housing and/or temporary housing assistance (excluding emergency shelters), and supportive services to low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS who are also victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including any minors and dependents living with such persons. Each successful applicant under this demonstration program will receive two separate grants from HUD: (1) A HOPWA grant, and (2) a Transitional Housing Assistance Program grant. Grantees must ensure that the grant funds are used to fund transitional housing or other temporary housing assistance, and supportive services for all program clients. The HOPWA grant amounts will be used to fund transitional and other temporary housing assistance for program clients, coordination and planning activities, and grant management and administration. The Transitional Housing Assistance Program grant amounts will be used to provide supportive services to clients. HUD will publish a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) in FY 2015 that will explain requirements for the VAWA/HOPWA Project Demonstration, detail project selection criteria and solicit applications. HUD expects to make awards to 7 to 9 applicants depending on the amount of total funding that will be available for the demonstration. Funds will be awarded on a one-time-only, non-renewable basis for a 3-year operating period. Generally, a program’s client may be assisted under this demonstration for not more than 24 months. This period may be extended up to an additional six months with respect to a client that has made a good-faith effort to acquire permanent housing and has been unable to do so. Grantees must transition assisted households to permanent housing, or other housing assistance, by the end of the operating period. Grantees will be required to partner with local domestic violence and sexual assault service providers for client outreach and engagement and for comprehensive supportive services to ensure client success in the program.

Grantees must ensure that HOPWA funds will be used to carry out eligible activities under the HOPWA program. All HOPWA funds must be spent in accordance with the authorizing statute (42 U.S.C. 12901 et seq.), program regulations at 24 CFR part 574, and all NOFA requirements. Grantees must also ensure that Transitional Housing Assistance Program funds will be spent in accordance with the authorizing statute of the Transitional Housing Assistance Program (42 U.S.C. 13975) and all NOFA requirements. Projects must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local fair housing and civil rights laws, including, but not limited to, the Fair Housing Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

III. Evaluating the Demonstration

OHH and OVW intend to build on the outcomes of the VAWA/HOPWA Project Demonstration, and potentially use it as a model for future interagency collaboration. Grantees will be expected to participate in any technical assistance efforts designed to identify and share best practices from the demonstration with the broader HIV/AIDS housing and domestic violence and sexual assault service provider networks. In addition, grantees will be required to measure and report on outcomes related to housing stability and health outcomes for VAWA/HOPWA Project Demonstration clients.

Grantees will also be required to comply with all reporting requirements under both HOPWA and the Transitional Housing Assistance Program. This will include the submission of a HOPWA Annual Performance Report (APR) and an annual report that will describe the number of minors, adults, and dependents assisted with a Transitional Housing Assistance Grant and the number of months of assistance that each received. OHH and OVW will use this information to evaluate the program and make policy recommendations in the future.

IV. Solicitation of Public Comment

In accordance with section 470 of the Housing and Urban-Rural Recovery Act of 1983 (42 U.S.C. 3542), HUD is seeking comment on the demonstration for a period of 30 days. Section 470 provides that HUD may not begin a demonstration program not explicitly authorized by statute until a description of the demonstration program is published in the Federal Register and a 60-day period expires following the date of publication, during which time HUD solicits public comment and considers the comments submitted. A public comment period of 30 days is being provided so that HUD may receive public comments and have the opportunity to consider those comments during the 60-day period. After the close of the public comment period, and following consideration of comments submitted, HUD will publish the NOFA that will detail project selection criteria and solicit applications for funding under the VAWA/HOPWA Project Demonstration.

Dated: March 6, 2015.
Clifford Tafreet, Acting Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–5846–N–01]

Jobs-Plus Pilot Initiative

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: On October 7, 2014, HUD announced through notice in the Grants.gov Web site the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Jobs-Plus Pilot Initiative. The Jobs-Plus Pilot Initiative (Jobs-Plus) provides competitive grants to partnerships between public housing authorities, local workforce investment boards established under section 117 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, and other agencies and organizations that provide support to help public housing residents obtain employment and increase earnings. Applicants for Job Plus consist of public housing agencies (PHAs) who demonstrate the ability to provide services to residents, partner with workforce investment boards, and leverage service dollars. The October 7, 2014 NOFA provided for full implementation of Jobs-Plus. This Federal Register notice published today announces waivers and alternative requirements and meets the Jobs-Plus statutory requirement to publish waivers and alternative requirements authorized by the statute at least 10 days before they may take effect.

DATES: Effective Dates: Sections I and II of the Appendix—Jobs-Plus Initiative and Alternate Requirements in this notice are effective March 13, 2015. The statutory and regulatory waivers in the appendix to this notice are effective March 23, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To assure a timely response, please electronically direct requests for further information to this email address: JobsPlus@hud.gov. Written requests may also be directed to the following address: Office of Public and Indian Housing—Anice S. Chenault, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
II. Environmental Review

This Notice involves administrative and fiscal requirements related to income limits and exclusions with regard to calculation of rental assistance which do not constitute a development decision affecting the physical condition of specific project areas or building sites. Accordingly, under 24 CFR 50.19(c)(6), this Notice is categorically excluded from environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321).

Dated: March 6, 2015.

Jemine A. Bryon,
Acting Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.

Appendix—Jobs-Plus Pilot Initiative and Alternative Requirements

The Jobs-Plus statute (Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, Pub. L. 113–76) provides that waivers and alternative requirements authorized by the Secretary shall be published by notice in the Federal Register no later than 10 days before the effective date of such notice. This appendix carries out that statutory requirement. Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, HUD is authorized to waive or alter the rent and income limitation requirements under sections 3 and 6 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 as necessary to implement Jobs-Plus. Provided below is a list of waivers and alternative requirements that shall come into effect on March 23, 2015.

The list of waivers and alternative requirements, as described above, follows:

I. Public Housing Rent Calculation

Permissive exclusions for public housing. Provisions affected: Section 6(c) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437d), 3(b)(5)(B) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a), and 24 CFR 5.609(c). Alternative requirements: The PHA shall be required to calculate the annual earned income for Jobs-Plus participants receiving the 48-month Jobs-Plus earned income exclusion separately for the purposes of determining the amount of annual income excluded under Jobs-Plus. As such, income that is excluded under Jobs-Plus shall be factored into tenant rent calculation and any increases shall be considered part of the tenant rent contribution, though not charged to the family. Such amounts shall be provided to HUD in order to receive additional subsidy. The PHA shall then be required to fund any funds to offset the decrease in funding associated with the increased tenant income using grant amounts made available under the Jobs-Plus appropriations line item.

II. Public Housing Income Limitation Requirements

Disallowance of earned income from rent determination. Provisions affected: HUD is waiving section 3(d)(1) and (2), of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a) and 24 CFR 900.235(b)(1), (b)(2), (b)(3) & (d).