

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Guide for Preparing An Appraisal Scope of Work

The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act (URA) and its implementing regulations (49 CFR Part 24) set forth minimum requirements for real property acquisition appraisals for Federal and federally-assisted programs. Appraisals subject to the URA must be prepared according to these requirements. The acquiring agency may also have additional supplemental appraisal requirements which may be attached.

The acquiring agency has a legitimate role in contributing to the appraisal process, especially in developing the scope of work and defining the appraisal problem. The scope of work and development of an appraisal under these requirements depends on the complexity of the appraisal problem

The scope of work is a written set of expectations that form an agreement or understanding between the appraiser and the agency as to the specific requirements of the appraisal, resulting in a report to be delivered to the agency by the appraiser. It includes identification of the intended use and intended user; definition of fair market value; statement of assumptions and limiting conditions; and certifications. It should specify performance requirements, or it should reference them from another source, such as the agency's appraisal procedural manual. The scope of work must address the unique, unusual and variable appraisal performance requirements of the appraisal. Either the appraiser or the agency may recommend modifications to the initial scope of work, but both parties must approve changes.

SCOPE OF WORK: The appraiser must, at a minimum:

1. Provide an appraisal meeting the definition of an appraisal found at 49 CFR 24.2(a)(3).
2. Afford the property owner or the owner's designated representative the opportunity to accompany the appraiser on the inspection of the property.
3. Perform an inspection of the subject property. The inspection should be appropriate for the appraisal problem, and the scope of work should address:
 - The extent of the inspection and description of the neighborhood and proposed project area,
 - The extent of the subject property inspection, including interior and exterior areas,
 - The level of detail of the description of the physical characteristics of the property being appraised (and, in the case of a partial acquisition, the remaining property),
4. In the appraisal report, include an adequate description of the physical characteristics of the property being appraised (i.e., sketch of the property and provide the location and dimensions of any improvements) and a description of comparable sales. The appraisal report should also include adequate photographs of the subject property and comparable sales, and provide location maps of the property and comparable sales
5. In the appraisal report, include items required by the acquiring agency, including but not limited to the following:

- Property right(s) to be acquired, e.g., fee simple, easement, etc.,
- Value being appraised (usually fair market value), and its definition
- Appraised as if free and clear of contamination (or as specified),
- Date of the appraisal report and the date of valuation,
- A realty/personalty report as required by 49 CFR 24.103(a)(2)(i),
- Known and observed encumbrances, if any,
- Title information,
- Location,
- Zoning,
- Present use, and
- At least a 5-year sales history of the property.

6. In the appraisal report, identify the highest and best use. If highest and best use is in question or different from the existing use, provide an appropriate analysis identifying the market-based highest and best use.

7. Present and analyze relevant market information. (*Specific requirements for market information should be included in the agency's appraisal procedural manual and should include research, analysis, and verification of comparable sales. Inspection of the comparable sales should also be specified.*)

8. In developing and reporting the appraisal, disregard any decrease or increase in the fair market value of the real property caused by the project for which the property is to be acquired, or by the likelihood that the property would be acquired for the project. (*If necessary, the appraiser may cite the Jurisdictional Exception or Supplemental Standards Rules under USPAP to ensure compliance with USPAP while following this and other Uniform Act requirements.*)

9. Report his or her analysis, opinions, and conclusions in the appraisal report.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR A SCOPE OF WORK:

INTENDED USE: This appraisal is to estimate the fair market value of the property, as of the specified date of valuation, for the proposed acquisition of the property rights specified (i.e., fee simple, etc.) for a Federally assisted project.

INTENDED USER: The intended user of this appraisal report is primarily the acquiring agency, but its funding partners may review the appraisal as part of their program oversight activities.

DEFINITION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE: This is determined by State law. Fair market value, however, is generally defined as the price that a seller is willing to accept and a buyer is willing to pay on the open market in an arm's length transaction, and usually includes the following:

1. Buyer and seller are typically motivated;
2. Both parties are well informed or well advised, each acting in what he or she considers his or her own best interest;
3. A reasonable time is allowed for exposure in the open market;
4. Payment is made in terms of cash in U. S. dollars or in terms of financial arrangements comparable thereto; and
5. The price represents the normal consideration for the property sold unaffected by special or creative financing or sales concessions granted by anyone associated with the sale.

CERTIFICATION: The appraisal shall include a certification of the appraiser (see attached sample or insert agency's certification).

ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITING CONDITIONS: The appraiser shall state all relevant assumptions and limiting conditions. In addition, the acquiring agency may provide other assumptions and conditions that may be required for the particular appraisal assignment, such as:

- The data search requirements and parameters that may be required for the project.
- Identification of the technology requirements, including approaches to value, to be used to analyze the data.
- Need for machinery and equipment appraisals, soil studies, potential zoning changes, etc.
- Instructions to the appraiser to appraise the property "As Is" or subject to repairs or corrective action.
- As applicable include any information on property contamination to be provided and considered by the appraiser in making the appraisal.