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HOUSING VOUCHERS FUNDED IN MISSISSIPPI UNDER PENDING PROPOSALS

Due largely to the flaws in the formula for distributing “Section 8” housing voucher funding, the share of vouchers in use in Mississippi has fallen over the past few years, from 94 percent in 2004 to a projected 88 percent in 2006 (or prior to Hurricane Katrina for agencies in the most severely damaged areas).^{*} In other words, **1,197 vouchers have already been cut** in Mississippi as a result of federal funding policies in recent years.

For 2007, Congress will have to choose among three funding approaches that have been put forward. Each provides the same new funding for the program nationally in 2007, but uses a different method for distributing the money among the 2,400 state and local housing agencies. Here is the impact that each of the three formulas would have on Mississippi.

- Under two of the formulas — those in the Section 8 Voucher Reform Act (or SEVRA) passed by the House Financial Services Committee on June 14, 2006, and in the Senate appropriations bill — ***all vouchers in use in Mississippi in 2006 would be funded.***
- Under the formula in the House appropriations bill, **6 housing agencies in Mississippi** would be forced **to cut assistance to 122 low-income families in 2007.**

For a description of the pending proposals for distribution of renewal funding to state and local agencies and an analysis of their national impact, see "Fixing the Housing Voucher Formula: A No-Cost Way to Strengthen the Section 8 Program," <http://www.cbpp.org/11-1-06hous.htm>. The paper's Technical Appendix explains the sources and methods for the data in this table.

Agency Estimates (next page)

Agency Estimates

Housing Agency	HUD Code	Authorized Vouchers as of Jan. 2006	Vouchers in Use in 2006 (Estimated)	Authorized Vouchers Funded in 2007			Vouchers in Use That Would Be Cut Under House Appropriations Bill
				SEVRA	Senate Appropriations Bill	House Appropriations Bill	
Biloxi*	MS005	199	183	183	187	168	15
Greenwood HA	MS107	229	224	229	228	229	0
Jackson HA**	MS103	253	236	236	240	253	0
Long Beach Sec. 8 Voucher*	MS109	25	22	22	22	19	3
Meridian HA	MS004	148	130	130	133	145	0
Mississippi RHA #5	MS030	1,398	1,052	1,052	1,073	1,201	0
Mississippi RHA #6**	MS058	4,356	3,315	3,315	3,381	3,963	0
Mississippi RHA #7	MS057	1,217	1,190	1,190	1,214	1,217	0
Mississippi RHA #8*	MS040	4,939	4,500	4,500	4,590	4,466	34
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Mississippi RHA II	MS016	158	156	158	158	152	4
Mississippi RHA IV	MS019	1,977	1,898	1,977	1,936	1,855	43
North Delta RHA	MS128	754	646	646	659	731	0
South Delta RHA	MS095	1,400	1,279	1,279	1,304	1,400	0
Tennessee Valley RHA	MS006	1,309	1,308	1,309	1,309	1,285	23
Total		18,362	16,139	16,226	16,435	17,084	122

* In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, many vouchers in Mississippi fell out of use due to lack of available housing or because voucher holders were transferred into HUD's temporary Disaster Voucher Program. Because pre-Katrina leasing offers a more valid baseline for comparison with leasing levels in 2004 and estimated 2007 funding levels — and because it is difficult to estimate with precision the extent to which vouchers will be put back to use in 2006 — throughout this fact sheet we have included the number of vouchers in use during the 12 months prior to Hurricane Katrina in place of the estimated number of vouchers in use during 2006 for the three Mississippi agencies (identified

with a “**”) located in the most severely damaged counties. Under the SEVRA or Senate Appropriations approaches, which generally base funding on the number of vouchers in use during 2006, HUD could choose to make an adjustment for hurricane-affected areas to avoid a decline in funding that would otherwise occur in 2007 (and Congress could amend the bills to require that HUD do so). For this reason, we have based SEVRA and Senate funding estimates for these three agencies on the number of vouchers in use prior to Katrina. We made no special adjustments for other agencies in areas that suffered significant, but somewhat less severe, damage. If Congress or HUD does make adjustments to avoid hurricane-related funding declines, SEVRA and Senate funding levels for those other agencies could be higher than estimated in the table.

**Agency received new "tenant protection" vouchers from HUD in 2005 to replace demolished public housing units or privately-owned units that no longer receive project-based federal housing assistance. Incomplete information was available to estimate the additional funding due these agencies in 2007 to renew these vouchers under each of the approaches. As a result, estimates for these agencies may be too low, and under the House approach may be too low or too high.