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**AUDIT: NYCHA ON RIGHT PATH
TO CONSISTENCY BETWEEN TENANT SELECTION
AND ASSIGNMENT SYSTEMS**

NEW YORK, NY – The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) has made progress toward integrating its tenant selection and assignment systems, according to a follow-up audit just completed by Comptroller John C. Liu.

"This follow-up audit indicates that NYCHA is now on the right track with major improvements to make sure eligible New Yorkers are offered the public housing they need," Comptroller Liu said. "By agreeing with these findings, NYCHA has demonstrated a commitment to implementing a new system that will ensure a more timely, cost-effective and error-free process."

NYCHA is the largest public housing authority in the United States, and aims to provide decent and affordable housing in a safe and secure living environment to low- and moderate-income residents throughout the five boroughs.

In June 2006, former Comptroller William C. Thompson's audit had found that NYCHA maintains two, separate computer systems to handle tenant selection and assignment. Under the two critical systems, applicant information is first entered into the Housing Authority Tenant Selection (HATS) system. When the applicant is certified as eligible for NYCHA housing, the data is then manually entered into the Tenant Selection and Assignment Plan (TSAP) system.

The 2006 audit had found that the lack of system integration and data reconciliation raised the possibility that eligible applicants might not have been offered NYCHA housing when it was available for them.

The follow-up audit completed today was initiated to review NYCHA's progress since 2006.

Chief among the findings:

- NYCHA has made some progress toward consistent information in both systems.
- Many of the operational and control weaknesses relating to the systems have been implemented.
- NYCHA has created a formal procedure for HATS that ensures approved review of user privileges, and has terminated access for current and former employees who have inactive HATS and TSAP accounts.

Comptroller Liu credited Deputy Comptroller for Audit H. Tina Kim and her team in the Bureau of Audit for presenting the findings. The full May 2010 follow-up audit report is available at www.comptroller.nyc.gov.

Citing the progress made thus far, Comptroller Liu issued two recommendations to NYCHA in the interest of further improving the system, of which NYCHA generally agreed:

- Ensure that the new system is up and running no later than the fourth quarter of 2010 to allow information from HATS to be sent to TSAP in a timely manner, to allow for system reconciliation, and to create audit logs that identify the user ID of the person making changes to the system, and;
- Review and correct the items for both systems mentioned in the report to ensure that the information in HATS and TSAP are consistent.

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