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RO INVOLVEMENT HRP IMPLEMENTATION

A. Principle: Involvement and participation of Regional Offices in the planning for and implementation of the anticipated HRP legislation is, in effect, mandated inasmuch as ROs, RHAs, and their staffs, will have an integral role in both the immediate implementation and continuing administration of this new program.

B. Objective: To obtain adequate and active RO participation in and inputs to the recently constituted Central Office HRP executive staff. That HRP executive staff is the principal policy-setting and decision-making group for such implementation and it also serves to ensure the availability of staff and other resources required for that.

C. Scope and Nature: The individual (or individuals) selected from the ROs to serve on the HRP executive staff and participate in their meetings would be looked toward and responsible for:

1. Bringing the particular viewpoints and insights of ROs as to problem areas, practical considerations, and policy issues to bear on the discussion and decisions of that executive staff;

2. Serving as a principal link or conduit for communicating to all RHAs and through them, appropriate RO staffs, developments and decisions regarding HRP implementation as reflected by the actions and considerations of HRP executive staff;

3. Helping to organize and arrange RO participation in and inputs to HRP implementation work groups concerned with specific tasks or responsibilities (e.g. area designation process, organization and staffing.)

The scope and nature of these responsibilities is such that the RO representative (or representatives) on the HRP executive staff must be prepared to (1) attend their weekly meetings in Parklawn/Rockville regularly and (2) devote at least 30 percent of his or her total time or effort over an extended period to them.

D. Proposal: Central Office, in conjunction with ORO, expeditiously and informally "survey" all or a majority of the RHAs to determine jointly with them, a satisfactory and practical, specific manner for obtaining and ensuring such RO participation and inputs.

E. Possible Alternatives

It seems clear that the person (or persons) serving in this capacity should be drawn from the ranks of the RHAs themselves and/or RO Division of Resource Development Directors. Also for various practical and other reasons, the number should be held to two. Conversely, restricting it to one RO representative would dictate that high-level ORO representation on the HRA executive staff be assured.

1. Single "permanent" RO representative with a second person attending certain meetings on an as needed or invitational basis.

2. Two "permanent" RO representatives, one from among Regions I-IV and the other from Regions V-~~IX.~~ X.

3. Variation on 2 (above) with one RHA and one ORO Director representatives.