

March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

News of Note from HUD Regional Administrator Bill Block (Region X):

HUD Secretary Julian Castro made a number of important announcements today concerning our Section 3 employment program. As you are probably aware, Section 3 of the Housing & Urban Development Act of 1968 is designed to direct HUD-funded jobs and training to businesses owned by and/or employing low-income workers. HUD estimates that from 2009 through 2014 it has helped create some 170,000 jobs for such workers.

Secretary Castro announced today the roll out of a National Section 3 Business Registry that has been piloted in five cities. This registry is designed to link more effectively eligible businesses and workers with eligible jobs and employers. We recognize that a number of HUD grantees in the Northwest already maintain their own Section 3 registries. We hope that they will encourage firms on their local registries to sign-on to the National Registry. We are confident that participating in the National Registry will increase their opportunities to work with HUD grantees and help advance our Department's mission for ensuring opportunities for all.

The Secretary also announced that we will soon publish a proposed rule in The Federal Register to streamline the Section 3 program, thereby increasing the participation of small firms and contractors in the program. There will be a 60-day opportunity to comment on the proposal once it is published.

Link to the full press release:

[http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/2015/HUD No 15-029](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2015/HUD_No_15-029)