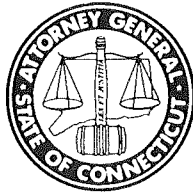


GEORGE C. JEPSEN  
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Office of The Attorney General  
**State of Connecticut**

July 10, 2013

Honorable Evonne M. Klein  
Connecticut Department of Housing  
505 Hudson Street  
Hartford CT 06106

Dear Commissioner Klein:

This letter responds to yours dated June 25, 2013, in which you request our opinion on whether the Department of Housing ("DOH") is public housing agency under the United States Housing Act of 1937 (the "Housing Act"), 42 U.S.C. § 1437 *et seq.*, and therefore an entity able to participate as a public housing agency in programs authorized under the Housing Act. In our opinion, DOH does meet the definition of a public housing agency under the Housing Act.

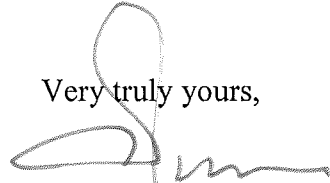
The term "public housing agency" is defined in the Housing Act as "any State, county, municipality or other governmental entity or public body (or agency or instrumentality thereof) which is authorized to engage in or assist in the development or operation of public housing." 42 U.S.C. § 1437a(b)(6).

Under Connecticut law, DOH is the "lead agency for all matters related to housing;" Conn. Gen. Stat. § 8-37r(a); and is "a successor to the functions, powers and duties of the Department of Economic and Community Development ("DECD") related to housing, community development, redevelopment and urban renewal as set forth in chapters 128, 129, 130, 135 and 136 in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-38e and 4-39." Conn. Gen. Stat. § 8-37r(b). 2012 Conn. Public Acts, No. 12-1 created the DOH as a separate executive branch agency and 2013 Conn. Pub. Acts, No. 13-234 transferred responsibility for and administration of programs involving affordable housing development and financing, individual and group housing, rent subsidies, eviction and foreclosure prevention, shelter and transitional living and ownership to DOH. All affordable housing programs previously administered by DECD and housing-related programs previously administered by other state agencies, including the Department of Social Services have been transferred to DOH effective July 1, 2013.

Honorable Evonne M. Klein  
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Accordingly, it is our opinion that DOH is a public agency with statewide jurisdiction "authorized to engage in or assist in the development or operation of public housing" and, as such is a "public housing agency" as that term is defined and used in the federal Housing Act.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Jepsen", written over a vertical line.

GEORGE JEPSEN  
ATTORNEY GENERAL