



## Notification TRACS Forum Implementation Delayed

### 1. What Is The TRACS Forum?

The Office of Multifamily Housing Programs (MFH) is re-establishing the TRACS Forum to encourage information exchange between owners, property management agents, contract administrators, state housing finance agencies, housing and community development researchers, academics, policymakers, and affordable housing practitioners.

The TRACS Forum invites stakeholders to share their expertise, experiences, and knowledge to identify best practices, promote better decision-making, spark innovation, and improve the administration of MFH rental assistance programs, community development, urban planning, and other housing-related issues.

### 2. Why Is TRACS Forum Deployment Delayed?

MFH deployed the re-established TRACS Forum into the HUD development environment to complete final software configuration before deployment to production.

In May 2020, MFH invited stakeholders and HUD MFH staff to conduct User Acceptance Testing (UAT) of the re-established TRACS Forum. UAT validates the forum's functionality based upon the user's perspective.

MFH discovered two minimal issues during UAT:

- **User Requests for Membership:** Stakeholders cannot submit membership requests directly to designated TRACS Forum Administrators. MFH is working with HUD Infrastructure Team to correct configuration so that a user can request membership, and an authorized MFH TRACS Forum Administrator will review and approve membership requests.



- **The Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO) Security Review:** Once the TRACS Forum software configuration is complete, the OCIO Security Office must complete a security review of the re-established TRACS Forum once final configuration is completed. System security plans are living documents that require periodic inspection, modification, and methods of corrective actions and milestones for implementing security controls.

### **3. What Is The New TRACS Forum Deployment Schedule?**

Currently, there is no definitive timeline to resolve the minor deployment issues mentioned above; consequently, MFH cannot meet its commitment to deploy the re-established TRACS Forum by September 30, 2020; thus, MFH is announcing a delay in the deployment of the TRACS Forum until the calendar year-end December 31, 2020.

### **4. How Will You Keep Me Informed About The TRACS Forum Deployment?**

MFH will post notifications to the HUD TRACS web page and coordinate notification and status updates with the affordable housing stakeholders: the National Council of Housing Finance Agencies; National Affordable Housing Management Association (NAHMA); National Leased Housing Association (NLHA); and National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC).

The URL for the TRACS web page is:

[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/housing/mfh/trx/trxsum](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/housing/mfh/trx/trxsum)

### **5. Multifamily Housing Help Desk Support 1-800-767-7588**

Any questions and/or requests for technical assistance should be directed to a Help Desk Analyst during normal business hours.