



## **Sabbatical-in-Residence Program**

**Agency: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

**Program Office: Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R)**

The Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) invites scholars and academics to apply for its Sabbatical-in-Residence program. Through this program, researchers on sabbatical have the opportunity to work within PD&R to advance current HUD policy and assist the agency in the transfer and use of new technologies and approaches to solving governmental problems.

Assignments will be made under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Mobility Program, an effective avenue for involving the academic community in the development and implementation of federal policy and programs. Placement of employees of institutions of higher education and other nonprofits within HUD provides a unique opportunity to partner with the agency in expanding its capacity to fulfill its mission. IPA assignees benefit from program and developmental experience that enhances their regular work.

The Department, with endorsement by the President, has identified several national challenges in

the economic, social, and energy areas that will require a more expansive role for housing and community development. HUD wishes to engage researchers with specific knowledge and expertise to advance policy development in each of the following areas:

**Multifamily Housing Finance:** While the impact of the housing crisis on single-family ownership has received considerable focus, much less attention is given to the plight of multifamily properties and that particular market segment. In light of the fact that this segment of the real estate market is significantly stressed, HUD seeks to involve researchers with knowledge and experience in studying this property type.

**Affordable Housing Finance:** The Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) has become a collateral victim of the housing crisis. Many of the largest investors no longer significantly participate in the program, resulting in a large decline in the price for tax credits. Consequently, developers and state agencies find themselves with projects that are not financially viable. The Department seeks researchers with expertise in affordable housing finance, production, and preservation of affordable rental housing.

**Cost-Effectiveness:** The recent decline in the economy and scarce federal resources for discretionary programs add to the importance of finding ways to maximize the cost-effectiveness of HUD's programs. One dimension of this is understanding how the provision of housing results in cost savings in other federal, state, and local programs. Researchers with interests or agendas focusing on this issue are sought.

**Elderly Issues:** With the aging of the baby boomers and the problems facing seniors, the ability to identify adequate and affordable housing options has become a critical housing issue. Current projections indicate that 70 percent of people currently turning 65 will need long-term care or supportive services at some point during their remaining lifetime. In a recent survey of 1.21 million elderly households, health and housing issues related to growing older surfaced. To address these concerns, HUD can benefit from additional expertise. HUD seeks researchers with agendas on housing and elderly populations, including service provision and issues associated with aging in place.

**Sustainability:** HUD is interested in identifying researchers with expertise in how the implementation of particular zoning, land use, and coordinated transportation/ housing planning strategies translate into behavioral changes among the citizenry. Those with a background in the study of how sustainable development and living principles affect social interactions and personal choices are also encouraged to apply for this opportunity.

While these issues are of particular priority, candidates with expertise and interests in other areas may also be selected. Thus, scholars with interests relevant to HUD and its mission beyond those highlighted above are strongly encouraged to apply.

## **BACKGROUND**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality, affordable homes for all. Supporting HUD's mission, the

Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research (PD&R) is the principal advisor to the Secretary on Departmental policy, program evaluation, and research. This responsibility includes:

- analyzing and recommending new and revised policies, programs and legislative proposals;
- developing a robust, comprehensive research agenda and administering this program through technical and experimental studies and demonstrations;
- providing economic intelligence and analysis for Departmental use; and
- serving as the focal point within the Department for coordination of research and program evaluation with other federal agencies, public and private organizations, the housing industry and financial markets, as well as international organizations and other countries.

### **APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS:**

This assignment is temporary and designed to be encumbered in a full-time capacity for a time period ranging from three to twelve months. This assignment is nonreimbursable and applicants are responsible for all salary, travel, housing, and other related provisions.

To receive full consideration for this opportunity, interested applicants must prepare and submit a brief statement outlining their specific skill and knowledge related to the current challenges facing the Department and to the applicable area of focus identified above, and explain how their

experience would be beneficial. Applicants must also detail their college/university sabbatical rules and regulations. PD&R will determine, at its discretion, the selection of program participants. Once selected, the participant, in concert with the college/university, will sign the Assignment Agreement (OF-69) which constitutes the written record of the obligations and responsibilities of the parties to the assignment.

**Any questions about the program and/or completed applications should be submitted by December 31, 2010 via e-mail to [sabbatical@huduser.org](mailto:sabbatical@huduser.org)**

**OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

- Assignments will be made by Headquarters staff in Washington, DC, but work may take place in HUD's Regional/Field Offices.
- The college or university will be responsible for salary and benefits.
- As appropriate through the IPA Mobility Program, PD&R can supplement the successful applicant's salary and cover travel and living expenses.
- These assignments may be terminated at any time by either party.
- Participation in this program does not infer employment with the federal government and the successful applicant will continue to be employed by his/her current employer.