***Summary of Friday Conference Call on COVID-19***

From NAHRO

On Friday, March 20, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) held a conference call for Housing Authorities and other industry stakeholders. During the call, Assistant Secretary Kurtz and NAHRO CEO Adrianne Todman—along with other industry groups and HUD officials—addressed housing authority representatives about the COVID-19 event. Ms. Todman listed the steps that NAHRO was taking on behalf of its members, including initiating peer-to-peer exchanges and communicating with Congress and HUD.

During the call, HUD officials made many points. First, they noted that Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) for April and May would be on time for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program. They also stated that PHAs would be informed of their yearly funding by late March. They stated that the administrative fee proration for the HCV program would likely be approximately 77 percent. If PHAs were operating in jurisdictions where businesses were closed and they were unable to make their HAP payments, they should immediately speak to their financial analyst.

Finally, they noted that SEMAP scores may be waived after a waiver request, but to hold off submitting a waiver request until a new waiver notice was published. HUD is working on two waiver request notices. The first one will be one granting broad industry-wide waivers (if Congress gives them this power) for both statutory and regulatory waivers, while the second notice will be an expedited process for waivers for individual waivers for certain regulatory provisions, if Congress does not grant them broad waiver authority.