Office of Policy Development and Research

Transforming Policy with Evidence

PD&R

PD&R Overview

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R), established in 1973, examines housing needs, determines market conditions, evaluates department programs, and explores emerging issues with the goal of providing sound, objective analyses based on diverse perspectives and methods.

PD&R has three core functions:

- **Conducting research, program evaluations, and demonstrations:** Among a robust pipeline of current work, PD&R is assessing the effectiveness of prepurchase counseling on home mortgage default outcomes; the relative costs and effectiveness of alternative homelessness interventions for youth; and the effects of rent reform on earnings and Public Housing Agency administrative costs.
- **Collecting and analyzing national housing market data:** PD&R's largest data collection effort is the American Housing Survey, which is done in collaboration with the U.S. Census Bureau. The AHS data forms the basis of the biennial Worst Case Housing Needs report, in addition to serving as the foundation for other reports. PD&R data also are regularly used by external stakeholders.
- **Providing policy advice and support to the Secretary and program offices:** PD&R works closely with HUD's Secretary and program offices to support evidence-based decisionmaking and policymaking. PD&R ensures that research informs policies, programs, budgets, and legislative proposals.

An Inclusive Research Agenda

PD&R uses an inclusive process, known as the Research Roadmap, to establish its research agenda. The Research Roadmap outlines a strategic, actionable framework that details HUD's research priorities. Projects included in the Research Roadmap are drawn from extensive stakeholder input. The Research Roadmap is used to formulate PD&R's annual program evaluation plan as required under the Evidence Act. The process of developing Research Roadmap and subsequent updates provides an important opportunity for PD&R to engage with a wide range of partners.

Office of Economic Affairs

(Divisions of Program Parameter Research, Economic and Market Analysis, Housing Finance Analysis, Housing and Demographic Analysis, and Public Finance and Regulatory Analysis)

The Office of Economic Affairs (OEA) analyzes major policy issues and produces high-quality national and local data on housing production, characteristics of the housing stock, social and economic conditions in cities, and key programmatic parameters such as fair market rents.

OEA analyzes the economic impact of departmental and other federal legislative and regulatory proposals; directs surveys of national housing conditions and mortgage markets; and provides recommendations for departmental policy and program analysis. Its field economists conduct local housing market analyses to assist the Federal Housing Administration in making sound decisions on insuring multifamily properties.

Office of Policy Development

(Divisions of Policy Development, Research Utilization, and International and Philanthropic Affairs)

The Office of Policy Development (OPD) ensures that PD&R and its research findings are an integral part of HUD's development of policy, budget, and legislative proposals.

OPD plays a critical role in providing evidence to support the budget by analyzing legislative proposals, developing legislative initiatives, interpreting statutory guidance, and preparing regulatory guidance.

In addition, OPD ensures effective translation and dissemination of PD&R research by leveraging a number of vehicles including print materials, social media and mobile applications, web-based resources, and awards programs.

The International and Philanthropic Affairs Division (IPAD) creates and strengthens partnerships across borders and sectors to build strong, sustainable, and inclusive communities. IPAD's mission is to foster partnerships and maximize collaboration efforts with the international and philanthropic communities in order to support HUD's strategic objectives. Through partnerships, IPAD leverages the ideas, expertise, and resources of a network of organizations to improve HUD's impact in local communities.

Office of Research, Evaluation, and Monitoring

(Divisions of Program Evaluation, Program Monitoring and Research, and Affordable Housing Research and Technology)

The Office of Research, Evaluations, and Monitoring (OREM) provides the highest quality information for decisionmaking through research, program evaluation, policy analysis, and technical assistance regarding affordable housing, community development, fair housing, and building technology.

OREM is responsible for conducting and overseeing systematic and rigorous research on programs and experimental demonstrations operated by HUD. Particular areas of emphasis include research on HUD-assisted housing, the future of public housing, rural and Indian housing, and the Moving to Work expansion.

OREM also analyzes the use of innovative technology to promote affordable housing design and construction, and coordinates the HUD Geographic Information Systems.

Office of Innovation

(Divisions of Innovation and Improvement and Ideation)

The Office of Innovation selects, manages, and reports progress on innovation and improvement efforts strategically aligned with HUD's mission. There are two divisions. The Innovation and Improvement Division facilitates innovation and improvement with meaningful metrics for HUD. The Ideation Division engages with HUD, private and public partners to identify opportunities to solve the department's challenges.

Grants Management & University Partnerships Division

The Grants Management & University Partnerships Division is responsible for managing PD&R's Research NOFA grants and the Research Partnership Grants. The Research NOFA is an annual competitive solicitation of applications for cooperative agreement awards. Under the Research Partnership Initiative PD&R reviews unsolicited proposals to assess their relevancy HUD's research, the extent to which they meet the 50-percent matching requirement, and the rigor of the research design. The Division also prepares HUD's annual plan of efforts to strengthen the capacity and competitiveness of Historically Black Colleges and Universities to compete for federal and private sector opportunities.

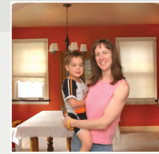# A Diverse Team Working Across the United States

PD&R's most important asset is its team of 150 employees. This team includes 30 field economists who work in HUD's regional and field offices throughout the United States. The field economists analyze local labor markets, economic development, and demographic and housing market trends.

One of the many strengths of the PD&R team is the diverse expertise of staff, with backgrounds in economics, political science, law, sociology, geography, anthropology, architecture, urban planning, public policy, business administration, criminology, and public administration.

PD&R's research and other resources cover a wide range of subject matter including:

- *Community and Economic Development*
- *Worst Case Housing Needs*
- *Fair Housing and Housing Discrimination*
- *Opportunity Zones*
- *Homelessness*
- *Housing Mobility*
- *U.S. Housing Market Conditions*
- *Housing Finance*

In addition to research reports, PD&R produces case studies, periodicals, and other resources designed to support evidence-based decisionmaking.
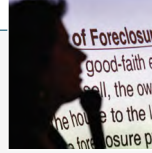
Providing Public Access to Housing Data and Resources

PD&R produces a variety of housing data and information resources that are readily available to the public, including:

- American Housing Survey and State of the Cities Data Systems

- Data on the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program

- Fair Market Rents and Small Area Fair Market Rents

- HUD Program Income Limits

- Picture of Subsidized Households on the characteristics of families assisted by HUD programs

- Public use data files on the activities of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac

In addition, PD&R manages the HUD eGIS Storefront, an easy-to-use site where users can search for and discover HUD's geospatial datasets, application programming interfaces (APIs), web-based mapping tools, and other eGIS initiatives.

For a complete list of housing data and geospatial resources available, visit huduser.gov.

HUD User

HUD User is a comprehensive resource with over 9,000 federal government research reports, analyses, data, and other resources related to housing and urban development. HUD User is designed to produce and share a wide variety of products and services for the public and a diverse audience of housing and community development researchers, planners, academics, and policymakers.

HUD User also staffs a Help Desk Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. eastern time, at 1-800-245-2691. Publication requests and general inquiries can also be made via e-mail to helpdesk@huduser.gov.

Stay up to date on PD&R and new offerings on HUD User by visiting huduser.gov and subscribing to e-mail alerts.