



South Carolina
STATE HOUSING
Finance and Development Authority

(803) 896-9001 • 300-C Outlet Pointe Blvd. • Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Memorandum

Date: November 3, 2008
To: Housing Trust Fund Participants
From: Matt Rivers, Director - Housing Trust Fund
Subject: Declaration of Citizenship Status

The South Carolina Legislature recently passed Illegal Immigrant legislation that requires agencies that provide "public benefits" to obtain an affidavit from all applicants and if they indicate that they are a lawful alien, the agency must subsequently verify eligibility through the Department of Homeland Security's program.

Effectively ***immediately***, a "Declaration of Citizenship Status" form must be completed for ***each*** individual living in the household of a Beneficiary participating in any of the Housing Trust Fund Programs. It is mandatory that these forms be included in all Beneficiary applications. The applications will not be processed without them.

This means that a declaration must be signed ***personally*** by any family member 18 or older and by a **guardian for minors** for each family member who claims to be a U.S. citizen or national.

The following applies if the following is checked on the forms:

- 1). ***a citizen*** – no further action is required
- 2). ***a noncitizen with eligible immigration status*** - the agency will verify eligibility through the Department of Homeland Security
- 3). ***not contending eligible immigration*** – the Beneficiary is not eligible for assistance

You may contact me or any of the Housing Trust Fund staff, if you have any concerns regarding this change.