

SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 4

Agenda

Senator Richard Roth, Chair
Senator Richard Pan
Senator Janet Nguyen



Addendum to Part B

Wednesday, May 20, 2015
10:00 AM

State Capitol - Rose Ann Vuich Hearing Room 2040

Consultant: Farra Bracht

Department of Housing and Community Development

Issue 1 – Farmworker Housing

Background: The Office of Migrant Services (OMS) provides safe, decent and affordable seasonal rental housing and support services for migrant farmworker families during the peak harvest season. Counties, housing authorities and grower associations typically provide land for migrant centers as an in-kind contribution. HCD owns the structures and currently there are 23 of these centers statewide. Child day care and after-school support services are typically available. Tenants are charged a subsidized, affordable daily rent. HCD contracts annually with local operating agencies and provides grants for OMS center operation, paid from the State General Fund and from OMS rental income. Occupancy is normally limited to 6 months per year.

In addition, some counties operate farm worker housing centers. For example, Napa County operates three centers which provide 180 clean and safe beds for unaccompanied workers employed by Napa County's wine industry. The operating budget for the three centers is \$1,253,787 and is funded by income from rental fees (\$542,904) and an assessment on growers within a district (\$452,000) of \$10.00 per acre as established in state legislation. Contributions from the county, local funds, and private donations make up the balance of the funding. Currently there is an operational shortfall of \$225,000.

Staff Questions:

1. Are you aware of other counties that operate farm worker housing centers?
2. Is state OMS funding limited to state-owned facilities and/or facilities that provide family housing? Would non-state-owned facilities be eligible for state OMS funding? Is this in statute or is this an internal HCD policy?

Staff Comment: Napa County currently does not receive any Office of Migrant Services funding from HCD. A general fund augmentation of \$225,000 would help to address the operational shortfall of their three farm worker centers and ensure the ongoing viability of this housing partnership and the farm labor supply in Napa County.

Staff Recommendation:**Vote:**