

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Charles D. Baker, Governor 🔷 Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor 🔷 Chrystal Kornegay, Undersecretary

Public Housing Notice 2017-15

To: Local Housing Authorities

From: Amy Stitely, Acting Associate Director, Division of Public Housing and

Rental Assistance

Date: July 13th, 2017

Re: Tracking PMR Criteria in Real Time: New Feature Live in Housing Applications

Local Housing Authorities (LHAs) now have access to the digital Performance Management Review (PMR) system housed in Housing Applications. The digital PMR system allows LHAs and DHCD to monitor a housing authority's PMR criteria ratings in real time. The two criteria that LHAs can monitor in real time in the online system are:

- Occupancy
- Budget to Actual Variance

The online system does not include the capital or maintenance criteria of the PMR. The Operating Reserve and the Certifications and Reports Submissions criteria are only available for viewing at year end.

For more information about the PMR program, please see PHN 2016-36.

If you have questions about this notice, please contact your Housing Management Specialist (HMS).



Accessing the PMR System

To access the PMR system, LHAs should go to the home page where they access all the other housing applications for DHCD.

Once logged in, LHAs should find a new application called "Performance Management Review."



You will arrive at the PMR Home Screen. You can select the fiscal year (FY) at the top.



Note: The only official PMR conducted for 2016 was for the 12/31/16 cohort of LHAs. Still, the online system will show PMR ratings and PMR data for the other three cohorts —



3/31/16, 6/30/16, and 9/30/16. This is purely informational and does not represent a PMR score given for these LHAs with FYEs of 3/31/16, 6/30/16, and 9/30/16.

Here is a brief description of each button on this screen:

- LHA Profile: This is a basic LHA factsheet. It pulls information from the Board Attendance Application such as the name of the Executive Director. If any information is incorrect or missing, please make corrections in your next Board Attendance submission and the information will be automatically transmitted to the LHA profile.
- Vacancy/Occupancy Report: This report shows the LHA's rating on the Vacancy/Occupancy criterion. Vacancy/Occupancy is a PMR metric that tracks the percentage of an LHA's portfolio that is occupied, excluding those units that received waivers.
- PMR Budget vs. Actual Variance Report: This is the official PMR metric for Budget to Actual Variance. It reports the percent by which an LHA's spending varies from its budget for all "total" categories.
- **Budget to Actual Variance Report**: This report provides greater detail about the Budget to Actual Variance criterion by reporting all accounts instead of just TOTAL categories. This report can be used to understand which <u>account</u> within a TOTAL category has contributed to any variance +/- 10%.

Everything presented on this page is live data, meaning if a number in the budget or operating statement is changed, the reports in the system will automatically adjust to reflect the new data. LHAs should use this page to monitor their occupancy and budget to actual data throughout the year.

This page also allows LHAs the opportunity to view their current and past official PMR ratings. By clicking on the "Official Record of PMR" button, LHAs will be able to view their final report; however, if the fiscal year has not yet closed, this button will be greyed out. Also, if it is not yet 45 days after your fiscal year end, this button will be clickable, but it will not have any data in it. LHAs can access this information if they want to know what they officially received for their PMR currently and in years past.

The next section highlights more information about tracking Budget vs. Actual Variance in real time.

Budget to Actual Variance

In this criterion, spending is evaluated to see how much it deviates from the budgeted amount. In order to receive a rating of No Finding, LHAs must keep their spending within 10% (higher or lower) than the budgeted amount (with a few key exceptions presented in PHN 2016-36).

In addition to evaluating the Budget to Actual Variance at <u>year end</u> for the PMR, the "PMR Budget to Actual Variance" report presents some important real-time information for LHAs to keep track of their spending throughout the year. <u>It calculates the percent of a housing authority's budget that is spent year to date.</u>

ACCT NO	Acct Class	1 st Quarter YTD 03/31/2016	% of Budget Spent 1Q YTD	2 nd Quarter YTD 06/30/2016	% of Budget Spent 2Q YTD	3 rd Quarter YTD 09/30/2016	% of Budget Spent 3Q YTD	FY END YTD 12/31/2016	12/31/2016 Variance %
3000	TOTAL REVENUE	\$474,816	25%	\$939,504	50%	\$1,390,411	74%	\$1,874,179	-0.4%
4100	TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$75,810	24%	\$153,307	49%	\$229,027	73%	\$302,244	-3.8%
4300	TOTAL UTILITIES	\$101,226	19%	\$254,486	49%	\$362,800	69%	\$498,028	-4.8%
4400	TOTAL MAINTENANCE	\$149,220	24%	\$300,045	48%	\$406,863	65%	\$663,463	5.8%
4500	TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES	\$96,966	26%	\$187,386	50%	\$277, 122	74%	\$372,454	-0.9%
4600	TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	\$11,641	4%	\$17,182	6%	\$32,210	11%	\$63,876	-77.5%
4000	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$434,863	20%	\$912,406	43%	\$1,308,022	62%	\$1,900,065	-10.5%

Note: The seven accounts LHAs cannot budget for are backed out of the table above.

(Acct #3920-Gain/Loss From Sale/Disp. of Prop., Acct #4120-Compensated Absences, Acct #4180-Penalties & Interest, Acct #4541-Employee Benefits - GASB 45, Acct #4542-Pension Expense - GASB 68, Acct #4612-Restricted Reserve Expenditures, Acct #4801-Depreciation Expense)

Operating Reserve Maximum (at 100%)(Full Reserve)

Your Current Operating Reserve \$637,258

Percent of your Maximum Operating reserve at Fiscal Year End 67%

Budget to Actual Variance Rating: Corrective Action

Operating Reserve Rating:

No Findings

For example, if a housing authority budgeted an expenditure of \$100,000 for their Total Maintenance line item and reported spending \$25,000 during the **first quarter**, the new tool would show that the housing authority spent **25**% of its budgeted amount. This would put the LHA on track to meet Budget to Actual Variance criteria. On the other hand, if the report showed that the LHA spent **75**% of its budgeted amount during the **first quarter**,



\$952,755

the housing authority would know that it needs to address its spending and/or budget for that category.

This is a very basic example. DHCD is aware that spending does not always occur evenly throughout the year and can change seasonally. LHAs should look at the **percent of a housing authority's budget that is spent year to date** with some consideration of the LHA's operations.

Only at year end will the last column on the report, "Variance %" (see below) calculate the Budget to Actual Variance metric used in the PMR. LHAs will receive a rating of "No Findings" on their Budget to Actual criterion if all the columns in the "Variance %" column are between -10% and +10% (with a few exceptions – see PHN 2016-36). In the example below, the LHA has kept all revenue and expenses within 10% except for Total Other Expenses and Total Expenses.

ACCT NO	Acct Class	1 st Quarter YTD 03/31/2016			% of Budget Spent 2Q YTD	3 rd Quarter YTD 09/30/2016	% of Budget Spent 3Q YTD	FY END YTD 12/31/2016	12/31/2016 Variance %
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4000	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$434,863	20%	\$912,406	43%	\$1,308,022	62%	\$1,900,065	-10.5%

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Operating Reserve Maximum (at 100%)(Full Reserve)

\$952,755

Your Current Operating Reserve

\$637,258

Percent of your Maximum Operating reserve at Fiscal Year End

67%

Budget to Actual Variance Rating:

Corrective Action

Operating Reserve Rating:

No Findings



Important Notes about the PMR System:

If you are accessing this from the home page of the PMR system, this information updates automatically in real time, such as when operating statements are submitted. If you are access this report from the "Official Record of PMR" section, this data is frozen and will not change (see page 3 for more information).

If an LHA has not submitted any of their quarterly operating statements, the relevant columns will be blank and/or will have variances of -100% all the way down the column.

FY END YTD 03/31/2017	03/31/2017 Variance %
\$0	-100.0%
\$0	-100.0%
\$0	-100.0%

If an LHA does not have an approved budget, the entire "Budget to Actual" report will be missing.

<u>Sharing this Report with Others:</u> All reports in the PMR system can be exported to PDF. That way, you can share these reports with your internal staff, board, fee accountant, etc.

Questions? If you have any questions about the PMR system, please contact your HMS.

