

SPRINGFIELD HOUSING AUTHORITY

Springfield, Massachusetts

Report on Agreed-Upon Procedures

March 31, 2023

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Springfield, Massachusetts

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures	1
Schedule of Agreed Upon Procedures	2 - 11

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT
ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

The Board of Commissioners
Springfield Housing Authority
Springfield, Massachusetts:

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the Board of Commissioners, the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and management of the Springfield Housing Authority (the Authority), solely to perform agreed-upon procedures, as prescribed by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development for the year ended March 31, 2023. The Authority's management is responsible for management decisions and functions and maintaining internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities. This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of those parties specified in this report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

The procedures and the associated findings are presented in the Schedule of Agreed-Upon Procedures included with this report.

We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal controls or on compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Commissioners, DHCD and management of the Authority, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

EFPR Group, CPAs, PLLC

Williamsville, New York
November 30, 2023

Housing Authority Name: SPRINGFIELD HOUSING AUTHORITY

Fiscal Year End (FYE): Mar 2023

Date of AUP Conducted: 9/11/2023 12:00:00 AM

Executive Director: Denise Jordan

CPA: EFPR Group

CPA Phone: 7162045708

HMS: Carolina Gonzalez

Total AUP Exceptions: 10

A. General Accounting

Total # of exceptions: 8

Rating: Corrective Action

Exceptions	Exception Explanation	CPA Recommendations	LHA Response
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A. Reconciling financial statements to general ledger.

1. The amounts reported on the Operating Statement and Balance Sheet (DHCD Forms 51-1 and 51-2, respectively) reconcile to the LHA's general ledger. (Tolerable error of +/- \$100). For all cases that don't match, please detail specifics including at a minimum account and variance amount in column to right.	E	The Authority had numerous accounts reported on Forms 51-1 and 51-2 that did not properly trace to book balances at year end. This includes Account #1111 (Variance of \$498,484), Account #1129 (Variance of \$474,684), Account #2139 (Variance of \$1,308,053, Account #3801 (Variance of \$1,049,582), Account #4540 (Variance of \$95,682)	We recommend that the Authority implement proper controls to ensure all transactions are being accurately recorded and reported at year end.	The SHA has experienced difficulty with an accounting software conversion undertaken during fiscal year 2023 which has disrupted financial reporting capabilities for that accounting period. The SHA is actively working with the software provider and external consultants to restore the integrity of the accounting system and revise all financial reporting to be in compliance with the requirements of HUD and EOHLC.
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B. The following general ledger accounts reconcile to supporting documentation (Tolerable error of +/- \$100, unless otherwise noted): For all cases that don't match, please detail specifics including at a minimum account and variance amount in CPA Recommendations column.

<p>1. Cash accounts (#1111 to #1114.1 and #1162) are in agreement with bank statements and reconciliations</p>	<p>E</p>	<p>The Authority could not provide bank statements and reconciliations in a timely format and no comparison could be made to the general ledger</p>	<p>We recommend that the Authority implement internal controls to ensure that monthly bank reconciliations are prepared to reconcile bank statements to ending balances</p>	<p>The SHA has experienced difficulty with an accounting software conversion undertaken during fiscal year 2023 which has disrupted financial reporting capabilities for that accounting period. The SHA is actively working with the software provider and external consultants to restore the integrity of the accounting system and revise all financial reporting to be in compliance with the requirements of HUD and EOHLC.</p>
<p>2. Tenant Accounts Receivable and Prepaid Tenant Rent accounts (#1122, #1124 and #2240) are in agreement with agings of Tenants Accounts Receivable (TAR)</p>	<p>E</p>	<p>The Authority could not provide accounts receivable report in a timely format and no comparison could be made to the general ledger</p>	<p>We recommend that the Authority implement internal controls to ensure that any changes to accounts receivable balances are properly recorded and reconcile to the general ledger at year end</p>	<p>The SHA has experienced difficulty with an accounting software conversion undertaken during fiscal year 2023 which has disrupted financial reporting capabilities for that accounting period. The SHA is actively working with the software provider and external consultants to restore the integrity of the accounting system and revise all financial reporting to be in compliance with the requirements of HUD and EOHLC.</p>
<p>3. Capital Assets and Accumulated Depreciation (all fixed assets except 1400.2) are in agreement with the depreciation schedule/fixed asset listing).</p>	<p>E</p>	<p>The Authority's capital assets and accumulated depreciation was not in agreement with depreciation schedule and fixed asset listings</p>	<p>We recommend that the Authority implement internal controls to ensure that any additions and disposals in fixed assets are properly recorded and reconcile to the general ledger at year end</p>	<p>The SHA has experienced difficulty with an accounting software conversion undertaken during fiscal year 2023 which has disrupted financial reporting capabilities for that accounting period. The SHA is actively working with the software provider and external consultants to restore the integrity of the accounting system and revise all financial reporting to be in compliance with the requirements of HUD and EOHLC.</p>

<p>4. Accounts Payables accounts (#2111, #2111.1, #2120 and #2139) are in agreement with supporting documentation for Accounts Payables and accruals.</p>	<p>E</p>	<p>The Authority could not provide accounts payable report in a timely format and no comparison could be made to the general ledger</p>	<p>We recommend that the Authority implement internal controls to ensure that any changes to accounts payables balances are properly recorded and reconcile to the general ledger at year end</p>	<p>The SHA has experienced difficulty with an accounting software conversion undertaken during fiscal year 2023 which has disrupted financial reporting capabilities for that accounting period. The SHA is actively working with the software provider and external consultants to restore the integrity of the accounting system and revise all financial reporting to be in compliance with the requirements of HUD and EOHLC.</p>
<p>5. Accrued Compensated Absences accounts (#2135 and #2335.01) are in agreement with the compensated absences schedule.</p>	<p>E</p>	<p>The Authority could not provide compensated absences schedule in a timely format and no comparison could be made to the general ledger</p>	<p>We recommend that the Authority implement internal controls to ensure that compensated absences are being properly tracked and year end balances match hours used on client schedule</p>	<p>The SHA has experienced difficulty with an accounting software conversion undertaken during fiscal year 2023 which has disrupted financial reporting capabilities for that accounting period. The SHA is actively working with the software provider and external consultants to restore the integrity of the accounting system and revise all financial reporting to be in compliance with the requirements of HUD and EOHLC.</p>
<p>6. DHCD approved budget exemptions for direct reimbursement as found in the (ANUEL & Subsidy Worksheet - Section 8 in the Operating Statement) are in agreement with LHA record of actual expenses in the General Ledger.</p>	<p>E</p>	<p>The Authority was unable to provide an accurate general ledger as of year end. As a result, amounts reported on ANUEL and Subsidy report could not be traced</p>	<p>We recommend that the Authority implement internal controls to ensure all transactions are being accurately recorded and reported at year end.</p>	<p>The SHA has experienced difficulty with an accounting software conversion undertaken during fiscal year 2023 which has disrupted financial reporting capabilities for that accounting period. The SHA is actively working with the software provider and external consultants to restore the integrity of the accounting system and revise all financial reporting to be in compliance with the requirements of HUD and EOHLC.</p>

7. Salaries and Gross Wages (4110, 4410, 4120) (tolerable error of +/- 3.0%) are in agreement with the MA form WR-1 (state filings).	E	Salaries and gross wages did not agree within tolerable error to those reported in MA form WR-1	We recommend that the Authority implement internal controls to ensure salaries are properly reconciled	The SHA has experienced difficulty with an accounting software conversion undertaken during fiscal year 2023 which has disrupted financial reporting capabilities for that accounting period. The SHA is actively working with the software provider and external consultants to restore the integrity of the accounting system and revise all financial reporting to be in compliance with the requirements of HUD and EOHLC.
8. Balance Sheet Accounts (#2140, #2339.1, and #2339.2) are in agreement with OPEB/pension reporting.	NE			

C. DHCD Public Housing Notice #2018-4, Direct Cost Exemption for Operating Reserve Augmentation in FY2018 Budget & New Operating Reserve Thresholds.

1. The amounts reported on the Operating Statement and Balance Sheet (DHCD Forms 51-1 and 51-2, respectively) reconcile to the LHA's general ledger. (Tolerable error of +/- \$100). For all cases that don't match, please detail specifics including at a minimum account and variance amount in column to right.	NE			
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B. Tenant Accounting				
Total # of exceptions: 1			Rating: Operational Guidance	
	Exceptions	Exception Explanation	CPA Recommendations	LHA Response

A. Select a random sample of rent transactions (Small - 5, Med - 10, Large - 15, Very Large - 20) of rent transactions. Include at least 20% are credit adjustments and 20% are lease enforcements (if have).

1. The Authority retained supporting documentation for rent receipts.	NE			
2. The Authority posted rent receipts to the correct tenant accounts.	NE			
3. The Authority retained documentation supporting credit adjustments.	NE			
4. The Authority followed its rent collection policy for non-payment of rent (i.e., issued a notice to quit, followed eviction protocol.)	NE			

B. Account Write-Offs

1. Documentation of Board approval to write-off account (board approval of write-off required per budget guidelines for Acct #4570 - Collection Loss).	NE			
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C. Vacancies Being Reported in Vacancy System

<p>1. Verify that the number of vacant units accounted for in the LHA's operating software is the same number of vacancies reported by the LHA in the DHCD On Line Vacancy System for the fiscal year</p>	<p>E</p>	<p>The Authority's record of vacant units did not agree to difference between total units and units occupied at year end. The Authority does not maintain a vacancy report in their operating software and could not be compared to amounts in HAFIS.</p>	<p>We recommend the Authority maintain a vacancy report other than the one reported in HAFIS to ensure number of vacant units is tracked properly</p>	<p>The SHA has experienced difficulty with an accounting software conversion undertaken during fiscal year 2023 which has disrupted financial reporting capabilities for that accounting period. The SHA is actively working with the software provider and external consultants to restore the integrity of the accounting system and revise all financial reporting to be in compliance with the requirements of HUD and EOHLIC.</p>
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C. Payroll				
Total # of exceptions: 1			Rating: Operational Guidance	
	Exceptions	Exception Explanation	CPA Recommendations	LHA Response

A. Wage Reporting				
<p>1. Actual wages for the Top 5 highest paid employees was consistent with the DHCD-approved budget (Schedule of All Salaries and Positions Report), excluding over-time and longevity payments. (Tolerable error of +/- 3.0% of budgeted salary)</p>	<p>E</p>	<p>The Top 5 Compensation Form was inconsistent with DHCD approved budget for 4 out of 5 employees tested. The variances ranged from 11 to 20%.</p>	<p>We recommend that the Authority develop internal controls to ensure that wages reported in Top 5 compensation form agree to the Schedule of Salaries and Positions budgeted for</p>	<p>The SHA has experienced difficulty with an accounting software conversion undertaken during fiscal year 2023 which has disrupted financial reporting capabilities for that accounting period. The SHA is actively working with the software provider and external consultants to restore the integrity of the accounting system and revise all financial reporting to be in compliance with the requirements of HUD and EOHLIC.</p>
<p>2. Verify the amount reported on the Top 5 Compensation Form matches exactly the amount reported on reconciled to the WR-1.</p>	<p>NE</p>			
<p>3. LHA is in possession of DHCD-approved executive contract signed by the LHA, Executive Director and DHCD. If LHA can show that currently being processed by DHCD and was not returned to the LHA for failing to meet DCHD's requirements, LHA can produce the last DHCD-approved executive contract or at-will agreement signed by the LHA, Executive Director and DHCD.</p>	<p>NE</p>			

B. Payroll Testing for all employees from all funding sources - Select a single payroll period:

1. The payroll register accurately accounts for time worked as logged on employee timesheets/time cards.	NE			
2. Timesheets/time cards are maintained by all employees (including Executive Director) and were approved by supervisor (except Executive Director) including leave taken	NE			

C. Compensated Absences Policy

identified on timesheets/time cards and accurately accounted for in a compensated absences register.	NE			
1. Personnel Policy includes (1) the limits on the amount of vacation and sick leave that will be accrued each year, and when and how such leave will be accrued; (2) a limit on the amount of accrued vacation that may be carried over from year to year, and; (3) a cap on the payout for accrued and unused sick leave at the end of employment per PHN 2017-14.	NE			
2. The Authority is accounting for annual leave time earned in accordance with the Authority's personnel policy.	NE			

D. Accounts Payable				
Total # of exceptions: 0			Rating: No Findings	
	Exceptions	Exception Explanation	CPA Recommendations	LHA Response

A. Select a random sample of (Small - 15, Med - 20, Large - 25, Very Large - 25) cash disbursement transactions. The auditor may substitute random selections for large or unusual items identified in a review of the cash disbursements journal. The auditor should substitute for at least one credit card statement, at least one employee expense reimbursement transaction, at least one capital expense, at least one operating expense and at least one debit card transaction. For all discrepancies, to the right detail the type of payable, the date, the charge, and the amount.

1. Cash disbursements were authorized in accordance with the Authority's policies.	NE			
2. Cash disbursements are in agreement with supporting documentation.	NE			
3. Supporting documentation is sufficiently detailed.	NE			
4. Costs are allowable (i.e. sales tax, alcohol, lottery tickets)	NE			
5. Costs are properly allocated to the correct program(s). Cost of current year additions are allocated to programs in a manner consistent with the use of the asset.	NE			
6. Costs are properly classified.	NE			

E. Inventory				
Total # of exceptions: 0			Rating: No Findings	
	Exceptions	Exception Explanation	CPA Recommendations	LHA Response

A. Capital and Non-Capital Asset Inventory

1. The Authority performed a physical count of its capital asset and non-capital asset inventory at least annually (non-capital assets are refrigerators and stoves and other furniture equipment over the Authority's non-capital inventory threshold, which may not exceed \$1,000).	NE			
2. Capital and Non-Capital Asset inventory includes all necessary information to identify the asset. For non-capital assets that includes a tag with an LHA-assigned number for all assets of \$1,000 or more (and all refrigerators and stoves of any value). For relevant assets of \$5,000 or more that includes the make/model/year for vehicles and the FISH number.	NE			
3. The Authority identified additions and disposals of capital and non-capital assets for the accounting period.	NE			
4. Select a random sample of non-capital assets by tag number (Small - 3, Med - 6, Large - 9, Very Large - 12) and verify existence.	NE			

F. Procurement				
Total # of exceptions: 0			Rating: No Findings	
	Exceptions	Exception Explanation	CPA Recommendations	LHA Response
For A to C below, examine the cash disbursements journal (or check register) as well as the contract register and identify purchases of goods and services during the year that should have been competitively procured. From these purchases that should have been competitively procured, select a sample (Small - 3, Med - 5, Large - 7, Very Large - 9) of known or possible procurements valuing \$10,000 or more; if possible when selecting the sample, include at least one procurement valuing \$10,000 to \$50,000 and one procurement valuing more than \$50,000 (for goods and services for MGL c. 30B only). If any in the sample were not competitively procured, enter as an exception in A. For sampled purchases that went through procurement, follow procedures under B or C below depending on the size of the procurement.				

A. Procurement Policy

1. The Authority's procurement policy is consistent with the requirements of MGL c. 30b (or more conservative federal regulations).	NE			
2. The Authority maintains a contract register which includes the following information: contractor, description, active/inactive, start date, end date, extensions available, contract award amount, change orders amount, contract expenditures to date and remaining value.	NE			

B. Known and possible procurements valuing (\$10,000 up to and including \$50,000) (for goods and services for MGL c. 30B only). LHA can follow more conservative federal regulations when applicable. [- If N/A selected for any one below, then default all drop downs to N/A in this section]

1. Proper procurement method used.	NE			
2. Proper selection based on MGL c.30B s.5 solicitation of quotes requirements.	NE			
3. Documentation of a written purchase description with solicitation of written quotes from at least three persons.	NE			
4. Contract was for not more than 3 years unless majority board vote allowed it to be longer.	NE			

5. Board vote is documented approving individual contract, or a board vote to delegate authority over certain contracts (by dollar threshold or other criteria) to an LHA staff member, usually Executive Director.	NE			
6. Contract did not go through automatic renewals unless renewals were part of the original procurement.	NE			
7. The contracts are included on the Authority's contract register.	NE			

**C. Known and possible procurements valuing (more than \$50,000) (for goods and services for MGL c. 30B only).
LHA can follow more conservative federal regulations when applicable. [- If N/A selected for any one below, then default all drop downs to N/A in this section]**

1. Proper procurement method used.	NE			
2. Proper selection based on MGL c.30B s.5 IFB requirements or MGL c.30B s.6 RFP requirements. If using MGL C.30B s.6 RFP requirements, LHA must have a Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) conduct the procurement under c.30B s.6.	NE			
3. Documentation of Newspaper advertisement, LHA's Office and COMMBUYS two weeks prior to bidding process. If contract was for over \$100K, it was advertised in the Goods & Services Bulletin.	NE			
4. If IFB, contract award went to lowest bidder. If RFP, contract went to lowest bidder or letter explaining why went with another bidder.	NE			
5. Board vote is documented approving individual contract, or a board vote to delegate authority over certain contracts (by dollar threshold or other criteria) to an LHA staff member, usually Executive Director.	NE			
6. Contract did not go through automatic renewals unless renewals were part of the original procurement.	NE			
7. The contracts are included on the Authority's contract register.	NE			

G. Eligibility Compliance

Total # of exceptions: 0

Rating: No Findings

Exceptions	Exception Explanation	CPA Recommendations	LHA Response
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A. Public Housing - Select a sample (Small LHA - 5, Medium LHA - 10, Large or Very Large LHA - 15) of tenant files (from programs 200, 667, 705); if the LHA has multiple property managers, at least one file should be selected per manager.

1. The Authority performed timely annual rent determinations (or bi-annual if the Authority has a waiver from DHCD to do so).	NE			
2. The Authority properly calculated rent.	NE			
3. The Authority verified family composition.	NE			
4. The Authority verified income, exclusions from income and deductions.	NE			

5. The Authority properly sent notifications of rent redetermination at least 60 days prior to the effective date.	NE			
6. The Authority properly sent notifications of rent change at least 14 days prior to the effective date.	NE			
7. The Authority was timely in the execution of lease addendums.	NE			

B. MRVP - Select a sample of annual rent determinations (sample 10% (min:1 max:15) of leased MRVP units). [- If N/A selected for any one below, then default all drop downs to N/A in this section]

1. The Authority performed timely annual rent determinations.	NE			
2. The Authority properly calculated rent.	NE			
3. The Authority verified family composition.	NE			
4. The Authority verified income, exclusions from income and deductions.	NE			
5. The Authority obtained Certificates of Fitness (COF).	NE			
6. The Authority obtained Letters of Compliance for Lead Paint if child <6 years old and building built prior to 1978 with no new construction permit.	NE			
7. The Authority obtained Proofs of Ownership	NE			
8. The Authority obtained W9s for landlords.	NE			

H. Section 8

Total # of exceptions: 0

Rating: No Findings

	Exceptions	Exception Explanation	CPA Recommendations	LHA Response
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A. Section 8 New Construction/ Substantial Rehabilitation

1. Board vote is documented approving Section 8 New Construction/Substantial Rehabilitation Compliance Certification to ensure compliance with the Affordable Use Restriction for any existing S8 NC/SR property owned by the LHA.	N/A			
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