

**PHA 5-Year and Annual Plan**

**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Office of Public and Indian Housing**

**OMB No. 2577-0226  
Expires 8/30/2011**

1.0	<b>PHA Information</b> PHA Name: <u>Housing Authority of the County of Riverside</u> PHA Code: <u>CA027</u> PHA Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Small <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High Performing <input type="checkbox"/> Standard <input type="checkbox"/> HCV (Section 8) PHA Fiscal Year Beginning: (MM/YYYY): <u>07/01/2015</u>				
2.0	<b>Inventory</b> (based on ACC units at time of FY beginning in 1.0 above) Number of PH units: <u>469</u> Number of HCV units: <u>8988</u>				
3.0	<b>Submission Type</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5-Year and Annual Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Plan Only <input type="checkbox"/> 5-Year Plan Only				
4.0	<b>PHA Consortia</b> <input type="checkbox"/> PHA Consortia: (Check box if submitting a joint Plan and complete table below.)				
	Participating PHAs	PHA Code	Program(s) Included in the Consortia	Programs Not in the Consortia	No. of Units in Each Program PH HCV
	PHA 1:				
	PHA 2:				
	PHA 3:				
5.0	<b>5-Year Plan.</b> Complete items 5.1 and 5.2 only at 5-Year Plan update.				
5.1	<b>Mission.</b> State the PHA's Mission for serving the needs of low-income, very low-income, and extremely low income families in the PHA's jurisdiction for the next five years:  To transform and promote healthy, thriving communities, re-ignite hope and restore human dignity through the creation and preservation of high quality and innovative housing and community development programs which enhance the quality of life and revitalize neighborhoods to foster self-sufficiency.				
5.2	<b>Goals and Objectives.</b> Identify the PHA's quantifiable goals and objectives that will enable the PHA to serve the needs of low-income and very low-income, and extremely low-income families for the next five years. Include a report on the progress the PHA has made in meeting the goals and objectives described in the previous 5-Year Plan.  See Attached Goals and Objectives				

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6.0 PHA Plan Update

(a) Identify all PHA Plan elements that have been revised by the PHA since its last Annual Plan submission:

**PHA Plan Elements:**

1) **Eligibility, Selection and Admissions Policies, including Deconcentration and Wait List Procedures.**

For the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program, the waiting list will re-open effective **July 1, 2015**. Under selection of families from the waiting list, one (1) local preference under Level 1 was added: homeless families with children residing in shelters.

For the Affordable Public Housing (PH) program, the waiting list will remain open. Under selection of families from the waiting list is the addition of a first level preference for homeless families with children residing in shelters.

If the Housing Authority is designated as a shortfall agency, subsidy standards may be adjusted to two per bedroom, regardless of familial status, age and gender, and outgoing portability may only be permitted in cases where the receiving agency, if not absorbing, is in an equal or lower cost area. The PHA may allocate project-based vouchers (PBV) to develop Housing Authority or Successor Agency (HASA) owned properties, those that exclusively assist veterans or farmworker families or development projects to support applications for state and federal funding opportunities.

Three Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) applications, representing three Public Housing Asset Management projects, have been submitted to HUD to project-base approved Public Housing developments. If approved, public housing developments will be replaced with long term, project-based Section 8 Rental Assistance contracts in compliance with guidelines outlined in Notice PIH-2012-32 (HA), REV-1, specifically those allowed under the "First Component" outlined in the Notice. RAD is authorized by the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-55, approved November 18, 2011), which provided fiscal year 2012 appropriations for HUD (2012 Appropriations Act). The second component of RAD received additional authorization by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-76, approved January 17, 2014), which provided fiscal year 2014 appropriations for HUD (2014 Appropriations Act). RAD has two separate components: **First component.** The first component allows projects funded under the public housing and Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation (Mod Rehab) programs to convert their assistance to long-term, project-based Section 8 rental assistance contracts. Under this component of RAD, public housing agencies (PHAs) and Mod Rehab owners may choose between two forms of Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) contracts: project-based vouchers (PBVs) or project-based rental assistance (PBRA). No incremental funds are authorized for this component. PHAs and Mod Rehab owners will convert their assistance at current subsidy levels. **Second component.** The second component allows owners of projects funded under the Rent Supplement (Rent Supp), Rental Assistance Payment (RAP), and Mod Rehab programs to convert tenant protection vouchers (TPVs) to PBVs, upon contract expiration or, for owners of Rent Supp and RAP projects, termination, occurring after October 1, 2006, and no later than December 31, 2014. While there is no cap on the number of units that can convert assistance under this component of RAD, and no requirement for competitive selection, actions under this component are subject to the availability of TPVs. Sections II and III of this Notice provide further instructions for owners of Mod Rehab projects and owners of Rent Supp and RAP projects, respectively. Collectively, projects that convert their form of assistance under the Demonstration are referred to in this Notice as "covered projects." If the application is approved, the Agency will convert units identified under the First Component of the Notice to all other regulatory and statutory requirements of the PBV program in 24 CFR Part 983 and section 8 (o)(13) of the Act shall apply, including resident choice, environmental review, and fair housing requirements.

2) **Financial Resources**

Please see attached **Statement of Financial Resources**, which includes listings by general categories, of the Agency's anticipated resources for FY 2015, such as PHA Section 8 HAP subsidy and administrative fees, subsidy/grants revenue, bond revenue, fraud recovery, rental income, interest revenue and other income available to support public housing and tenant-based assistance. The statement also includes non-federal sources of funds supporting each federal program, and the planned use for the resources.

3) **Rent Determination**

For 2015, the Agency plans to implement the cost savings measures outlined in PIH Notice 2013-03 and extended through PIH Notice 2013-26 which are included in the Administrative Plan. Rent determination will be adjusted to comply with the notice and the plan. Streamlined annuals are expected to be conducted for families with fixed incomes. The established payment standard amounts are in accordance with federal regulations and are within 90-110% of HUD Fair Market Rents published annually. Flat rent rates for the Affordable Public Housing program are set at amounts for each public housing unit that complies with the requirement that all flat rents be set at no less than 80 percent of the applicable Fair Market Rent (FMR) adjusted, if necessary, to account for reasonable utilities costs. The new flat rental amount applies to all new program admissions effective 10/31/14. For current program participants that pay the flat rental amount, the new flat rental amount will be offered, as well as the income-based rental amount, at the next annual rental option. A cap is placed on any increase in a family's rental payment that exceeds 35 percent, and as a result, changes to the flat rental amount as follows: Multiply the existing flat rental payment by 1.35 and compare that to the updated flat rental amount.

4) **Operation and Management**

For 2015, the Agency has made no changes to Operations or Management.

5) **Grievance Procedures**

For 2015, there are no changes to the grievance procedure policies

6) **Designated housing for Elderly and Disabled Families**

For 2015, there are no changes to housing designated for elderly and disabled families.

7) **Community Service and Self-Sufficiency**

The Housing Authority (HA) has completed Year 1 of the Family Self-Sufficiency Demonstration program. The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program Demonstration is a random assignment study conducted under contract by MDRC and its subcontractors to evaluate the effectiveness of the FSS program, as part of the Transformation Initiative. The FSS program has operated since 1992 and its objective is to enable participating low-income families to increase their earned income and reduce their dependency on welfare assistance and rental subsidies. FSS program coordinators create plans with participating families to achieve goals and connect them with services that will enhance their employment opportunities. As the family's earnings increase, money is credited to an escrow account on behalf of the family. This study used a random assignment model to determine whether FSS program features, rather than the characteristics of the participating families, cause participant incomes to increase. At the conclusion of Year 1, 200 participants have been randomly assigned and over the next 5 years the HA will work with MDRC to gather the data that will be used in the final report that will be published after the 5 year research study. We continue to administer the regular (non-demonstration) Family Self-Sufficiency program for HCV participants and it is expected that after Year 2 of the FSS Demonstration program, the HA will resume enrollment in the regular FSS Program. The Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) program changed locations and is completing the final year of program operations assisting residents at the Gloria Street Apartments and at the Dracaea Townhomes in the Public Housing communities in Moreno Valley. A new application has been submitted to funding consideration to continue the program for another 3 years. The waivers outlined in Federal Register Vol. 79, No. 248, published on December 29, 2014, will be implemented.

**8) Safety and Crime Prevention**

For 2015, there are no changes to the PHA plan regarding Safety and Crime Prevention.

**9) Pets.**

For 2015, there is no change to our pet policy.

**10) Civil Rights Certification.**

The agency examines its programs to identify any impediments to fair housing choice and addresses any impediments in a reasonable fashion. Additionally, the agency works closely with the Fair Housing Council of Riverside County to address any identifiable impediments to fair housing within the jurisdiction. The agency assures that the annual plan is consistent with the 12 city and county consolidated plans within its jurisdiction and has each entity certify this via for HUD 50077-SL.

**11) Fiscal Year Audit**

For Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014, the Housing Authority received an Unqualified auditor's opinion on compliance for major programs; and there were no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies identified in its financial statements. Please see attached **Fiscal Year End Audits**.

**12) Asset Management**

The agency continues to employ the Asset Management Plan described below and monitor the operational performance of each AMP. The Housing Authority of the County of Riverside's (HACR) asset management model eliminated the centralized functions and incorporated a property specific focus. To facilitate the autonomy of each site, the building of offices and workshops for the Public Housing Property Managers to conduct normal daily duties and the Maintenance Workers to perform their daily work has been completed in Desert Hot Springs, Lake Elsinore, Thermal, and Jurupa Valley. Plans are underway to build a Maintenance Shop in Beaumont. Services by the Public Housing Property Manager and the Maintenance Worker are site specific. The Agency continues to monitor each property based on financial, physical and management performance. If a property is identified as non-performing, staff then proceed to make recommendations that address the areas of non-performance. The HACR Fiscal department has been monitoring all fiscal and budget performances via monthly budgets, actual reports and financial statements. The Public Housing Property Managers are active participants in developing and monitoring their site specific budgets. The HACR will continue to utilize the Capital Fund Program to modernize our units. The AMPs will be monitored to ensure they are not operating at a loss. Any that are will be considered for disposition in the future. A Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) application has been submitted. If approved, public housing developments will be replaced with long term, project-based Section 8 Rental Assistance contracts.

**13) Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)**

For 2015, there have been no implementation changes with regard to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). If any VAWA requirements change, the agency will comply as needed.

**(b) Identify the specific location(s) where the public may obtain copies of the 5-Year and Annual PHA Plan. For a complete list of PHA Plan elements, see Section 6.0 of the instructions.**

Electronic copies of the 5-Year and Annual PHA Plan can be found on the Housing Authority's website at [www.harivco.org](http://www.harivco.org) and print copies are available by request at the main administrative office located at 5555 Arlington Avenue, Riverside, CA, 92504 and at the eastern county office located at 44-199 Monroe, Suite B, Indio, CA, 92201.

**Hope VI, Mixed Finance Modernization or Development, Demolition and/or Disposition, Conversion of Public Housing, Homeownership Programs, and Project-based Vouchers.** *Include statements related to these programs as applicable.*

**(a) Hope VI or Mixed Finance Modernization or Development.**

Not applicable.

**(b) Demolition and/or Disposition**

Not applicable.

**(c) Conversion of Public Housing.**

A Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) application has been submitted. If approved, public housing developments will be replaced with long term, project-based Section 8 Rental Assistance contracts

**(d) Homeownership.**

HACR has a comprehensive HUD approved Homeownership program that consists of a HCV Mortgage Voucher program, a locally funded infill housing program, and homeownership counseling for any interested participant with an emphasis on FSS families.

**(e) Project-based Vouchers.**

HACR currently has 48 project-based vouchers at two developments; 10 units in Blythe and 38 units in Cathedral City. The agency proposes to expand the use of project based vouchers for FY2015-16 to further facilitate the development of affordable housing within Riverside County by developing Housing Authority or Successor Agency (HASA) owned properties, those that exclusively assist veterans or farmworker families or development projects to support applications for state and federal funding opportunities. To support this expansion, the maximum allotment allowed under regulations (20% of total allocation) will be reserved.

7.0

The Housing Authority of the County of Riverside (HACR) currently owns and operates 469 units of affordable housing within the County of Riverside. Funding to maintain these units is derived from the Public Housing Program. The Public Housing Program has continued to be underfunded through the years, with additional budget cuts to the Capital Fund Program that provides the income source for the modernization of public housing units. This dilemma has forced the HACR to make tough choices between maximizing the funding for repairs or focusing on preventive maintenance. The current available funding has failed to keep up with the renovation needs to enhance the living conditions of residents. Further, through the Public Housing Program, residents do not have flexibility to choose where they prefer to live without losing housing assistance.

The Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Program is a voluntary program of the Department of Housing And Urban Development (HUD). RAD seeks to preserve public housing by providing Public Housing Agencies (PHAs), such as the HACR, with access to more stable funding to make needed improvements to properties. RAD provides PHAs a way to rehabilitate, or repair units without depending on additional money from the public sector. Three RAD applications representing three asset management projects have been submitted to HUD to project-base all 469 units. A feasibility study suggested that the best approach would be to do a straight RAD conversion with no debt or investor equity where the HACR would fund capital needs for upfront repairs using existing reserves and replacement reserve withdrawals over a 15-year period. If approved, public housing developments will be replaced with long term, project-based Section 8 Rental Assistance contracts in compliance with guidelines outlined in Notice PIH-2012-32 (HA), REV-1, specifically those allowed under the "First Component" outlined in the Notice. RAD is authorized by the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-55, approved November 18, 2011), which provided fiscal year 2012 appropriations for HUD (2012 Appropriations Act). The second component of RAD received additional authorization by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-76, approved January 17, 2014), which provided fiscal year 2014 appropriations for HUD (2014 Appropriations Act). RAD has two separate components: **First component.** The first component allows projects funded under the public housing and Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation (Mod Rehab) programs to convert their assistance to long-term, project-based Section 8 rental assistance contracts. Under this component of RAD, public housing agencies (PHAs) and Mod Rehab owners may choose between two forms of Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) contracts: project-based vouchers (PBVs) or project-based rental assistance (PBRA). No incremental funds are authorized for this component. PHAs and Mod Rehab owners will convert their assistance at current subsidy levels. **Second component.** The second component allows owners of projects funded under the Rent Supplement (Rent Supp), Rental Assistance Payment (RAP), and Mod Rehab programs to convert tenant protection vouchers (TPVs) to PBVs, upon contract expiration or, for owners of Rent Supp and RAP projects, termination, occurring after October 1, 2006, and no later than December 31, 2014. While there is no cap on the number of units that can convert assistance under this component of RAD, and no requirement for competitive selection, actions under this component are subject to the availability of TPVs. Sections II and III of this Notice provide further instructions for owners of Mod Rehab projects and owners of Rent Supp and RAP projects, respectively. Collectively, projects that convert their form of assistance under the Demonstration are referred to in this Notice as "covered projects." If the application is approved, the Agency will convert units identified under the First Component of the Notice. All other regulatory and statutory requirements of the PBV program in 24 CFR Part 983 and section 8 (o)(13) of the Act shall apply, including resident choice, environmental review, and fair housing requirements.

8.0	<b>Capital Improvements.</b> Please complete Parts 8.1 through 8.3, as applicable.
8.1	<b>Capital Fund Program Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report.</b> As part of the PHA 5-Year and Annual Plan, annually complete and submit the <i>Capital Fund Program Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report</i> , form HUD-50075.1, for each current and open CFP grant and CFFP financing.
8.2	<b>Capital Fund Program Five-Year Action Plan.</b> As part of the submission of the Annual Plan, PHAs must complete and submit the <i>Capital Fund Program Five-Year Action Plan</i> , form HUD-50075.2, and subsequent annual updates (on a rolling basis, e.g., drop current year, and add latest year for a five year period). Large capital items must be included in the Five-Year Action Plan.
8.3	<b>Capital Fund Financing Program (CFFP).</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Check if the PHA proposes to use any portion of its Capital Fund Program (CFP)/Replacement Housing Factor (RHF) to repay debt incurred to finance capital improvements.
9.0	<b>Housing Needs.</b> Based on information provided by the applicable Consolidated Plan, information provided by HUD, and other generally available data, make a reasonable effort to identify the housing needs of the low-income, very low-income, and extremely low-income families who reside in the jurisdiction served by the PHA, including elderly families, families with disabilities, and households of various races and ethnic groups, and other families who are on the public housing and Section 8 tenant-based assistance waiting lists. The identification of housing needs must address issues of affordability, supply, quality, accessibility, size of units, and location.

9.1	<p><b>Strategy for Addressing Housing Needs.</b> Provide a brief description of the PHA's strategy for addressing the housing needs of families in the jurisdiction and on the waiting list in the upcoming year. <b>Note: Small, Section 8 only, and High Performing PHAs complete only for Annual Plan submission with the 5-Year Plan.</b></p> <p><b>See Attached Identification of Housing Needs and Strategy for Addressing Housing Needs</b></p>
10.0	<p><b>Additional Information.</b> Describe the following, as well as any additional information HUD has requested.</p> <p>(a) <b>Progress in Meeting Mission and Goals.</b> Provide a brief statement of the PHA's progress in meeting the mission and goals described in the 5-Year Plan.</p> <p>HACR continues to make progress in meeting the mission and goals described in the 5-Year Plan. Toward this end, the Agency made a concerted effort to increase the availability of decent, safe, and affordable housing by: expanding the supply of assisted housing; improving the quality of assisted housing; and increasing assisted housing choices. Significant achievements during the five year plan period include: expansion of the Family Self-Sufficiency and ROSS Programs. The HACR continues to receive renewal funding to employ 7 full time FSS Coordinators. In 2013, the HACR FSS Program was one out of 17 other FSS Programs selected by MDRC (the firm contracted by HUD) to be a part of the National FSS Evaluation Study. The HACR continues to apply for additional ROSS funding and currently has an application pending to continue the current ROSS Program at the Moreno Valley properties for another 3 years; continuation of the current 15 Mortgage Voucher Program participants and the continuation of the Infill Housing Program which both constructs and sells single family homes; securing 539 vouchers through the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program to provide housing for homeless veterans; expanding the Security Deposit Assistance program to support housing mobility and assist HCV households impacted by the foreclosure crisis and those new from the waiting list that have as a barrier the lack of funds for a security deposit which otherwise prevents equal access to the HCV program and providing supportive housing opportunities for homeless individuals and families through various grant funded programs in an effort to support the goals and work of the local Continuum of Care; the continuation of the Asset Management within the Public Housing program; and attaining High Performer status for the Agency's management of the HCV program.</p> <p>(b) <b>Significant Amendment and Substantial Deviation/Modification.</b> Provide the PHA's definition of "significant amendment" and "substantial deviation/modification"</p> <p>For purposes of the 5-Year Plan, the Agency defines a "substantial deviation/modification" or "significant amendment" as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Changes to admissions policies, organization of the HCV or Public Housing waiting lists, or rent determination;</li> <li>2. Additions of non-emergency work items (items not included in the current Annual Statement for 5-Year Plan) or change in the use of replacement reserve funds under the Capital Fund; and</li> <li>3. Any change with regard to demolition, disposition, designation, or conversion of Public Housing properties.</li> </ol> <p>When significant changes are proposed the Agency will adhere to a forty-five day Notice of Public Comment; solicit public comment and feedback; ensure that proposed changes are consistent with the Consolidated Plan, and submit the proposed change to the Board of Commissioners for formal approval.</p>
11.0	<p><b>Required Submission for HUD Field Office Review.</b> In addition to the PHA Plan template (HUD-50075), PHAs must submit the following documents. Items (a) through (g) may be submitted with signature by mail or electronically with scanned signatures, but electronic submission is encouraged. Items (h) through (i) must be attached electronically with the PHA Plan. <b>Note:</b> Faxed copies of these documents will not be accepted by the Field Office.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Form HUD-50077, <i>PHA Certifications of Compliance with the PHA Plans and Related Regulations</i> (which includes all certifications relating to Civil Rights)</li> <li>(b) Form HUD-50070, <i>Certification for a Drug-Free Workplace</i> (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)</li> <li>(c) Form HUD-50071, <i>Certification of Payments to Influence Federal Transactions</i> (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)</li> <li>(d) Form SF-LLL, <i>Disclosure of Lobbying Activities</i> (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)</li> <li>(e) Form SF-LLL-A, <i>Disclosure of Lobbying Activities Continuation Sheet</i> (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)</li> <li>(f) Resident Advisory Board (RAB) comments. Comments received from the RAB must be submitted by the PHA as an attachment to the PHA Plan. PHAs must also include a narrative describing their analysis of the recommendations and the decisions made on these recommendations.</li> <li>(g) Challenged Elements</li> <li>(h) Form HUD-50075-1, <i>Capital Fund Program Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report</i> (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)</li> <li>(i) Form HUD-50075-2, <i>Capital Fund Program Five-Year Action Plan</i> (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)</li> </ol>

**Housing Authority of the County of Riverside (HACR)**  
**PHA 5-Year and Annual Plan Goals and Objectives**  
**July 1, 2015**

**PHA Goal: Expand the supply of assisted housing.**

Objective: Increase housing choices for families and individuals.

- Apply for additional vouchers
- Leverage private or other public funds
- Acquire, construct, or rehabilitate housing units and developments to expand affordable housing opportunities and promote homeownership for low-income households

**PHA Goal: Improve the quality of assisted housing.**

Objective: Maintain safe, decent, sanitary units and improve quality of life for residents living in assisted housing.

- Obtain and maintain High Performer status for HCV voucher management (SEMAP Score)
- Obtain and maintain High Performer status for Public Housing management (PHAS Score)
- Provide excellent customer service
- Renovate or modernize public housing units
- Annually inspect units to meet Housing Quality Standards with the option to bi-annually inspect units that regularly pass inspection.
- Allocate project-based vouchers for qualified housing projects

**PHA Goal: Increase assisted housing choices.**

Objective: Encourage resident choice in rental selection

- Conduct outreach efforts to potential landlords
- Provide replacement vouchers
- Expand self-sufficiency programs for participant households
- Allocate project-based vouchers for qualified housing projects

**PHA Goal: Promote self-sufficiency within assisted housing programs**

Objective: Promote economic independence for families and individuals.

- Connect working-able and work-ready households to employment opportunities
- Provide or attract supportive services to improve assisted members' employability
- Expand self-sufficiency programs for residents in the assisted housing programs
- Partner with local workforce development centers to positively further self-sufficiency within assisted housing households.

**PHA Goal: Ensure equal opportunity and affirmatively further fair housing.**

Objective: Promote equal housing opportunities.

- Facilitate affirmative measures to ensure access to assisted housing regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, and disability
- Carry out affirmative measures to provide a suitable living environment for families living in assisted housing, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, and disability
- Promote equal housing opportunities

**Other PHA Goal and Objective: Implement the requirements of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)**

- Protect certain victims of criminal domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking (as well as members of the victims' immediate families) from losing their HUD assisted housing as a consequence of abuse of which they were the victim
- Undertake affirmative measures to make tenants participating in the HCV and Public Housing programs aware of VAWA requirements.
- Undertake affirmative measure to make Owners participating in the HCV program aware of VAWA requirements.

**Housing Authority of the County of Riverside  
5-Year Plan and Annual Plan  
Identification of Housing Needs and Strategy for Addressing Housing Needs  
July 1, 2015**

**Identification of Housing Needs:**

WAIT LIST STATISTICS	58	PH
Total on Wait List as of 12/22/2014	13464	36225
Income at or below 30% of Area Median Income (AMI)	10098	28147
Homeless	1602	5795
Elderly	1773	6179
Extreme Elderly (75 years and older)	403	2244
Disabled	3558	10043
Families w/minor children	9057	21105
Working families (families with minor children working 32 hours/week or more)	4419	8411
Veterans	595	1553

**Need: Meeting Waiting List Housing Needs**

**Strategy 1: Maximize the number of affordable units available to the PHA within its current resources by:**

- Maintain or increase section 8 lease-up rates by establishing payment standards that will enable families to rent throughout the jurisdiction
- Undertake measures to ensure access to affordable housing among families assisted by the PHA
- Maintain or increase section 8 lease-up rates by marketing the program to owners, particularly those outside of areas of minority and poverty concentration
- Employ effective maintenance and management policies to minimize the number of public housing units off-line
- Reduce turnover time for vacated public housing units
- Reduce time to renovate public housing units
- Participate in the Consolidated Plan development process to ensure coordination with broader community strategies

**Strategy 2: Increase the number of affordable housing units by:**

- Apply for additional section 8 units should they become available
- Pursue housing resources other than public housing or Section 8 tenant-based assistance

**Need: Families at or below 30% of median**

**Strategy 1: Target available assistance to families at or below 30 % of AMI**

- Employ admissions preferences aimed at families with economic hardships
- Adopt rent policies to support and encourage work



**Need: Homeless families with children residing in shelters**

**Strategy 1: Conduct activities to house homeless families with children living in shelters**

- Partner with local shelters to identify homeless households and register them on the waiting list
- Establish waiting list preference to assist the homeless families with children residing in shelters

**Need: Elderly (62 and older) and Extreme Elderly (75 and older)**

**Strategy 1: Target available assistance to elderly (62 and older) and Extreme Elderly (75 years of age and older):**

- Apply for special-purpose vouchers targeted to the elderly, should they become available
- Establish waiting list preferences to assist the extreme elderly and elderly

**Need: Families with Disabilities**

**Strategy 1: Target available assistance to Families with Disabilities:**

- Apply for special-purpose vouchers targeted to families with disabilities, should they become available
- Affirmatively market to local non-profit agencies that assist families with disabilities
- Establish waiting list preference to assist the disabled
- Educate families and owners on Reasonable Accommodation policies and procedures

**Need: Foster Care Youth, ages 18-24**

**Strategy 1: Target available assistance to Families with Disabilities:**

- Partner with local child welfare agencies to identify at risk youth aging out of foster care and register them on the waiting list
- Establish waiting list preference to assist at risk youth aging out of foster care



**ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN  
FOR THE HOUSING CHOICE  
VOUCHER PROGRAM**

**Housing Authority of the  
County of Riverside**

**Effective July 1, 2015**

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## Chapter 1

### STATEMENT OF POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Program was enacted as part of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, which re-codified the U.S. Housing Act of 1937. The Act has been amended from time to time, and its requirements are described in, and implemented through this Administrative Plan.

Administration of the Housing Choice Voucher Program and the functions and responsibilities of the Housing Authority of the County of Riverside (HA) staff shall be in compliance with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Housing Choice Voucher Program Regulations as well as federal, state and local fair housing laws and regulations.

The HA is committed to the goals and policies contained in the Housing Element of the General Plan for the County of Riverside and the County of Riverside Consolidated Plan.

#### **A. PURPOSE OF THE PLAN**

The purpose of the Administrative Plan is to establish policies for carrying out the programs in a manner consistent with HUD requirements and local objectives. The Plan covers both admission and continued participation in these programs.

The HA is responsible for complying with all changes in HUD regulations pertaining to these programs. If such changes conflict with this Plan, HUD regulations will have precedence.

#### **B. SERVICE POLICY/ACCOMMODATIONS**

This policy is applicable to all situations described in this Administrative Plan when a family initiates contact with the HA, when the HA initiates contact with a family including when a family applies, and when the HA schedules or reschedules appointments of any kind.

It is the policy of this HA to be customer service oriented in the administration of our housing programs, and to exercise and demonstrate a high level of professionalism while providing housing services to the families within our jurisdiction.

The HA's policies and practices are designed to provide assurances that all persons with disabilities will be provided accommodations, whenever reasonable, so that they may have equal access to the housing programs and related services. Persons requiring special accommodations due to a disability must notify the HA of their needs.

In matters where the HA has discretion, waivers to existing policy shall be determined by the Director or designee.

#### **C. TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENTS**

The Housing Authority will provide verbal translation of documents into Spanish, as well as other languages when feasible.

#### **D. FAMILY OUTREACH**

It is the goal of the HA to assure that participating families in the program are representative of the County's targeted population groups, as identified in the Consolidated Plan of its area of operation. The HA will publicize and disseminate information to make known the availability of housing assistance and related services for low income families on an as needed basis. The HA will publicize the availability and nature of housing assistance for low income families in a newspaper of general circulation, minority media, through the agency's website at [www.harivco.org](http://www.harivco.org) and by other suitable means (such as distributing information to non-profit agencies within the county).

#### **E. PRIVACY RIGHTS AND PROVIDING INFORMATION TO OWNERS**

The HA's policy regarding release of information is in accordance with state and local laws which restricts the release of family information.

The HA's practices and procedures are designed to safeguard the privacy of applicants, program participants, and participating owners or property managers. All applicant and participant hard files and imaged files will be stored in a secure location that is only accessible by authorized staff. Owner records will be filed and/or imaged with the participant's file.

In accordance with HUD requirements, the HA will furnish prospective owners with the names and addresses of current and prior landlords of applicants and participants for tenant screening purposes.

#### **F. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

The HA practices equal opportunity in hiring, promotion and conditions of employment. The HA will comply with the equal opportunity housing requirements in regard to non-discrimination in housing.

#### **G. SPECIAL HOUSING TYPES**

The HA routinely provides Manufactured home space rental assistance and will provide Shared Housing, and Single Room Occupancy (SRO), as a reasonable accommodation to applicants and participants who request it in order to make the program more accessible. All units must pass Housing Quality Standards as outlined in the Code of Federal Regulations. Except where specifically regulated, all HA policies in this Administrative Plan also apply to the special housing types.

#### **H. RULES AND REGULATIONS**

This Administrative Plan is set forth to define the HA's local policies for operation of the housing programs in the context of federal laws and regulations. All issues related to Housing Choice Voucher Program not addressed in this document are governed by such federal regulations, HUD memos, notices and guidelines, or other applicable law.

#### **I. JURISDICTION**

The HA's area of operation is all of the incorporated and unincorporated cities and areas in Riverside County.



#### **J. MONITORING PROGRAM PERFORMANCE**

The HA will monitor program performance in compliance with the Annual Contributions Contract and other applicable laws, regulations and guidelines. It is the agency's objective to receive the highest rating from HUD using the Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP).

The HA will monitor Housing Quality Standards (HQS) in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations 24 CFR Part 982, by conducting quality control inspections in an amount necessary to meet HUD requirements.

#### **K. PROGRAM INTEGRITY MONITORING (PIM)**

The Housing Authority of the County of Riverside administers Program Integrity Monitoring (PIM). The purpose of the program is to ensure that public funds are paid only on behalf of qualified and eligible participants, and to landlords and owners who comply with all contract provisions in accordance with federal regulations. (Refer to Appendix E)

PIM also staffs a toll-free fraud hotline [(800) 300-0439]. Through this hotline, the public can anonymously report any suspected participant/owner/employee fraud. The fraud hotline number is available through the internet web site, and Housing Authority newsletters.

#### **L. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM FILES**

The HA will make public records available to ~~individuals and organizations with legitimate purposes~~ all persons, unless otherwise exempted from disclosure by applicable law. Copies of disclosable public records may be purchased from the HA or they can be viewed at no charge at the HA offices during normal business hours. The HA charges \$0.50 for the first page copied and \$0.10 for each additional page thereafter. To the extent permitted by law, under certain circumstances the HA may recover additional costs in connection with retrieving electronic data. ~~In order not to cause a financial burden on the HA, charges for this information will be 25 cents per page for photocopies, and \$30 per hour for staff time in locating and gathering information. If the file is stored in archives, an additional \$35 fee will be charged to request it from storage.~~

#### **M. USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE FEE RESERVE**

The HA Board of Commissioners must authorize any withdrawal from administrative fee reserves proposed through the annual budget approval process. The Board of Commissioners must authorize any amount in excess of \$75,000 per occurrence that is used during the fiscal year in addition to the previously approved amount.

#### **N. CODE OF CONDUCT**

All employees are expected to abide by the Code of Conduct for the Housing Authority, which is included as Appendix B of this document.

## Chapter 2

### ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter defines the HUD and HA criteria for admission and denial of admission to the program. The policy of the HA is to strive for objectivity and consistency in applying these criteria to evaluate the eligibility of families who apply. The HA staff will review all information provided by the family carefully and without regard to factors other than those defined in this chapter. Families will be provided the opportunity to explain their circumstances, to furnish additional information, if needed, and to receive an explanation of the basis for any decision made by the HA pertaining to their eligibility.

To be eligible for participation, an applicant must meet HUD criteria, as well as any permissible additional criteria established by the HA, i.e., **Amended** Policy on Zero Tolerance of Criminal Activity (see Appendix C), and established local preferences (see Chapter 4).

The family's placement on the waiting list will be made in accordance with their registration date, and self-disclosed preferences.

#### **A. QUALIFICATION AS A FAMILY**

24 CFR 5.403

The applicant must qualify as a family. A family includes but is not limited to, regardless of marital status, actual or perceived sexual orientation, or gender identity, the following:

A single (one) person, who may be an elderly person, a displaced person, disabled person, near-elderly person, or any other single person; or

A group of persons residing together and such group includes, but is not limited to:

- A family with or without minor(s) (a minor who is temporarily away, 182 days or less, from the home because of placement in foster care is considered a member of the family)
- An elderly family
- A near-elderly family
- A disabled family
- A displaced family; and
- The remaining member of a tenant family

#### **Head of Household**

The head of household is the adult member of the household who is designated by the family, is wholly or partly responsible for paying the rent, and has the legal capacity to enter into a lease under state/local law. Emancipated minors who qualify under state law may be recognized as the head of household.

## Live-In Aide

## CFR 982.316

A family that consists of one or more elderly, near-elderly or disabled persons may request that the HA approve a live-in aide to reside in the unit and provide necessary supportive services for a family member who is a person with disabilities. The HA must approve a live-in aide if needed as a reasonable accommodation in accordance with 24 CFR Part 8 to make the program accessible to and usable by the family member with a disability. A statement from a licensed professional supporting the need for a Live-In Aide will be required. This statement must be renewed every year at the annual recertification. For relocations the verification must be current within the last ~~60~~ 120 days.

Live-in aide means a person who resides with one or more elderly persons, near-elderly or disabled persons, and who:

1. Is determined by the HA to be essential to the care and wellbeing of an elderly person or a person with disabilities,
2. Is not obligated for the support of the person(s),
3. Would not be living in the unit except to provide the necessary supportive services.

Occasional, intermittent, multiple or rotating care givers do not meet the definition of a live-in aide since 24CFR Section 982.402(b)(7) implies live-in-aides must reside with a family permanently for the family unit size to be adjusted in accordance with the subsidy standards established by the PHA. Therefore, regardless of whether these caregivers spend the night, an additional bedroom should not be approved (PIH 2009-22).

A PHA may only approve one additional bedroom for a live- in aide. Although a live-in aide may have PHA-approved family member/s live with him/her in the assisted unit, no additional bedrooms will be provided for the family members of the live-in aide. The PHA must ensure that housing quality standards (HQS) will not be violated and that there will be no more than two people per bedroom or living/sleeping space in the unit in accordance with 24 CFR § 982.401(d)(2)(ii). If the approval of additional family members of a live- in aide would result in the violation of HQS, the additional family members of the live- in aide may not be approved. PIH 2010-51 (HA)

A live-in aide is treated differently than family members:

1. Income of the live-in aide will not be counted for purposes of determining eligibility or level of benefits.
2. Live-in aides will not be considered as a remaining household member of the tenant family or be entitled to any housing assistance independent of the participant and will sign a certification to that effect.

At any time, the HA may refuse to approve a particular person as a live-in aide, or may withdraw such approval, if:

1. The person commits fraud, bribery or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program;
2. The person violates the **Amended** Policy on Zero Tolerance of Criminal Activity; or
3. The person currently owes rent or other amounts to the HA or to another HA in connection with Housing Choice Voucher Program or Public Housing Assistance under the 1937 Act;
4. ~~IF~~ The live-in aide requires a live-in aide or care provider for themselves;
5. ~~IF~~ The HOH requires a live-in aide, the HOH may not be a live-in aide/caretaker for someone else.
6. ~~IF~~ The live-in aide would not be living in the unit except to provide the necessary supportive services (i.e. spouse/co-head or parent of a child).
7. **The person is already living in the unit as a household member**

### **Multiple Families in the Same Household - Joint Custody of Minor(s)**

When two families living together apply for assistance, (such as a mother and father and a daughter with her own husband or minor(s)), they will be treated as a single family unit.

Minors who are subject to a joint custody agreement, but live with one parent at least 51 percent of the time will be considered members of the household. "51 percent of the time" is defined as 183 days of the year, which do not have to run consecutively.

When both parents are trying to claim the minor, the HA will consider court records as the authority for custody. In the absence of court records, the parent whose address is listed in the school records will be allowed to claim the school-age minor as a dependent and as a member of that household.

### **B. INCOME LIMITS**

*24 CFR 982.201 (b) (1)*

HUD determines income limits for admission to the Housing Choice Voucher Program. To be eligible, the applicant must be a family in any of the following categories:

- A "very low income" family;
- A low-income family that is "continuously assisted" under the 1937 Housing Act;
- A low-income family that meets additional eligibility criteria specified in the PHA administrative plan. Such additional PHA criteria must be consistent with the PHA plan and with the consolidated plans for local governments in the PHA jurisdiction;
- A low-income family that qualifies for voucher assistance as a non-purchasing family residing in a HOPE 1 (HOPE for public housing homeownership) or HOPE 2 (HOPE for homeownership of multifamily units) project. (Section 8(o)(4)(D) of the 1937 Act (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(4)(D));
- A low-income or moderate-income family that is displaced as a result of the prepayment of the mortgage or voluntary termination of an insurance contract on eligible low-income housing as defined in § 248.101 of this title;
- A low-income family that qualifies for voucher assistance as a non-purchasing family residing in a project subject to a resident homeownership program under § 248.173 of this title.

**C. DISCLOSURE OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS- PIH 2010-3 and 24 CFR 5.216**

All applicants and participants are required to disclose a social security number. PHAs will not need to re-verify previously disclosed valid SSNs. PHAs may rely on documentation of the SSN provided by another government agency (federal or state). Addition of new household members at least 6 years of age or under the age of 6 and who **has an assigned SSN**, the participant must disclose the SSN and provide documentation of the SSN to the PHA at the time of request to add new household member or during interim re-exam. The new household member **cannot** be added to the family composition until the family has complied with SSN disclosure and verification requirements. Addition of new household members under the age of 6 **without an assigned SSN**, are included as household members and entitled to benefits and the Head of Household is given 90 days to provide documentation of the SSN (with the potential for an extension of an additional 90 days) if the HA determines that the failure to provide proof of the SSN was due to circumstances outside the family's control. ~~Extensions may be given due to unforeseen circumstances.~~ Failure to furnish verification of social security numbers is grounds for denial or termination of assistance.

**D. CITIZENSHIP/ELIGIBLE IMMIGRATION STATUS** (24 CFR Part 5)

**Mixed Families**

An applicant family is eligible for assistance so long as at least one member is a citizen or eligible immigrant. Families that include eligible and ineligible individuals are called mixed households. Such applicant families will be given notice that their assistance will be prorated and that they may request a hearing if they contest this determination.

**No eligible members**

Applicant families that include no eligible members will be ineligible for assistance. Such families will be denied admission and offered an opportunity for a hearing.

**Non-citizen students**

Non-citizen students as defined by HUD in the non-citizen regulations are not eligible for assistance.

**Appeals**

For this eligibility requirement only, the applicant is entitled to a hearing exactly like those provided for participants.

**E. SUITABILITY OF FAMILY**

It is the responsibility of the owner to screen the applicants as to their suitability for tenancy.

**F. CHANGES IN ELIGIBILITY PRIOR TO EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE CONTRACT**

Changes that occur after the issuance of a Voucher, but before the execution of a lease and contract must be processed so that under no circumstance will a family be admitted if they are over the HUD published 50% Area Median Income Limit. For example, if a household goes over the income limit prior to lease up, the applicant is no longer eligible for the program [24 CFR 982.201(b)(4)]. They will be notified in writing of their ineligible status and their right to an informal review.

In order to be compliant with regulatory requirements, the Housing Authority will release families to result in a lease up of 75% of the families being at or below 30% of the median income (extremely low income). If a family has a change in income that results in the family exceeding the 30% income limits for the family size at the time of verification and up until voucher issuance and/or prior to lease up, the family's income will be updated and they will be returned to the waiting list and notified in writing. The family will be eligible for a future release between 30% and 50% of the income limits (very low income).

Non-income changes that are reported after voucher issuance will not affect the preference eligibility of the household once the preference criterion has been verified.

**G. INELIGIBLE FAMILIES**

Families who are determined to be ineligible will be notified in writing of the reason for denial and given an opportunity to request an informal review, or an informal hearing if they were denied due to non-citizen status.

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## Chapter 3

### APPLYING FOR ADMISSION

#### INTRODUCTION

The HA Section 8 waiting list will open July 1, 2015 for new registrations. This chapter describes the policies and procedures for completing the waiting list registration, placement on the waiting list, and completion of the Section 8 Application, including verifications and other required documents. Registrants will be placed on the waiting list in accordance with this Plan.

~~The HA Housing Choice Voucher Program waiting list closed to the general public on July 1, 2010, as the existing pool of applicants exceeded foreseeable resources. Until such time as it is determined additional applicants are required to ensure full program utilization, the waiting list will remain closed to all except:~~

- ~~• Veterans or widow/ers of a veteran, **or**~~
- ~~• Families whose head of household or spouse is 75 years of age or older, **or**~~
- ~~• Homeless At risk Foster care youth, ages 18 to 22-24, who have aged out of foster care, **or**~~
- ~~• Families or Foster Care Youth referred to the HA by the Riverside County Public Child Welfare Agency (PCWA) for admission through the Family Unification Program (HUD designated special purpose vouchers), **or**~~
- ~~• Participants that have utilized a special rental assistance program for a 3 year term and no longer require supportive services, **or**~~
- ~~• Families referred to the Housing Authority via an extraordinary local preference.~~
- ~~• Rental Assistance Demonstration?~~

~~Should the waiting list reopen, the HA will follow procedures in accordance with 24 CFR 982.206 and Public Notice will be given and outreach conducted to allow all those wishing to apply equal opportunity. This chapter describes the policies and procedures for completing the waiting list registration, placement on the waiting list, and completion of the Housing Choice Voucher Program Application, including verifications and other required documents. Registrants will be placed on the waiting list in accordance with this Plan.~~

#### EXTRAORDINARY LOCAL PREFERENCE

Up to a total of 15% of annual admissions will be targeted for an extraordinary local preference for the following registrants: Referrals by the Court Program (A program run by Riverside County Family and Dependency Drug Courts); and, registrants displaced by government action or emergency as certified by a city, county or state agency official (executive level or above), etc. The approval of the Director or designee is necessary for an extraordinary local preference. These admissions must meet the County of Riverside Residency Preference except for those who are displaced by government action. **24 CFR 982.204 (a) and 24 CFR 982.207 (a) (2) and (3).**

#### A. WAITING LIST REGISTRATION

At such time as the Housing Choice Voucher Program waiting list reopens, public notice will be issued and outreach will be conducted on a continual basis by distribution of waiting list registration forms to libraries, non-profit organizations and other public agencies. Advertisement of the housing programs is done on an as needed basis in the local paper of record, minority newspapers, other media and the agency's website at [www.harivco.org](http://www.harivco.org). Outreach and

advertisement notices include:

1. A brief description of the housing programs
2. Basic information on eligibility requirements
3. The HA's address and telephone number

When the Housing Choice Voucher Program waiting list reopens, any family asking to be placed on the waiting list for Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance must complete a registration form. **Until registrants are able to register independently using the agency's web-based waiting list portal, registrations will be taken by phone, on the Internet, by mail, by fax or by personal delivery to the HA offices.** Please note that in order to be placed on the waiting list, a valid address must be provided since the HA's primary form of communication is by mail. This is to avoid an applicant being withdrawn or removed from the waiting list for failure to respond to correspondence or returned mail. If an applicant has no valid address (homeless, etc.), it is suggested that they obtain a Post Office (PO) Box or provide a valid General Delivery Address. Upon request, reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities.

When the waiting list registration form is received by the HA, first time applicants will receive a letter that confirms placement on the waiting list. The person whose name is listed on the registration will be considered the Head of Household and will be the person entitled to the placement on our waiting list. The letter will include instructions to verify information and report changes as they occur. Registrants are required to inform the HA of changes in family composition, income, and address, as well as any changes in their preference status (See Chapter 4) **using the Housing Authority's web-based portal. In addition, between October 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> of every year, registrants are required to update their waiting list registration once annually using the Housing Authority's web-based portal. An annual update is required, regardless of whether there are any changes to their registration. Failure to do so will result in the withdrawal of all waiting list registrations. Reasonable Accommodation (RA) requests will be accommodated should a registrant who is a person with disabilities be unable to use the web-based portal but RA requests must be made during the October-December update period. Failure to update their registration during the annual update period will result in the registrant being removed from all waiting lists.**

The purpose of the registration form is to permit the HA to determine placement on the waiting list based on the information provided by the applicant. ~~Registrants are required to inform the HA of changes in family composition, income, and address, as well as any changes in their preference status (See Chapter 4) in writing or by submitting a Waiting List Change Form.~~ Registrants are also required to respond to requests from the HA to update information on their registration, or to determine their continued interest in assistance. Failure to provide information or to respond to mailings will result in the registrant being removed from the waiting list.

## **B. HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM APPLICATION**

When funding is available, registrants will be sent a Housing Choice Voucher Program Application **Eligibility Questionnaire (EQ)** according to their preference-determined sequence by the date the registration was received by the HA. This process is followed regardless of family size. **All adult members must complete and sign the Application Eligibility Questionnaire, as well as accompanying forms including the HUD Form 9886, Release of Information, HUD Form 52675, What You Should Know About EIV, What is Fraud Form, IRS Form 4506-01, HUD Form 92006 Supplemental and Optional Contact Information, and the Declaration of Citizenship.**



Failure to provide necessary certifications and release as required by the HA will be cause for denial of the application.

The Housing Choice Voucher Program Application **Eligibility Questionnaire** and related verifications determines the family's ability to claim a preference. ~~and requires a signature.~~ The qualification for preference must exist at the time the preference is verified regardless of the length of time an applicant has been on the waiting list because the preference is based on current status. If the family does not meet the current preferences, they are returned to the Waiting List.

~~If the family meets the preferences, they are sent an Eligibility Questionnaire, which includes the HUD Form 9886, Release of Information, HUD Form 52675, What You Should Know About EIV, What is Fraud Form, IRS Form 4506-01, HUD Form 92006 Supplemental and Optional Contact Information, and the Declaration of Citizenship. All adult members must complete and sign these documents. The Eligibility Questionnaire is used to determine final eligibility for Voucher issuance and requires full verification. Applicants will be required to sign specific verification forms requesting information that is not covered by the HUD Form 9886. Failure to do so will be cause for denial of the application for failure to provide necessary certifications and release as required by the HA.~~

If the HA utilizes an interview at the time of the full application, it is the applicant's responsibility to reschedule the interview if she/he misses the appointment. Appointments are rescheduled only if missing the appointment is justifiable and the request is made no later than 10 calendar days from the original appointment date. Requests for rescheduled appointments must be submitted in writing with verification (doctor's note, etc.) as to the reason for the reschedule. If the applicant does not reschedule a missed meeting, the HA will deny the application. Upon request, reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with a disability.

If the HA determines at or after the interview that additional information or document(s) are needed, the HA will request the document(s) or information in writing. The family will be given 10 calendar days to supply the information. If the information is not supplied in this time period, the HA will provide the family a notification of denial for assistance and their name will be withdrawn from the waiting list.

If an applicant is denied assistance and withdrawn from the waiting list, the applicant will be offered an opportunity to request an informal review.

**The Eligibility Questionnaire is used to determine final eligibility for Voucher issuance and requires full verification.** After the verification process is completed, the HA will make a final determination of eligibility. This decision is based upon information provided by the family, the verification completed by the HA, and the current eligibility criteria in effect. If the **family meets the preferences and applicant** is determined eligible, a briefing will be scheduled to issue a Voucher and explain the family's obligations and the program requirements.

During the initial eligibility determination process and any subsequent eligibility reexaminations, all contact such as correspondence, telephone calls, interviews, or inspections will be documented by the Housing Specialist.

## Chapter 4

### SELECTION OF FAMILIES FROM WAITING LIST

#### **INTRODUCTION**

It is the HA's objective to ensure that the families are placed in the proper order on the waiting list so that an offer of assistance is not delayed to any family, or made to any family prematurely. This chapter defines the eligibility criteria for the HA, and it explains the waiting list order which the HA has adopted to meet local housing needs.

By maintaining an accurate waiting list, the HA will be able to perform the activities which ensure that an adequate pool of qualified registrants will be available so that program funds are used in a timely manner.

#### **A. WAITING LIST PREFERENCES**

The HA has implemented the following preferences for drawing names from the waiting list. In accordance with California State Law [HSC 34322.2 (b)], at each level of preference, families meeting the definition of a veteran according to California Military and Veterans Code, Section 980, will have priority. In accordance with Federal Regulations [24 CFR 982.201 (b) (2)], at each level below, from the families that meet the preferences, the Housing Authority will release families to result in a lease up of: 75% of the families will be at or below 30% of the median income (extremely low income), and 25% of the families will be between 30% and 50% of the median income (very low income). If the first level releases do not satisfy the regulations regarding extremely low income families, releases will be done at the second level of preferences until the 75% extremely low income requirement is met.

In order to be compliant with regulatory requirements, the Housing Authority will release families to result in a lease up of 75% of the families being at or below 30% of the median income (extremely low income). If a family has a change in income that results in the family exceeding the 30% income limits for the family size at the time of verification and up until voucher issuance and/or prior to lease up, the family's income will be updated and they will be returned to the waiting list and notified in writing. The family will be eligible for a future release between 30% and 50% of the income limits (very low income).

#### **EXTRAORDINARY LOCAL PREFERENCE**

Up to a total of 15% of annual admissions will be targeted for an extraordinary local preference for the following registrants: Referrals by the Court Program (A program run by Riverside County Family and Dependency Drug Courts); and, registrants displaced by government action or emergency as certified by a city, county or state agency official (executive level or above), etc. The approval of the Director or designee is necessary for an extraordinary local preference. These admissions must meet the County of Riverside Residency Preference except for those who are displaced by government action. **24 CFR 982.204 (a) and 24 CFR 982.207 (a) (2) and (3).**

### FIRST LEVEL

- 1) County of Riverside Residency Preference, **and**
- 2) Qualified veterans, **or**
- 3) Families whose head of household or co-head is 75 years of age and older, **or**
- 4) **Homeless** Foster care youth, ages 18 to 22,<sup>4</sup> who have aged out of foster care, **or**
- 5) Families **or Foster Care Youth** referred to the HA by the Riverside County Public Child Welfare Agency (PCWA) for admission through the Family Unification Program (HUD designated special purpose vouchers), **or**
- 6) Participants who have utilized a special rental assistance program for a 3 year term and no longer require supportive services, **or**
- 7) **Homeless families with children residing in shelters.**

### SECOND LEVEL

- 1) County of Riverside Residency Preference, and
- 2) Rent-burdened or homeless, and
- 3) Working Families (see Working Families definition) with dependents or minors or Elderly families or Disabled families

### THIRD LEVEL

- 1) County of Riverside Residency Preference, and
- 2) Rent-burdened or homeless, and
- 3) Non-Working Families with dependents or minors

### FOURTH LEVEL

- 1) County of Riverside Residency Preference, and
- 2) Rent-burdened or homeless, and
- 3) Working families (see Working Families definition) without minors

### FIFTH LEVEL

- 1) County of Riverside Residency Preference, and
- 2) Rent-burdened or homeless, and
- 3) Non-working families without children.

The Housing Authority will exhaust all families at each preference level before releasing from the next lower level except as noted above. Date of registration for registrants with equal preferences will determine order of release.

### Change in Circumstances

Changes in a registrant's circumstances while on the waiting list may affect the family's entitlement to a preference. Registrants are required to notify the HA when circumstances change.

When a registrant claims an additional preference, she/he will maintain the original date of registration and will be updated on the waiting list in the appropriate order determined by the newly claimed preference. The qualification for preference must exist at the time the preference is verified regardless of the length of time an applicant has been on the waiting list because the preference is based on current status. Preference eligibility is verified at the time of completion of the Housing Choice Voucher Program Application up until voucher issuance.

## **B. EXCEPTIONS FOR SPECIAL ADMISSIONS**

**24 CFR 982.203**

If HUD awards program funding that is targeted for a specific group, the HA will admit these families under a special admission procedure. The families will be selected in accordance with the Notice of Funding Availability and the HA's application for funding.

Special admissions families will be admitted outside of the regular waiting list process. They do not have to qualify for any preferences, nor are they required to be on the program waiting list. The HA maintains separate records of these admissions.

## **C. TARGETED FUNDING**

When HUD awards special funding for certain family types, families who qualify are placed on the regular waiting list. When a specific type of funding becomes available, the waiting list is searched for the first family meeting the targeted funding criteria, based on date of registration.

Examples of targeted programs are:

- Mainstream
- Family Unification

## **D. ORDER OF SELECTION**

Families are selected from the waiting list and sent a Housing Choice Voucher Program Application based on the preferences listed above. The waiting list will be organized by date among registrants with equal preference status regardless of family size. Preference information will be verified when families complete a Housing Choice Voucher Program Application and the qualification for preference must exist at the time the preference is verified up until voucher issuance regardless of the length of time an applicant has been on the waiting list because the preference is based on current status.

## **E. IF PREFERENCES ARE NOT MET**

If the applicant does not qualify for a preference, the HA will return the family to the waiting list. The HA will notify the applicant in writing of the reasons why the preference was denied and inform the applicant that they have been returned to the waiting list with their original registration date before they were selected. If the applicant falsifies documents or makes false statements in order to qualify for any preference they will be denied assistance (**lifetime ineligible**) and offered an opportunity to request an informal review in writing within 10 days. Applicants may exercise other rights if they believe they have been discriminated against.

## **F. REMOVAL FROM WAITING LIST AND PURGING**

If a registrant fails to respond within 30 calendar days to a mailing from the HA, the registrant will be removed from the waiting list. If a letter is returned by the Post Office without a forwarding address, the registrant will be removed from all waiting lists without further notice, and a record will be maintained on the computer. Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities.

~~The waiting list will be purged periodically by a mailing to registrants inquiring as to continued interest to be on the waiting list to ensure that the waiting list is current and accurate.~~

Between October 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> of every year, registrants are required to update their waiting list registration once annually using the Housing Authority's web-based portal. An annual update is required, regardless of whether there are any changes to their registration. Failure to do so will result in the withdrawal of all waiting list registrations. Reasonable Accommodation (RA) requests will be accommodated should a registrant who is a person with disabilities be unable to use the web-based portal but RA requests must be made during the October-December update period. Failure to update their registration during the annual update period will result in the registrant being removed from all waiting lists.

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## Chapter 5

### SUBSIDY STANDARDS

#### **INTRODUCTION**

HUD guidelines require that HA's establish subsidy standards for the determination of the Voucher bedroom size, and that such standards provide for a minimum commitment of subsidy while avoiding overcrowding. The standards used for the Voucher size also must be within the minimum unit size requirements of HUD's Housing Quality Standards. This chapter explains the subsidy standards which will be used to determine the Voucher size for various sized families when they are selected from the waiting list, as well as the HA's procedures when a family's size changes, or a family selects a unit size that is different from the Voucher.

#### **A. DETERMINING VOUCHER SIZE**

The HA does not determine who shares a bedroom/sleeping room, but there must be at least one person per subsidized bedroom. The HA's subsidy standards for determining Voucher size shall be applied in a manner consistent with Fair Housing guidelines. All standards in this section relate to the number of bedrooms on the Voucher, not the family's actual living arrangements.

The unit size on the Voucher remains the same as long as the family composition remains the same, regardless of the actual unit size rented. During the HAP contract term, the unit size on the Voucher (subsidy) may only change at the first full recertification after the change in family unit size. [24 CFR 982.505 (c) (5)]

One bedroom shall be assigned for the Head of Household and spouse/co-head, and one bedroom shall be assigned for every two nucleus household members. Non-nucleus members are not assigned a subsidy. If the Housing Authority is designated as a Shortfall Agency by HUD, or another HUD designation as a result of a funding shortfall, subsidy standards may decrease so that one bedroom will be assigned for every two nucleus household members, regardless of familial, age or gender. An unborn minor (with verification of pregnancy) will be counted as a family member in determining bedroom size.

The HA will not issue a larger bedroom size unless it is through birth of a newborn, adoption or court-awarded custody of a minor child (not emancipated) or marriage. Reasonable accommodation requests will be considered for the addition of a non-nucleus adult who is a person with disabilities and cannot live independently. A larger bedroom size will not be issued if a member of the nucleus family moves out and returns as an adult, unless it is to offer a reasonable accommodation for a disabled family member. If a member returns as an adult and brings additional non-nucleus members with them, the voucher size does not increase. Adding additional non-nucleus members will not be approved if it causes the family to be under-housed.

Exceptions will be made in the documented cases of a live-in aide or as a reasonable accommodation to make the program accessible to and usable by the nucleus family member with a disability. The family unit size for any family consisting of a single person must be either a zero or a one-bedroom unit. A PHA may only approve one additional bedroom for a live-in aide. Although a live-in aide may have PHA-approved family member/s live with him/her in the assisted unit, no additional bedrooms will be provided for the family members of the live-in aide. The PHA must ensure that housing quality standards (HQS) will not be violated and that there

will be no more than two people per bedroom or living/sleeping space in the unit in accordance with 24 CFR § 982.401(d)(2)(ii). If the approval of additional family members of a live- in aide would result in the violation of HQS, the additional family members of the live- in aide may not be approved. PIH 2010-51 (HA)

Any foster members, who are minors, who are in the home at the time of initial voucher issuance, at the time of relocation or at an annual re-examination, and are determined to be long-term placement, will be considered as family members in the determination of subsidy size. For the purpose of determining subsidy size, long-term placement is defined as 12 or more months.

## **B. CHANGES IN VOUCHER SIZE**

### **Changes for Applicants and Participants:**

The Voucher size is determined at the time of Voucher issuance by comparing the family composition to the HA subsidy standards. If an applicant or participant requires a change in the Voucher size, the following guidelines will apply:

### **Requests for Exception to Subsidy Standard**

Upon request by the participant, and if funding is available, the HA may approve a larger subsidy as a reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities if the family demonstrates a nexus to the disability is present to make the program accessible to and usable by the family member with a disability. This will be verified through a third party licensed professional's verification. Verification of the need must be provided at least annually on a Housing Authority approved form. In addition, requests involving separate bedrooms for medical equipment will be verified at the time of a participant's annual inspection or a special inspection may be conducted after an initial lease up to ensure that program funds are being used for the purpose in which they were intended. A PHA may only approve one additional bedroom for a live- in aide. Although a live-in aide may have PHA-approved family member/s live with him/her in the assisted unit, no additional bedrooms will be provided for the family members of the live-in aide. If the live-in aide passes away, or no longer resides in the assisted unit, the family will be given a 60 day opportunity to locate a new live in aide in order to retain the already approved additional subsidy. Should the family fail to find a new, approvable live-in aide within 60 calendar days, an annual recertification will need to be conducted and the appropriate subsidy will be given. The PHA must ensure that housing quality standards (HQS) will not be violated and that there will be no more than two people per bedroom or living/sleeping space in the unit in accordance with 24 CFR § 982.401(d)(2)(ii). If the approval of additional family members of a live- in aide would result in the violation of HQS, the additional family members of the live- in aide may not be approved. **PIH 2010-51 (HA).**

**Subsidy Standards Flexibility:** The criteria and standards prescribed for the determination of an applicant's unit size to be listed on the Voucher should apply to the vast majority of families. In some cases, however, the relationship, age, sex, health, or handicap of the family members may warrant the assignment of a different unit size than that which would result from strict application of the criteria. Such flexibility is permissible to the extent the determinations are made on the basis of such factors. Any allowable determinations of this type, however, should be fully documented in the applicant's file.

For example, an elderly, handicapped, or disabled person who requires a live-in aide may be assigned a Voucher to provide a private bedroom for the attendant in addition to the bedroom for the assisted household members who are not disabled or handicapped.

1. Smaller-Sized Units: The family may select a smaller-sized unit provided there is at least one sleeping room or living/sleeping room of appropriate size for each two persons in the household. (For example, a 3-bedroom Voucher Holder with 5 family members could select a 2-bedroom unit if there would be two bedrooms for four of the family and a living/sleeping room for the fifth member).

2. Larger-Sized Units: The unit size listed on a Voucher does not preclude the family from selecting a larger size unit provided the gross rent does not exceed the Rent Reasonableness limitation for the bedroom size listed on the Voucher (for example, a 2-bedroom Voucher Holder could select a 3-bedroom unit not to exceed the 2-bedroom Rent Reasonableness Limitation and the family's share of the rent and utilities does exceed 40% of their household's adjusted monthly income). A higher payment standard will not be approved in situations when a household has selected a larger unit size than the household's authorized subsidy size. **Note: Effective 7/1/14, the utility allowance was modified pursuant to the Federal Register. Instead of applying the actual unit size, the utility allowance is now calculated using the "lower of" authorized subsidy size or unit size.**

NOTE: At Initial Lease-Up for a unit, the Family Share of rent and utilities cannot exceed 40% of their Adjusted Monthly Income if the gross rent exceeds the applicable payment standard. The unit size designated on the Voucher must remain unchanged, regardless of the actual unit size selected.

#### **Under-housed (unit too small for size of family)**

If a unit does not meet HQS space standards due to an increase in family size by birth, adoption, court awarded custody or marriage, the HA will issue a **new** Voucher **upon eligibility determination for relocation**.

#### **Over-housed (unit too large for size of family)**

If a participant has a decrease in the family size, the family has the option to **relocate** ~~be issued a new Voucher~~ or remain in the unit they are currently renting. If the family chooses to remain in the unit, the subsidy standard will be lowered at the next annual re-examination. If the family chooses to **relocate** ~~move~~, the **HA will issue a Voucher upon eligibility determination will be issued** with the correct subsidy standard. The amount the family pays for rent must be affordable and the participant portion of rent and the current utility allowance cannot exceed 40% of their adjusted income at the time of lease up. The approved rent will be based on the payment standard for the number of bedrooms the family is eligible for, or the actual number of bedrooms in the unit, whichever is less. In cases where the gross rent is less than the payment standard, it will be used as the payment standard.

### **C. UNIT SIZE SELECTED**

The family may select a different size unit than that listed on the Voucher using the HUD criteria for Payment Standards provided the unit is rent reasonable and affordable. The amount of assistance is based on the authorized or actual bedroom size, whichever is less.