

Section 3 - Economic Opportunities

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.

Download Section 3 information from HUD's website: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/section3/section3.cfm>

How does Section 3 promote self- sufficiency?

Section 3 is a starting point to obtain job training, employment and contracting opportunities. From this integral foundation coupled with other resources comes the opportunity for economic advancement and self-sufficiency.

- Federal, state and local programs
- Advocacy groups
- Community and faith-based organizations

How does Section 3 promote homeownership?

Section 3 is a starting point to homeownership. Once a Section 3 resident has obtained employment or contracting opportunities they have begun the first step to self-sufficiency.

Who are Section 3 residents?

Section 3 residents are:

- Public housing residents or
- Persons who live in the area where a HUD-assisted project is located and who have a household income that falls below [HUD's low-mod income limits](#).

Determining Income Levels

- Low income is defined as 80% or below the median income of that area.
- Very low income is defined as 50% or below the median income of that area.

What is a Section 3 business concern?

A business that:

- Is 51 percent or more owned by Section 3 residents;
- Employs Section 3 residents for at least 30 percent of its full-time, permanent staff; or
- Provides evidence of a commitment to subcontract to Section 3 business concerns, 25 percent or more of the dollar amount of the awarded contract.

What programs are covered?

Section 3 applies to HUD-funded Public and Indian Housing assistance for development, operating, and modernization expenditures.

Section 3 also applies to certain HUD-funded Housing and Community Development projects that complete housing rehabilitation, housing construction, and other public construction.

What types of economic opportunities are available under Section 3?

- Job training
- Employment
- Contracts

Any employment resulting from these expenditures, including administration, management, clerical support, and construction, is subject to compliance with Section 3.

Examples of Opportunities include:

- Accounting
- Architecture
- Appliance repair
- Bookkeeping
- Bricklaying
- Carpentry
- Carpet Installation
- Catering
- Cement/Masonry
- Computer/Information
- Demolition
- Drywall
- Electrical
- Elevator Construction
- Engineering
- Fencing
- Florists
- Heating
- Iron Works
- Janitorial
- Landscaping
- Machine Operation
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Painting
- Payroll Photography
- Plastering
- Plumbing
- Printing Purchasing
- Research
- Surveying
- Tile setting
- Transportation
- Word processing

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More about Section 3:

- 24 CFR 135
- Section 3 Summary Report

Requirement of the Florida Small Cities and Disaster Recovery CDBG Programs

Any recipient of CDBG funds that has an open grant must report Section 3 activities to the Department by July 31 each year using the Section 3 Summary Report form. The reports received from grant recipients will be summarized by the Department and submitted to HUD with the Annual Performance Report. The following information may assist you in completing the Section 3 Summary Report form:

- Section 3 persons are individuals from households with low or very low income. The Section 8 income limits are used to define low income. Section 3 is “race and gender” neutral.
- If CDBG funds are used for one of the covered activities – housing rehab, housing construction or public construction – a report must be completed.
 - If the funds awarded to a contractor are under \$200,000, no activity needs to be reported. If the funds awarded to a subcontractor are under \$100,000, no activity needs to be reported.
 - If a local government hires an employee that will have any oversight or administrative responsibilities relating to the covered activities, the local government should report Section 3 activity.
- A permanent employee may be an employee hired for full time work on a temporary basis or an employee hired for full time work on the job site whether temporary or permanent.
- Grant recipients and the contractors they work with should attempt to provide employment opportunities to Section 3 persons or businesses when possible. (Job announcements, bid language, etc., may reference that priority will be given to Section 3 persons or businesses.)
 - Grant recipients are not required to set numerical goals nor are they required to have a Section 3 plan. This, however, does not exempt a local government from the requirement to attempt to make economic opportunities available for Section 3 persons or businesses within the area.
- The area or jurisdiction is typically the county or the region surrounding the work to be paid for with CDBG funding OR the county or region nearest to the address of the recipient. Grant recipients may want to give preference to Section 3 individuals or businesses having the same zip code as a way of show preference.
- Grant recipients will have to work closely with contractors in order to be able to report on Section 3 activities. The Department provides a form that contractors may complete to provide information regarding their Section 3 activities.
 - When contractors submit bids, they should state whether or not it will be necessary for them to employ an additional workers. If a contractor believes that additional employees may be necessary, they should indicate in the bid that they will give preference to hiring low income persons within the area.
- Individuals who have been receiving public assistance may meet the definition of Section 3.
- Any contract reported on the Contractual Obligations and Minority Business Enterprise report that is reflected as a Section 3 business should be reported on during the fiscal year in which the contract was awarded.
- The exclusion for minor rehab does not typically apply to CDBG since the housing unit is usually brought up to the local building code. Minor rehab consists of replacing broken windows, fixing a leaking roof, and other such repairs.