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### **NAHMA LEGISLATIVE ACTION: RHS Access to the EIV System**

**Please support language to allow USDA-Rural Housing Service (RHS) access to the Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system in the FY 2011 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.**

- The Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) EIV system is used for income verification in HUD's public housing and rental assistance programs.
- EIV is used to check tenants' reported income against Social Security (SS), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), new hires (W-4), and wage and unemployment compensation records.
- The income-matching program has already demonstrated an increase in savings to the program and an improvement in rental subsidy accuracy in a short period.
- However, RHS is not a part of the interagency computer matching agreements needed to access EIV. Therefore, EIV cannot be used to verify tenant incomes for the Rural Housing rental assistance program.
  - NAHMA understands that RHS has already requested a statutory change to access EIV. The statutory change would allow RHS to use the SSA and HHS databases for income matching in its rural housing programs.
  - Without access to this information, housing providers may miss unreported income of RHS' tenants due to inaccurate or incomplete information.
  - Granting RHS access to the system would simplify an owner or agent's job if they could use EIV for income verification for all tenants in affordable housing communities with mixed-financing.
- With so many families in need of assistance, it is in the best interest of public policy to ensure that the correct subsidies are provided only to qualified families.

**Therefore, we strongly support the inclusion of language to authorize USDA-RHS access to the interagency databases in HUD's EIV System to verify tenants' income eligibility for housing programs administered by USDA in the FY 2011 Agriculture Appropriations Bills.**