

**MEMORANDUM  
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ON BEHALF OF THE  
Placer County Housing Authority**

**TO:** Placer County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

**FROM:** Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H.  
Placer County Health Officer and Director of Health and Human Services  
Bob Dunstan, Human Services Director

**DATE:** August 5, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Placer County Housing Authority: Information on Program Oversight Responsibilities for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program

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**ACTION REQUESTED:**

1. Receive information from Smart, Inc., a technical assistance contractor from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), detailing the required duties and responsibilities for oversight of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.
2. Receive information from the Housing Authority staff providing an update on the Housing Authority's status.

**BACKGROUND:**

One of the requirements given by HUD to Smart, Inc. is to provide the Board with information on the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, including the responsibilities of the Board in overseeing this program. Additionally, one of the responsibilities the Housing Authority has to the Board is to provide periodic status reports, which is included in the accompanying information for your Board's review.

The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program is the federal government's major program for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Since housing assistance is provided on behalf of the family or individual, participants are able to find their own housing, including single-family homes, townhouses, and apartments. The participants are free to choose any housing that meets the requirements of the program and are not limited to units located in subsidized housing projects.

Housing Choice Vouchers are administered locally. The County receives federal funds from HUD to administer the voucher program. Pursuant to the 1998 Federal Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act, all housing authorities must submit a self-assessment of program performance and must pass a certain threshold to be considered "standard" or "high performing." Last year, Placer County was found to be "troubled" and HUD has since provided technical assistance and support through a subcontractor, Smart, Inc. Together with County staff, Smart, Inc. is assisting the County to return to "standard" status.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no cost associated with today's request that the Board receive information from Smart, Inc.

A copy of this information is on file with the Clerk of the Board.

