

Section 3

What is Section 3?

Section 3 is a provision of the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Act of 1968 that helps foster local economic development, neighborhood economic improvement, and individual self-sufficiency. The Section 3 program requires that recipients of certain HUD financial assistance, to the greatest extent feasible, provide job training, employment, and contracting opportunities for low- or very-low income residents in connection with projects and activities in their neighborhoods.

Triggering the Requirements of Section 3

Section 3 is triggered when the normal completion of construction and rehabilitation projects creates the need for **new** employment, contracting, or training opportunities.

The Section 3 regulations should not be construed to mean that recipients are required to hire Section 3 residents or award contracts to Section 3 businesses other than what is needed to complete covered projects/activities.

If the expenditure of covered funding does not result in new employment, contracting, or training opportunities, the requirements of Section 3 have not been triggered. However, each agency must still submit Section 3 annual reports indicating this information.

Applicability of Section 3 to Community Planning & Development Assistance

The requirements of Section 3 apply to recipients of HUD Community Planning and Development funding exceeding **\$200,000**.

Section 3 covered projects are those in which a (or aggregate) amount of covered funding exceeding \$200,000, is invested into activities involving **housing construction, demolition, rehabilitation, or other public construction—i.e., roads, sewers, community centers, etc.**

[Example: Section 3 applies to the combined investment of more than \$200,000 into multiple single-family housing rehabilitation projects during a program year].

Contractors or subcontractors that receive contracts in excess of **\$100,000** for Section 3 covered projects/activities are required to comply with the Section 3 regulations in the same manner as direct recipients.

Accordingly, the recipient must attempt to reach the Section 3 minimum numerical goals found at 24 CFR Part 135.30 by: 1) Awarding 10 percent of the total dollar amount of all covered construction contracts to Section 3 businesses; and 2) Offering 30 percent of new employment opportunities to Section 3 businesses.

Section 3 Residents Are:

1. Residents of Public and Indian Housing; or
2. Individuals that reside in the metropolitan area or nonmetropolitan county in which the Section 3 covered assistance is expended and whose income do not exceed the local HUD income limits set forth for low- or very low-income households.

Section 3 Business Concerns Are One of the Following:

1. Businesses that are 51 percent or more owned by Section 3 residents;
2. Businesses whose permanent, full-time employees include persons, at least 30 percent of whom are currently Section 3 residents, or within three years of the date of first employment with the firm were Section 3 residents; or
3. Businesses that provide evidence of a commitment to subcontract in excess of 25 percent of the dollar amount of all subcontracts to be awarded to businesses that meet the qualifications described above.