

Sample Comment Letter
Proposed Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Assessment Tool
Modified 11/14

Regulations Division
Office of General Counsel
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street SW
Room 10276
Washington, DC 20410-0500

Via regulations.gov <http://www.regulations.gov/#!submitComment;D=HUD-2014-0080-0001>

[Date]

Re: Docket No. FR-5173-N-02, Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Assessment Tool

[Short paragraph describing your organization]

[Your organization] supports the proposed Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Assessment Tool because it will provide clear guidance to jurisdictions, advocates, and especially to the residents who federal funds are intended to assist.

[Your organization] endorses all efforts to improve the ability of low income people, particularly residents of the protected classes, to move to high opportunity areas.

[Your organization] thinks that the Assessment Tool needs additional language to ensure that low income people, especially people in the protected classes, have the full range of housing choices available to them. We suggest that the Assessment Tool add questions that will guide a jurisdiction to determine whether residents of affordable housing would prefer to rehabilitate and preserve their buildings and remain in the neighborhoods they have long called home. If residents of public and assisted housing choose to remain in their homes, often in neighborhoods where they have social, cultural, and language networks, then AFFH should respect their choice.

[Your organization] also suggests that the proposed Assessment Tool add questions that take into account community-based neighborhood revitalization efforts and consider such efforts as valuable community assets.

As proposed, we are concerned that the Assessment Tool could be misinterpreted to prevent community revitalization efforts by well-established community-based development organizations. We also fear that the Assessment Tool could be misinterpreted to prevent efforts to preserve federally assisted housing that many long-time residents call home and want to continue to call home.

The preamble to the proposed Assessment Tool specifically asks for comments regarding the community participation section of the Assessment Tool. [Your organization] recommends the comments submitted by the National Low Income Housing Coalition. [Alternatively, pick and choose some specific suggestions NLIHC offers, or provide your own suggestions.]