

From: Richard Williams [<mailto:richard@VSHA.ORG>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:19 PM
To: helen@helenhead.com
Subject: Administration of Federal Rental Subsidies

Dear Helen,

You may recall I came before your committee in 2012 seeking legislative assistance to preserve the administration of federal project-based rental subsidies. At that time our role was threatened by HUD's contemplation of awarding the administration contract on a regional basis to housing authorities from other states or their nominally private instrumentalities. With your assistance the Legislature responded by requiring that any prime contract for administration of subsidies in Vermont be administered by a State Public body.

Our amended statute was not tested and HUD accepted VSHA bid to continue to serve as the Statewide Project Based Housing Administrator for Vermont.

Today, however the issue has again raised its head. Inspired by an unfortunate court decision and asserting efficient, unified operation of the Section 8 Performance Based Contract Administration (PBCA) as its rationale, HUD seems determined to award regional contracts to one PBCA per jurisdiction or perhaps to one national contract.

We have been exploring with other state housing agencies in the northeast and New York on ways to assure that the administration of these subsidies are by public entities of individual states. An issue for each State is the power under its own State authorizing legislation to participate in any joint construct that would give us the best chance to serve our constituents. Under VSHA section 4005 as it stands, it is questionable whether VSHA could agree to operate or to join in the operation of an organization outside of Vermont's borders.

I would like to speak with you regarding an amendment to expand the powers of Vermont State Housing Authority. To amend 24 V.S.A. Chapter 113 Section 4005 (e) to allow VSHA to participate (as a prime contractor, partner, or subcontractor) and add a new subsection (f) that would extend our authority to include the general powers of a non-profit corporation which would allow the VSHA to participate in a joint venture and to operate outside the State for the purpose of administration of federal housing subsidies.

I have attached a letter that provides you with additional information and a proposed amendment to the powers of VSHA.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Regards,

Richard

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