

ADVISORY GROUP ON Efficiency and Benchmarking **PROPOSAL#:** AGEB # 18
SUBJECT: Housing Assistance Requirements **DATE ADOPTED BY ADVISORY GROUP:** 9-29-09
COMMISSION ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

RECOMMENDATION: To require non-elderly, non-disabled recipients of any affordable housing or housing assistance program offered through the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency to obtain formal employment in the private sector or government, and require that those recipients who claim they cannot find employment to participate in a supervised job search or in educational job training program that assists people to obtain employment or perform community service.

Summary Description/Nature of Change	Key Implementation Responsibilities	Need	Action Needed	Benefit/Saving	Done/Study
To require non-elderly, non-disabled recipients of any affordable housing or housing assistance program offered through the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency to obtain formal employment in the private sector or government, and require that those recipients who claim they cannot find employment to participate in a supervised job search or in educational job training program that assists people to obtain employment or perform community service.	Legislature	To ensure that the public receives a societal benefit from state money which is spent helping non-elderly, non-disabled recipients who participate in any affordable housing or housing assistance program.	Statutory amendment		

The Louisiana Streamlining Government Commission finds that 22% of the residents of Louisiana live below the poverty level. The Commission supports those efforts of federal, state and local government that are intended to reduce poverty and that actually work. Initial efforts to reduce poverty in America, launched primarily by the federal government in the mid -1960's, focused on providing material support and largely ignored the behavioral causes of poverty. The welfare reform accomplished by the United States Congress in 1996 recognized that permanently reducing poverty requires both material support and transforming behavior in a positive way. For example, the pre-reform Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Program gave aid unconditionally. When the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program replaced AFDC as a part of the effort to reform America's welfare laws, aid became conditional: recipients were required to undertake constructive activities leading to self-sufficiency as a condition of receiving assistance. Welfare reform has resulted in unprecedented drops in dependency and child poverty as a result of this change.

Government-subsidized housing as a tool to eliminate poverty remains for the large part unreformed. Aid is still given unconditionally and government has implemented no requirement that the recipient undertake constructive activities leading toward self-sufficiency and prosperity.

The Louisiana Streamlining Government Commission recommends to the governor and the Louisiana Legislature that Louisiana law be changed to provide that non-elderly, non-disabled recipients of any affordable housing or housing assistance program offered through the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency be required to obtain formal employment in the private sector or government, and those recipients who claim they cannot find employment be required to participate in a supervised job search, in educational, job training programs that assist people to obtain employment or perform community service.