Good afternoon, ESG Subrecipients,

This email is to address frequently asked questions we are getting at TDHCA regarding the required inspections of housing standards before providing Rapid Re-Housing and Homelessness Prevention, as governed by 24 CFR §576.403.

1. **Question: Has a waiver been issued for the habitability inspection?**
   - **Answer:** No, HUD has not issued a waiver for the required habitability inspection. Habitability inspections are still a requirement in order to provide Rapid Re-Housing or Homelessness Prevention assistance.

2. **Question: Does the habitability inspection need to be done in person?**
   - **Answer:** No, inspections do not need to be done in person. It would be acceptable to implement strategies for conducting inspections virtually using a video connection (e.g., FaceTime). Although video is preferred, photographs may also be an acceptable way to conduct an inspection. The video or photographs may be taken by the property owner or the household applying for assistance. A designated representative of the ESG Subrecipient must be able to visually inspect evidence of the unit's condition and document compliance in the Program Participant’s file. The ESG Subrecipient should conduct full in-person ESG habitability inspections once it is safe to resume standard operating procedures. In the meantime, the health and safety of Program Participants, staff, and the public are the priority.

As a reminder, we have posted resources, including a HUD document on eligible ESG costs for infectious disease preparedness and a link to your local health entities, on our guidance page at [https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/home-division/esgp/guidance-solutions.htm](https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/home-division/esgp/guidance-solutions.htm).

Thank you for your continued service. Please continue to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns regarding the COVID-19 situation.