

25,000+ INELIGIBLE FAMILIES IN PUBLIC HOUSING

QUICK STATS

- ✘ **CONFERENCE:** Spending
- ✘ **TEAM:** Department of Housing and Urban Development
- **FUMBLE:** \$104.4 million in 2015
- **HOW TO RECOVER THE BALL:** HUD should help local housing authorities relocate over-income tenants

The HUD IG issued an alarming report in July 2015, revealing that more than 25,000 families receive subsidized public housing despite exceeding HUD maximum income thresholds. The HUD IG found \$104.4 million will go to families not qualified for aid instead of those actually in need.²³²

For example one New York City family living in a public housing apartment had a November 2013 annual household income of \$497,911, more than seven times the low-income family threshold of \$67,100 in New York City.²³³ This means that a family in genuine need of housing assistance in New York City cannot move into an apartment because a family significantly over the income level is occupying it.

HUD strongly objected to the IG's findings, arguing that only local housing authorities have the authority to evict over-income tenants and that "evicting over-income families would work against HUD's efforts to deconcentrate poverty in public housing developments."²³⁴ While noting that HUD has limited power over local public housing authorities, the program still

fails to help those most in need to afford housing.

RECOVERY

Public housing is designed to be a temporary place for individuals who need help. When individuals and families remain in taxpayer-funded housing after they get back on their feet, they prevent those in need from receiving help and take advantage of their fellow citizens. HUD should clarify the steps local housing authorities need to take to relocate over-income families. HUD recently walked back its initial objections to the IG's findings, but HUD can still do more to prevent waste and mismanagement. Rep. David Jolly (FL) indicated HUD should provide local authorities with guidance, or Congress should change the 1998 Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act to help over-income tenants move out of public housing to make the space available for Americans who truly need the benefit.²³⁵ This is a good first step, and Congress should immediately consider it to help solve this problem.

For more information, please visit:

[The Washington Post: Congressman threatens to strip HUD of \\$104 million because of public housing tenants who make too much](#)

[HUD OIG: Overincome Families Residing in Public Housing Units](#)

[The Hill: HUD audit finds 25,000 ineligible families in public housing](#)