The Washington County Community Development Agency (CDA) intends to apply before December 31, 2019, to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to convert its 105 public housing units in phases.

To tenant-based assistance, as permitted by Section 22 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937. PIH Notice 2019-05 (dated March 21, 2019) waives the need to complete and submit a conversion assessment for small Public Housing Agencies, including the Washington County CDA. If approved by HUD, the Washington County CDA would offer and extend Section 8 tenant protection vouchers to eligible households residing in the public housing units. The new voucher holders will have the choice to remain in their current apartment or use their voucher elsewhere, as permitted by the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program. Upon conversion, the Washington County CDA would continue to own and operate the rental units as low-rent apartments. A relocation plan is not necessary as no involuntary displacement will occur.

In the first phase, 56 scattered site properties owned by the CDA will be converted to tenant-based assistance. The 56 units are part of the Public Housing project AMP No. MN212000001 located in the cities of Cottage Grove, Oakdale, St Paul Park, and Woodbury. If approved by HUD, the Washington County CDA will offer and extend Section 8 tenant protection vouchers to eligible households residing in the 56 scattered site public housing units. The new voucher holders will have the choice to remain in their current apartment or use their voucher elsewhere, as permitted by the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program. Upon conversion, the Washington County CDA will transfer ownership of the units to a limited liability company of the CDA and operate the 56 scattered sites as low-rent apartments. Occupancy of the units, upon turnover, will be restricted to households with incomes at or below 80 percent of the Area Median Income, adjusted by household size as determined by HUD. Rents would be restricted to the lesser of Fair Market Rent, adjusted by bedroom size as determined by HUD, or a reasonable market rent, as determined by comparison with similar rental units.

In subsequent phases, the CDA plans to convert the 40 units at Whispering Pines and nine units at Lakeside Townhomes and Pondview Townhomes through a conversion process allowed by HUD. The 9 units are part of the Public Housing project AMP No. MN212000001 and located in the city of Woodbury and the 40 units at Whispering Pines apartments in Forest Lake are AMP No. MN212000002.

Relocation plans are not necessary as no involuntary displacement will occur.