12 USC Chapter 13, Section 1701z–1 -- RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATIONS; AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; CONTINUING AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development is authorized and directed to undertake such programs of research, studies, testing, and demonstration relating to the mission and programs of the Department as he determines to be necessary and appropriate.

12 USC Chapter 13, Section 1701z-2(g) – INFORMATION AND DATA; RESTRICTION ON USE OR IDENTIFICATION

The Secretary is authorized to request and receive such information or data as he deems appropriate from private individuals and organizations, and from public agencies. Any such information or data shall be used only for the purposes for which it is supplied, and no publication shall be made by the Secretary whereby the information or data furnished by any particular person or establishment can be identified, except with the consent of such person or establishment.

12 USC Chapter 13, Section 1701z–10a.-- BIENNIAL SURVEY OF ECONOMIC AND HOUSING MARKET CONDITIONS

The Secretary shall, not less than biennially, survey national, regional, and local economic and housing market conditions in a manner that provides data comparable to the data collected in such survey conducted in 1981.

13 USC Chapter 1, Subchapter I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

§9. Information as confidential; exception

(a) Neither the Secretary, nor any other officer or employee of the Department of Commerce or bureau or agency thereof, or local government census liaison, may, except as provided in section 8 or 16 or chapter 10 of this title or section 210 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998 or section 2(f) of the Census of Agriculture Act of 1997-1.

1. Use the information furnished under the provisions of this title for any purpose other than the statistical purposes for which it is supplied; or

2. Make any publication whereby the data furnished by any particular establishment or individual under this title can be identified; or

3. Permit anyone other than the sworn officers and employees of the Department or bureau or agency thereof to examine the individual reports.

No department, bureau, agency, officer, or employee of the Government, except the Secretary in carrying out the purposes of this title, shall require, for any reason, copies of census reports which have been retained by any such establishment or individual. Copies of census reports which have been so retained shall be immune from legal process, and shall not, without the consent of the individual or establishment concerned, be admitted as evidence or used for any purpose in any action, suit, or other judicial or administrative proceeding.

(b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section relating to the confidential treatment of data for particular individuals and establishments, shall not apply to the censuses of governments provided for by subchapter III of chapter 5 of this title, nor to interim current data provided for by subchapter IV of chapter
5 of this title as to the subjects covered by censuses of governments, with respect to any information obtained therefor that is compiled from, or customarily provided in, public records.