## TRANSITION AND OVERSIGHT AGREEMENT

## Between the United States Virgin Islands, the Virgin Islands Housing Authority and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

This Transition and Oversight Agreement, and the supplemental Transition and Oversight Agreement Action Plan, ("Agreement") is entered into between the United States Virgin Islands ("Territory"), the Virgin Islands Housing Authority ("VIHA") and the UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ("HUD") as of this 30<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014.

### RECITALS

WHEREAS, under the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended, ("Act"), 42 U.S.C. Section 1437 *et seq.*, HUD is responsible for administering low income housing programs, including but not limited to the Low Rent Public Housing Program and the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, and pursuant to the Act, HUD has entered into Annual Contributions Contracts ("ACCs") with VIHA to provide funding for the Section 8 and public housing programs; and

WHEREAS, VIHA was established by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands as a "Public Housing Agency" with the meaning of the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended, and a "local public agency" within the meaning of Title I of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended: and

WHEREAS On August 2, 2003, HUD notified VIHA that it was in substantial default of Section 15 under the Annual Contribution Contract ("ACC") for failure to produce reliable financial statements. VIHA also violated Section 15 (B) of the ACC when it failed to submit an acceptable unaudited financial statement for Fiscal Year 2002; and

**WHEREAS**, VIHA, under an Administrative Receivership as of August 20, 2003, has, to HUD's assessment, satisfactorily resolved the defaults with respect to its housing programs; and

WHEREAS, VIHA was assigned a "sub-standard" designation by HUD under the Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS), and therefore has been removed from "troubled" status; and

**WHEREAS**, the Secretary of HUD and the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands have determined that VIHA has made significant improvement to be self-supportive; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, the Territory, VIHA and HUD agree as follows:

- I. The Territory, VIHA and HUD shall cooperate and take all necessary actions to facilitate achievement of the objectives of this Agreement. The primary objective of this Agreement is to establish the terms by which VIHA's assets, projects, and programs will be transferred from HUD to a locally appointed Board of Commissioners.
- II. A projected Transition date of 5/30/2014 is established. The Transition Date may be postponed by HUD if it determines the circumstances in the Territory or at VIHA will not be conducive to a successful transition.
- III. The seven member, Governor appointed and Senate confirmed VIHA Board will be fully authorized as regular Commissioners to be effective on the Transition Date. In the event a Commissioner is unable or unwilling to serve as an appointed Commissioner, the Governor shall appoint an alternate. All Commissioners must receive sufficient Board training provided by HUD and/or a HUD selected trainer and a certification of successful completion of training. The Governor shall ensure all appointed Commissioners are free of Conflicts of Interest and Incompatibilities of Office and shall fill any future vacancies to the Board within ninety days.
- IV. On the Transition Date HUD shall relinquish assets, projects, and programs to VIHA, and the HUD appointed Board shall cease to serve as the VIHA Board.
- V. Prior to the transition date HUD, in collaboration with the Territory and VIHA, shall develop a Transition and Oversight Action Plan to ensure the sustainability of VIHA's recovery, outline additional technical assistance, and address any unresolved performance or compliance deficiencies of VIHA. This Transition and Oversight Action Plan shall be part of a Transition and Oversight Agreement that is executed by HUD, the Territory and VIHA. The Transition and Oversight Agreement shall be for a period of two years from the Transition Date. VIHA shall complete the actions included therein within the timeframes set forth.
- VI. Upon transition, HUD shall designate an Oversight Point of Contact for the duration of the Agreement to provide technical assistance and consultation to the VIHA Board and monitor the progress of VIHA in completing the Transition and Oversight Action Plan.
- VII. After HUD has returned possession to VIHA, HUD shall retain all rights granted under applicable statutes, regulations, and the ACC and will conduct audits, reviews, or assessments as appropriate or as required by statute or program regulations to determine compliance with this Agreement and/or any statute or program regulation.
- VIII. Failure of the Territory or VIHA to comply with this Agreement may result in HUD retaining possession of VIHA's assets, projects, and programs.
- IX. HUD, VIHA and the Territory are independent parties. No party is an employee or agent of any other party. Nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted to establish

- any relationship other than that of independent parties, between HUD, VIHA and the Territory, or between their respective employees, agents, contractors, partners, or assigns, during or after the performance of this Agreement.
- X. Notwithstanding any provisions of this Agreement to the contrary, the parties shall not be held liable for any failure or delay in the performance of this Agreement that arises from fires, floods, strikes, embargoes, acts of the public enemy, unusually severe weather, outbreak of war, restraint of Government, riots, civil commotion, force majeure, acts of God, or for any other cause of same character which is unavoidable through the exercise of due care and beyond the control of the parties, provided that said failure or delay in the performance of this Agreement attributed to any of the events described herein is acknowledged in writing by HUD. Upon the issuance of HUD's written acknowledgement, the failure to perform shall be deemed excused during the continuance of such circumstances as determined by HUD, but this Agreement shall otherwise remain in effect.
- XI. In the event any provisions of the Agreement shall conflict, or appear to conflict, the Agreement, including all exhibits, attachments and all other documents specifically incorporated by reference, shall be interpreted as a whole to resolve any inconsistency.
- XII. Failures or waivers to insist on strict performance of any covenant, condition, or provision of this Agreement by the parties, their successors and assigns shall not be deemed a waiver of any rights or remedies, nor shall it relieve the other parties from performing any subsequent obligations strictly in accordance with the term of this Agreement. No waiver shall be effective unless in writing and signed by the party against whom enforcement is sought. Such waiver shall be limited to provisions of the Agreement specifically referred to therein and shall not be deemed a waiver of any other provision. Should any term or provision of this Agreement be held, to any extent invalid or unenforceable, as against any person, entity or circumstance during the term hereof, by force of any statute, law, or ruling of any forum of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect any other term or provision of this Agreement, to the extent that the Agreement shall remain operable, enforceable and in full force and effect to the extent permitted by law.
- XIII. This Agreement may be amended only with the written approval of the parties hereto.
- XIV. This Agreement states the entire understanding and agreement between the parties and supersedes any and all written or oral representations, statements, negotiations, or agreements previously existing between the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement. However, this Agreement does not supersede, modify or amend the ACC as further described in Paragraph XVI. The parties recognize that any representations, statements or negotiations made by the staff of either party does not suffice to legally bind either party in a contractual relationship unless they have been reduced to writing and signed by their authorized representative (s). This Agreement

- shall inure to the benefit of and shall be binding upon the parties, their respective assigns, and successors in interest.
- XV. This Agreement may be executed and delivered in separate counterparts, each of which, when so executed and delivered, shall be an original, but such counterparts together shall constitute but one and the same instrument and agreement.
- XVI. This Agreement does not supersede, modify or amend the ACCs between HUD and VIHA, or in any way excuse VIHA from complying fully with its obligations under the ACC. HUD does not waive its statutory, regulatory, or contractual rights under the ACC. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall serve to limit, modify or preclude HUD's right to take any remedial action allowed by the ACC or any provision of the Act or related regulations.

By:

John P. deJongh, Governor, U.S. Virgin Islands

By:

Luis Sylvester, Board Chair, Virgin Islands Housing Authority

By:

Sandra B. Henriquez, Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing

By:

Antonio Cordova, Director, Public and Indian Housing, San Juan, PR

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties or their duly authorized representatives hereby

# Housing Authority of New Orleans Transition Agreement Action Plan

Number		,	T I Wichmant Data		
	er Objective	Measurement of Performance	Target Accompusament Date	Accomplishment  Date	Comments /Accomptishments
AREA:		NT			
Al	Appointed seven member Advisory Committee, to serve as the Board, trained and ready for full control	The Governor of the USVI selectes Advisory Committee committed to necessary training and successful governance of VIHA	5/30/2014		
22		ractor; provide a ncluding topics and I Minutes as a previous trainings	Duration of the transition agreement		
A3	Board hires an Executive Director for VIHA	Advertise vacancy and/or negotiate a contract for an Executive Director and report of selection process and provision of executed Employment Contract for Executive Director with start date of 8/1/2014	7/1/2014		
Α4	Enhanced Board communication of VIHA's performance, activities, and financial condition to the Governor	Monthly reporting provided to the Governor, including meeting minutes and necessary details of performance, activities and financial conditions of VIHA	Duration of the transition agreement		
A5		Quarterly face to face meetings between the Board and the Governor or designee, regarding the status of VIHA	Duration of the transition agreement		
A6	Ongoing, supportive relationship between HUD and the VIHA through continuous and consistent communication	HUD appointed POC and VIHA to engage in recurring monthly status meetings, wherein the PHA relationship and reports continue shall provide an agenda that focuses on the Agency's for the duration of the agreement performance, activities, financial condition and	HUD appoints POC by 7/1/2014; relationship and reports continue for the duration of the agreement		
A7		prepare the meeting minutes, and log the attendance sheet VIHA and local HUD Field Office meet on a regular basis to resolve issues, receive technical assistance and provide programmatic status updates	Duration of the transition agreement		
A8	Fully staffed Senior Leadership Team	Completed training for recent hires to senior level positions; provide a record of completed trainings, including topics and log of attendees	Duration of the transition agreement		
A9	Reduce expenditures to a level supported by the Agency's revenue streams and in line with Industry Standards	VIHA will develop a plan to reduce expenses	Plan developed by 9/30/2014;objectives complete by the end of the transition agreement		
A10		Develop and implement a staffing plan to "right size" the Agency	Plan developed by 9/30/2014; objectives complete by the end of the transition agreement		
All		Analyze costs and viability of all supportive services and seek private and public partners to sustain programs	Plan developed by 9/30/2014; objectives complete by the end of the transition agreement		
A12	Enhanced HUD oversight of VIHA performance to ensure sustainability	HUD will track various metrics of performance, including trending, to determine if performance continues to improve	Duration of the transition agreement		

# Housing Authority of New Orleans Transition Agreement Action Plan

		9/30/2014	Develop and implement written procedures and train 9/30/2014 all staff on same	Internal Controls	В8
		12/31/2014	Financial capacity of staff increased; provide a record of completed trainings, including topics and log of attendees		В7
		12/31/2014	Staff proficient in Agency's software systems; provide a record of completed trainings, including topics and log of attendees or evidence of mentoring from peer PHA	Staff Development	В6
		12/31/2014	VIHA to work with contractor to develop a strategy and recommendations to resolve any outstanding issues with the EPC	Resolve Energy Performance Contract (EPC) issues	B5
		9/30/2014 and then throughout the duration of the transition agreement for any new issues/findings.	Demonstrated all audits and recommendations have been corrected or addressed; and procedures to track, resolve, remedy, and clear future audit findings	Resolve OIG and IPA audits	B4
		Duration of the transition agreement		Timely Annual Budgets	ВЗ
		Duration of the transition agreement	Monthly Reports to the Board and HOD snowing the agency's Aging Report including all outstanding payments to vendors and duration elapsed since invoice received	Timely payments	B2
		Duration of the transition agreement		Accurate and timely monthly financial reports	AREA: FINANCE Accurate B1 financial
		9/30/2014	nd executive director to work with r's staff to update the Cooperation nt between the Territory and VIHA	Updated Cooperation Agreement	A14
		Duration of the transition agreement	d identify d	Adopt policies that further the mission of VIHA and comply with applicable rules, regulations and	A13
Comments /Accomplishments	Actual Accomplishment Date	Target Accomplishment Date	Measurement of Performance	Objective	Item Number

# Housing Authority of New Orleans Transition Agreement Action Plan

Item Number	Objective	Measurement of Performance	Target Accomplishment Date	Actual Accomplishment Date	Comments /Accomplishments
AREA: H	AREA: HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM	ROGRAM			
	Maximize Utilization of the	letailed utilization reports to Board and	Duration of the transition		
0	Program within funding	HUD showing actual and projected expenses and	agreement		
	appropriations and baseline unit	unit month utilization for the calendar year			
3	Improve Quality Control for HCV	Prepare and deliver to HUD a comprehensive quality 9/30/2014	9/30/2014		
7.7	compliance	control plan for HCV operations.			
3	Maintain "High" performance	HUD on SEMAP	Duration of the transition		
C	designation on SEMAP		agreement		
AREA: A	AREA: ASSET MANAGEMENT				
	Continue Full Transition to Asset	VIHA develops and implements Asset Management   10/31/2014	10/31/2014		
	Management	Plan which includes project-based budgeting,			
D1		accounting, management and performance			
		assessment. VIHA provides monthly status updates			
		to Board and HUD			
D2	Staff Development	Staff trained in contract management; provide a record of completed trainings, including topics and	10/31/2014		
		log of attendees			
7		Staff proficient in Agency's software systems; provide a record of completed trainings, including	10/31/2014		
D3		topics and log of attendees or evidence of mentoring from neer PHA			
AREA: I	AREA: DEVELOPMENT				
E1	Updated Real Estate Development/Reposition Plan	Finalized Real Estate Development Plan with input from stakeholders and staff, and based on currently	12/1/2014		
	1000	conditions, priorities, and funding			