

NAHRO'S 1968 NATIONAL HOUSING WORKSHOP

How Are the HAA Social Goals Being Implemented in Public Housing?

Round Table Discussion Thursday, November 7 - 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Updating Management Policies and Practices

- What LHA policies and procedures need to be changed? -which policies are most offensive to the residents? -which policies should be eliminated? -which policies should be simplified?
- 2. How can residents assist in determining which procedures should be changed?
- 3. How can the administrative policies be liberalized to enable over income residents to remain when there is no suitable housing on the private market? -should a minor's income be counted as income?
- 4. What is the most equitable rent system and income re-examination? -how often should a resident's income be re-examined? -is a flat rent system preferable to graded rents?
- 5. How can applications be simplified? Which information can be eliminated? -criminal records? -illegitimate children? -addict or alcoholic in family?
- 6. How can leases be simplified? Are resident handbooks effective in communicating LHA policies to residents? -what should resident handbooks include? -what are residents' rights and responsibilities in the lease? -what are the LHA's responsibilities and powers in the lease?
- 7. Can damage and surcharges and security deposits be eliminated? -what maintenance services are the responsibility of the LHA, as the lessor?
- 8. How can housing be made more secure for resident safety? -change of locks each time a unit is vacated? -appoint a resident building superintendent in each building? -create or enlarge an LHA security guard? -can residents be security guards? -lock outside doors at specific times and give tenants keys?
- 9. What kind of procedure should be established in order that residents and applicants may receive a hearing on complaints? -who should be a member of such a "hearing panel"? -how should members be appointed? -what authority should the panel have?
- 10. How can LHA office hours be scheduled to accommodate working residents?
- 11. Should residents be informed of Board meetings and invited to attend? -should Board meetings be held in projects on a rotating basis?

Expansion of Community Services and Facilities

- 1. Who should provide increased community services for residents? -the local housing authority? -an outside social welfare agency? -the local community action agency? -the tenant association?
- 2. What services do the residents need? How are priority needs determined? -education: headstart, remedial, adult basic education, citizenship and English

-day care
-recreation
-health: daily care for elderly, Medicare, prenatal and baby clinics, education
-consumer education: Food Stamp Program, credit unions, consumer co-ops
-employment training: apprenticeship programs with local unions, Neighborhood Youth Corps, LHA modernization activities, aides in public welfare agencies, LHA management and maintenance staff

- 3. How can the services be stimulated and who should coordinate them?
- 4. Should services be "brought to the residents" and located in the project, or should residents "go to the services" in the community?

Staffing

- 1. How can LHA management staff be alerted to be sensitive and responsive to needs of residents? -staff discussions? -training programs? -what is the role of local higher education institutions?
- 2. Current management staff reassigned and how?
- 3. Is additional staff needed? How should it be assigned? Can residents be recruited for some functions?