

February 27, 2003

ALABAMA CDBG INTERGOVERNMENTAL
POLICY LETTER NUMBER 18

REVISION 4

TO: Persons Interested in State CDBG Program

FROM: John D. Harrison
Director

POLICY ON NEW RESIDENTIAL WATER AND SEWER HOOKUPS
(SERVICE CONNECTIONS) IN CDBG PROJECTS

This notice is issued to clarify and/or amend the provisions of Policy Letter No. 18, Revision. 3, dated February 12, 2002, regarding the State's Rehabilitation Policy on household connections. It is the State's policy to require a CDBG grantee, as a part of new public facilities construction, to hookup (connect) Low and Moderate Income persons' residential structures on to water distribution lines and/or local sewer collection lines. This activity must be done for all verified LMI persons in the approved project area in accordance with the locality's approved Policies on Household Connections. This policy may also establish a reasonable ceiling for hookups. CDBG grant funds may be used for the hookup of low and moderate income households. However, CDBG funds may not be used to hookup high income households.

The units to be connected will not have to meet Section 8 Minimum Housing Quality Standards in order to be eligible to receive this assistance. However, such connections are considered to be housing rehabilitation and must be so designated as a separate activity. In those instances where connections are to be made to sewer collection lines, either a licensed plumber or qualified plumbing inspector must certify that the drain, waste, and venting system for each unit is safe. For all hookups, the necessary legal Right-of-Entry permits, income certification, etc. should be secured prior to construction from the individual property owners.

If a homeowner refuses the hookup, a plumbing inspection, or necessary repairs/connections, that unit cannot be connected. Further, if the cost of hookup exceeds the established ceiling and the homeowner does not wish to contribute the additional funds, the locality is not required to provide the hookup. Whenever a household connection is refused, a written refusal of service will be required. If a signed statement cannot be obtained, a written explanation signed by the chief elected official should be placed in the program files.

Reconnections are not subject to this policy letter. Reconnections are considered a construction activity caused or necessitated by the project's design for existing water and/or sewer projects.

Attachments: Sample Owner Certification
Sample Right of Entry Permit
Sample Refusal of Service
Sample Income Certification

Effective Date: Projects Funded in FY 2003 Program Year and Thereafter.