



## FRAUD NOTIFICATION

To ensure that funds are available for the life of the housing programs for as many households as possible, participants in the housing programs must follow all program requirements. Incidents of fraud, willful misrepresentation, or intent to deceive with regard to the programs are criminal acts (Section 1001 of Title 18 of the U. S. Code). If you are suspected of committing any fraudulent actions, we are required to refer the matter to the proper authorities for appropriate actions.

### **DO YOU REALIZE...**

If you commit fraud in connection with the housing assistance program, you could be:

- Evicted from your home,
- Required to repay all overpaid rental assistance you received,
- Fined up to \$10,000,
- Imprisoned for up to five years,
- Prohibited from receiving future assistance, and
- Subject to State and local government penalties

### **DO YOU KNOW...**

You are committing fraud if you sign a form knowing that you provided false or misleading information. The information you provide on your housing application and recertification forms will be checked. HOM will check the income and asset information you provide with Federal, State, or local governments and with private agencies. **Certifying false information is fraud.**

### **SO BE CAREFUL!**

When you fill out your application and annual recertification forms for the housing program, make sure your answers to the questions are accurate and honest.

You must include:

- All sources of income and changes in income you or any members of your household receive, such as wages, welfare payments, social security and veterans' benefits, pensions, etc.
- Any money you receive on behalf of your children, such as child support, TANF payments, social security for children, etc.
- Any increase in income, such as wages from a new job or an expected pay raise or bonus.
- All assets, such as bank accounts, savings bonds, certificates of deposit, stocks, real estate, etc., that are owned by you or any member of your household.
- All income from assets, such as interest from savings and checking accounts, stocks, etc.
- Any business or asset that you sold in the last two years at less than full value.
- The names of everyone, adults or children, relatives, and non-relatives, who are living with you and make up your household.

### **ASK QUESTIONS**

If you do not understand something on the application or recertification forms, always ask questions. It is better to be safe than sorry. If you know of any violations or fraud being committed by participants, including owners, managers, or HOM employees, or if you have any questions on the subject, please contact our office.

