. It sounds like it may not have been distributed widely internally...

John

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Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 3:27 PM

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Subject: Update HUD TA Programs and OMB-M-25-13

Dear HUD Program Office Partners,

Consistent with our commitment to provide you with clear and open communication regarding HUD technical assistance, I am writing to inform you of action the Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) took to ensure compliance with recent Executive directives. Based on evolving guidance regarding the recent OMB Memo M-25-13, we sent the attached message to all TA providers and GTMs (your staff who work on TA) at 4:08PM today. We granted one small exception for ICF to complete the transfer of the HUD Exchange server to a contractor so that the site may remain online without compromising security or risking loss of data but all other TA is paused for the moment. PD&R has included all three TA programs

in the report compiled for OMB review to allow continued operations, so we are hopeful this disruption is brief.

Here are some related points of information, for awareness:

- Last week, after issuing the mass-message to TA providers to stop work for DEI/EJ related work, we also formally placed guidance on 66 work plans flagged as DEI/EJ in DRGR to ensure full cancellation and closeout. OTA will send the summary of those work plans identified to your TA teams individually tomorrow, as we worked with the offices most impacted prior to issuing but did not connect with those who had low numbers.
- Before 5pm, the [HUD Exchange page where TA requests are submitted](#) by grantees was updated to state the following:

“Per OMB Direction, HUD is not accepting or processing TA requests at this time as outlined in OMB Memo M-25-13 calling for the temporary pause of agency grant, loan, and federal financial assistance programs. Once we are authorized to resume the technical assistance programs, we will update this page and invite new requests. Thank you for your patience.”

- OTA has cancelled TA Provider calls during this window including our planned Quarterly TA Provider Call for February 3 and our upcoming new TA Provider orientation previously scheduled for February 12-13. GTRs will cancel calls through this week with providers and assess Monday if more meetings need to come down. Your program staff should do the same as TA providers are not authorized to participate in calls which incur costs during this pause.
- If your team receives questions about TA award management direction, please have them connect to the GTR to collaborate on guidance.
- Your teams should not engage providers, direct work, or assign anything new in DRGR until the pause is lifted. If there is an urgent need, please contact OTA for support and troubleshooting in the meantime.

We appreciate that this pause is disruptive to trainings, grantee-facing engagements, disaster recovery and beyond. We are doing our best to demonstrate the case for TA and get things back to operational soon.

Thank you for your patience and trust,

Stephanie

Stephanie Stone

Deputy Assistant Secretary
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Office of Policy Development & Research
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From: Stone, Stephanie V

Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 8:56 AM

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Subject: Update on DEI/EJ EO Implementation for HUD TA Programs

Importance: High

Dear HUD Program Office Partners,

As you may be aware, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) issued a memo Wednesday providing [initial guidance regarding the DEIA-related Executive Orders](#). Late Wednesday, OTA was directed to take swift action to demonstrate compliance with the 5:00 PM deadline. OTA immediately assumed responsibility for reviewing active technical assistance (TA) web content and work plans to flag, assess, and halt any work inconsistent with the recent Executive Order and OPM implementation memo. This email provides context for the actions OTA has taken regarding TA delivery and HUD Exchange, as well as anticipated next steps. I have included on this email program office leadership, managers, and all GTMs who are involved in the three HUD TA programs, for awareness. We are sending a similar email to all TA Providers this evening as well, so that everyone is on the same page.

I want to acknowledge that TA values partnership grounded in clear communication. While I would have preferred to provide advance notice before directing changes, the urgency of the situation required immediate action. Moving forward, OTA is committed to updating this distribution group as we receive additional guidance and take appropriate action to ensure compliance.

Our motto and commitment is “no surprises.” To best position the TA program, please instruct your teams to follow our guidance and pause activities that could be considered inconsistent with the Executive Order and OPM memo until OTA can complete a review and provide a determination.

In partnership,

Stephanie

Stephanie Stone

Deputy Assistant Secretary
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Office of Policy Development & Research
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Summary of DEI/EJ Compliance Efforts Underway:

Work Plan/TA Activities:

- Effective at 5:04 pm on 1/22/25, OTA issued an unconditional immediate stop-work order to all TA providers and HUD GTMs for all work plan activities associated with

environmental justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). (See attached email to TA providers and HUD program office GTMs.)

- OTA is reviewing all active work plans containing DEI and environmental justice terms to assess next steps. While we anticipate this process will take time, we wanted to communicate the stop-work directive officially and quickly. We have conducted a search using key terms from the memo and EO, as well as related terms with a conceptual relationship to the EOs. For the work plans where DEI/EJ is the primary focus, GTRs are entering comments in DRGR today to make clear the next steps for providers with regard to closeout.
- Here is OTA's guidance on work plan management:
 - For all TA that is not DEI/EJ in nature, TA delivery and trainings may continue.
 - For work plans that are completely DEI/EJ in nature, we will place a comment in DRGR to remind the TA provider of the requirement to stop work, complete final billing, and close out the work plan as soon as possible. In DRGR, we cannot cancel work plans that have an approved budget and placing them "on-hold" inhibits the provider's ability to take action for final billing and closeout. Therefore, we are using this comment as the administrative record to demonstrate compliance with the directive and to make clear which work plans we have identified as requiring action.
 - If the work plan is mostly DEI related, all work must cease. HUD may later re-assign the compliant portions but for now, this work plan should be closed.
 - For work plans that are not expressly focused on DEI/EJ but have those concepts interwoven from the last administration, OTA requires programs and providers to stop all DEI work effective as of yesterday. However, other tasks may continue while we complete our review and seek guidance on whether they should be cancelled or amended. This flexibility should be exercised with great caution to minimize disruption while ensuring full compliance with the Executive Order and protecting the program.
 - If your program has concerns and wishes to halt other work until there is more clarity, we support that.

TA Requests and Assignments:

- No new TA assignments may be issued for activities related to environmental justice, DEI, or similar topics.
- Any assignments issued on these topics where a TA work plan has not yet been submitted must be cancelled immediately.
- If HUD receives a TA request related to DEI/EJ, you must disapprove it.
- If HUD receives a TA request with multiple topics, including DEI/EJ, you may approve the parts of the request that comply with federal policy. Please clarify that the entire request is not approved. Here is sample language that triage/request reviewers may use:
 - "HUD has received your request for TA and we are pleased to approve some of the requested support. Specifically, we will assign a TA provider for XYZ topics. Effective 1/20/25, per Presidential Executive Order, HUD is not approving TA for topics related to equity at this time."

Communications

- Effective Wednesday and retroactively applied to noon Monday, no new content is authorized to be posted on HUD Exchange. The current instructions to ICF regarding HUD Exchange are as follows (**until further notice**):
 - Hold all new file publications
 - Hold all page updates – except revisions to comply with Executive Orders
 - Hold all social media posts from accounts funded by HUD TA work plans, including HUD Exchange
 - Hold all uploads of training videos to HUD Exchange YouTube

- Hold all listserv email distributions to HUD Exchange subscribers
 - Continue development to comply with Executive Orders
 - Continue operations and site sustainment to comply with Executive Orders
- Effective 1/22/25, OTA directed ICF, Inc., in its capacity as the current TA vendor operating the HUD Exchange website, to scan all content on HUD Exchange for materials that could be inconsistent with the Executive Order and OPM guidance. ICF is compiling the flagged content into a cloud-based archive, which will be made available to program offices for review in coordination with OTA. The content scan will take place in two phases.

Phase 1: Assess Content for Patent Coverage by the Executive Order (EO)

Period of performance: Target 10 days

ICF will scan all posted materials and webpage content for terms covered explicitly in the EO (see below). Materials identified as inconsistent with the EO will be archived. ICF will classify these materials by program area and by whether they can be revised and republished. OTA and program offices will review these materials and assign TA providers to revise any materials that can be republished. If revisions require HUD consultation, ICF will engage OTA and/or the program office. Timely feedback will be essential.

Phase 2: Assess content for latent coverage by the EO

Period of performance: Target 30 days

ICF will scan and flag (but not immediately archive) all posted materials and webpage content for terms, and variations thereof, relating to concepts in the EO. Listed below. ICF will provide HUD with links to flagged materials and webpage content for OTA and program office review. Materials determined by HUD review to be substantively inconsistent with the Executive Order will be archived.

<u>Terms with explicit relationship to the EOs</u>	<u>Terms with conceptual relationship to the EOs</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEI • DEIA • Diversity • Diverse • Equity • Equitable • Inclusion • Inclusive • Environmental Justice • Gender Identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racial • Marginalized • Underserved • Affirmatively • Affirmative • Systemic • Adversely • Accessible • Accessibility • Disparate