Section 3 Opportunity Portal Home United States Department

Section 3 Housing and Community Development Employer Certification Form	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Field Policy and Management	HUD FORM 4736A OMB Approval Number 2501-XXXXX0041 (Exp. XXXXXXXXX04/30/2025)

(In compliance with Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968 and 24 CFR Part 75)

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Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (Section 3), and 12 U.S.C. § 1701u ensure that employment and other economic opportunities generated by Federal financial assistance for housing and community development programs are, to the greatest extent feasible, directed toward low- and very low-income persons, particularly those who receive government assistance for housing. The regulations are found at 24 CFR Part 75. This collection of information is required in order to ensure that a worker can be certified as an eligible Section 3 worker as outlined in 24 C.F.R. § 75.31. The in-formation will be used by the Department to ensure compliance with Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968 employer certification requirements listed in 24 CFR § 75.31, to assess the results of the Department's efforts to meet the statutory objectives of Section 3, to prepare reports to Congress, and by recipients to ensure they are complying with their recordkeeping requirements found in the regulation, and as a self-monitoring tool.

Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions to reduce this burden, to Anna P. Guido, Reports Management Officer, QDAM, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW, Room 4176, Washington, DC 20410-5000. When providing comments, please refer to OMB Approval No. XXXX-XXXX. HUD may not conduct and sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection displays a valid control number. No assurances of confidentiality are provided for this information collection.

The purpose of this form is to comply with Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968 employer certification requirements listed in 24 CFR § 75.31. To qualify as a Section 3 worker, the United States legal resident's annual income must not exceed the HUD income limits for the year before the worker was hired, or the individual's current income annualized on a full-time basis for the year must be below the HUD income limit. Additionally, an individual can qualify as a Section 3 worker and Targeted Section 3 worker, if an employee of a Section 3 Business Concern. To qualify as a Targeted Section 3 worker, an employer can confirm that the employee lives within the service area or neighborhood of the project.

Please provide the following information about the business/employer:

Name of Business: _____

_____

Street Address   City   State   Zip

Understanding the Section 3 Opportunity Portal: A Gateway to Economic Empowerment

The **Section 3 Opportunity Portal** is an initiative from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) aimed at promoting economic development, job creation, and self-sufficiency for low- and very low-income individuals and the communities they reside in. This program is part of the broader Section 3 regulations, which require that certain HUD-funded projects provide jobs and other economic opportunities to those who are most in need.

The Section 3 Opportunity Portal is designed to connect eligible individuals and businesses with job opportunities and resources available through federally funded projects. Understanding the portal and its offerings is crucial for both potential beneficiaries and contractors involved in HUD-funded projects.

What is Section 3?

Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 is a federal law that seeks to ensure that economic opportunities generated by HUD funding are provided to low-income individuals and residents of public housing. The core goals of Section 3 include:

- Creating employment opportunities for low-income individuals.

- Encouraging training and support for job seekers.

- Promoting the growth of small businesses within low-income communities.

Through these objectives, Section 3 aims to foster self-sufficiency and economic independence among disadvantaged populations.

Features of the Section 3 Opportunity Portal

The Section 3 Opportunity Portal serves as a digital hub for individuals and businesses looking for opportunities created by HUD-funded projects. The portal offers several key features that facilitate connections and enhance access to economic opportunities:

1. Job Listings

The portal provides a comprehensive database of job openings related to HUD-funded projects. Users can search for jobs based on various criteria, including:

- Location

- Type of work

- Skill level required

This feature allows individuals to find suitable employment opportunities that match their skills and needs.

2. Business Opportunities

In addition to job listings, the portal includes information on contracting opportunities for small businesses. Businesses can find:

- Requests for proposals (RFPs)

- Bid opportunities

- Partnership opportunities with larger contractors

This is particularly beneficial for minority-owned and women-owned businesses seeking to expand their reach and take advantage of federal contracts.

3. Training Resources

To ensure that individuals are prepared for the job market, the portal offers access to various training programs and resources. These may include:

- Workshops on resume writing and interview skills

- Vocational training programs

- Certifications in specific trades or skills

By providing these resources, the Section 3 Opportunity Portal aims to enhance the employability of participants.

4. Networking Opportunities

The portal also facilitates networking among job seekers, businesses, and community organizations. This includes:

- Community events and job fairs

- Networking sessions to connect job seekers with employers

- Opportunities to engage with local workforce development boards

These networking opportunities are essential for building relationships that can lead to employment and business growth.

How to Access the Section 3 Opportunity Portal

Accessing the Section 3 Opportunity Portal is straightforward. Here's how individuals and businesses can get started:

1. **Visit the Portal**: Navigate to the official Section 3 Opportunity Portal website.

2. **Create an Account**: Users need to create an account to access job listings and submit applications. This process typically requires basic personal information.

3. **Complete Your Profile**: Individuals should fill out their profiles with their skills, work experience, and job preferences. Businesses should provide information about their services and areas of expertise.

4. **Search for Opportunities**: Use the search feature to find jobs or contracts that match your profile.

5. **Apply:** Submit applications for jobs or proposals for contracts through the portal.

By following these steps, users can effectively navigate the portal and access the resources available to them.

The Importance of the Section 3 Opportunity Portal

The Section 3 Opportunity Portal plays a critical role in promoting economic mobility for low-income individuals and communities. Its importance can be highlighted in several ways:

1. Empowerment Through Employment

By facilitating access to job opportunities, the portal empowers individuals to gain employment, leading to increased financial stability and self-sufficiency. This is particularly vital in communities that have historically faced barriers to employment.

2. Supporting Local Economies

The portal's emphasis on connecting small businesses with contracting opportunities helps to stimulate local economies. By encouraging the growth of businesses within low-income communities, the portal contributes to job creation and economic development.

3. Building Skills for the Future

The training resources available through the portal ensure that individuals are equipped with the skills necessary to compete in the job market. This focus on skill-building is essential for long-term economic success and workforce development.

Challenges and Considerations

While the Section 3 Opportunity Portal offers numerous benefits, there are challenges that need to be addressed:

1. Awareness and Accessibility

Many potential beneficiaries may not be aware of the portal or how to access it. Increasing awareness through community outreach and education is essential to ensure that those who could benefit from the resources are informed.

2. Digital Divide

Access to the internet and digital literacy can be barriers for some individuals, particularly in underserved communities. Efforts must be made to provide support and resources to help these individuals navigate the digital landscape.

3. Evaluation of Effectiveness

Ongoing evaluation of the portal's effectiveness in connecting individuals and businesses to opportunities is crucial. Collecting data on job placements, business growth, and participant satisfaction can help to refine and improve the portal's offerings.

Conclusion

The Section 3 Opportunity Portal is a vital resource for promoting economic empowerment among low-income individuals and communities. By providing access to job listings, training resources, and business opportunities, the portal plays a significant role in fostering self-sufficiency and community development. As the portal continues to evolve, addressing challenges and enhancing accessibility will be key to ensuring that it effectively serves those who need it most. Through collective efforts, we can harness the potential of the Section 3 Opportunity Portal to create a more inclusive and equitable economy for all.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Section 3 Opportunity Portal?

The Section 3 Opportunity Portal is an online platform provided by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to connect low-income individuals and businesses with job opportunities, training, and economic development initiatives funded by federal assistance.

Who can benefit from the Section 3 Opportunity Portal?

Individuals and businesses that qualify as low-income, as well as public housing residents and participants in HUD programs, can benefit from the resources and opportunities available on the Section 3 Opportunity Portal.

How do I access the Section 3 Opportunity Portal?

You can access the Section 3 Opportunity Portal by visiting the HUD website and navigating to the Section 3 resources section, where you can find links to the portal and additional information.

What types of opportunities are available through the Section 3 Opportunity Portal?

The portal offers various opportunities including job listings, training programs, and resources for starting or expanding a business, all aimed at enhancing economic self-sufficiency for low-income individuals.

Is there any cost associated with using the Section 3 Opportunity Portal?

No, accessing the Section 3 Opportunity Portal and the resources it provides is free of charge for eligible users.

How can businesses get involved with the Section 3 Opportunity Portal?

Businesses can participate by registering on the portal, posting job openings, and engaging in partnerships with local organizations and government agencies to promote economic opportunities for Section 3 residents.

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