

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
HOUSING AUTHORITY
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

2341



FROM: Housing Authority

SUBMITTAL DATE:
March 4, 2010

SUBJECT: Resolution 2010-01: Adoption of the Public Housing Authority Five Year Agency Plan

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Commissioners:

1. Conduct a public hearing regarding the Housing Authority's Five Year Agency Plan;
2. Adopt and authorize the Chairman to execute Resolution 2010-01, approving the Housing Authority's Five Year Agency Plan and supporting documents which include: a) Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan; b) Statement of Policies for the Affordable Public Housing Program; c) Capital Fund Program; and d) Administrative Plan for the Homeownership Program; and
3. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to sign the Certifications pertaining to the Agency Plans on behalf of the Housing Authority.

BACKGROUND: (Commences on Page 2)

Robert Field
Executive Director

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	N/A
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	N/A

SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/6 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

BY: Jennifer L. Sargent

County Executive Office Signature

3) MINUTES OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

On motion of Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Benoit and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Buster, Tavaglione, Stone, Benoit, and Ashley
 Nays: None
 Absent: None
 Date: March 16, 2010
 xc: Housing Authority

Kecia Harper-Ihem
 Clerk of the Board
 By: Deputy

Prev. Agn. Ref.: _____ **District:** ALL **Agenda Number:** _____

ATTACHMENTS FILED
WITH THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

10.1

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL
DATE 3/2/10
MICHELLE CLACK
Departmental Concurrence

Dep't Recomm.: Policy
 Per Exec. Ofc.: Policy
 Consent
 Consent

BACKGROUND:

The Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 requires all public housing authorities to submit an Agency Plan in accordance with the format outlined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Public Housing Authority (PHA) Five Year and Annual Plan will cover fiscal years July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2015. In addition to some minor updates, the most significant proposed change is the closure of the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) waiting list effective July 1, 2010 so that the Housing Authority can assist the over 50,000 families currently registered. The waiting list will remain open for registrants who can be assisted through other specified HUD-funded programs and those that meet Extraordinary Local Preferences as defined in the Administrative Plan. The closure of the waiting list will be re-evaluated on an annual basis. If there are no public objections provided during the Public Hearing, staff recommends that the Board formally adopt all plans as submitted and the Chairman execute Resolution 2010-01.

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



10.1

- 1)
On motion of Commissioner Tavaglione, seconded by Commissioner Stone and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

- 2)
On motion of Commissioner Ashley, seconded by Commissioner Benoit and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is reconsidered to conduct the public hearing.


I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full true, and correct copy of an order made and entered on March 16, 2010 of Commissioner Minutes.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the Commissioners of
the Housing Authority

Dated: March 16, 2010

Kecia Harper-Ihem, Clerk of the Housing Authority
Commission, in and for the County of Riverside, State of
California.

(seal)

By:  Deputy

AGENDA NO.
10.1

PHA Certifications of Compliance with PHA Plans and Related Regulations	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Public and Indian Housing OMB No. 2577-0226 Expires 4/30/2011
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**PHA Certifications of Compliance with the PHA Plans and Related Regulations:
Board Resolution to Accompany the PHA 5-Year and Annual PHA Plan**

Acting on behalf of the Board of Commissioners of the Public Housing Agency (PHA) listed below, as its Chairman or other authorized PHA official if there is no Board of Commissioners, I approve the submission of the 5-Year and/or Annual PHA Plan for the PHA fiscal year beginning July, 2010, hereinafter referred to as "the Plan", of which this document is a part and make the following certifications and agreements with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in connection with the submission of the Plan and implementation thereof:

1. The Plan is consistent with the applicable comprehensive housing affordability strategy (or any plan incorporating such strategy) for the jurisdiction in which the PHA is located.
2. The Plan contains a certification by the appropriate State or local officials that the Plan is consistent with the applicable Consolidated Plan, which includes a certification that requires the preparation of an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, for the PHA's jurisdiction and a description of the manner in which the PHA Plan is consistent with the applicable Consolidated Plan.
3. The PHA certifies that there has been no change, significant or otherwise, to the Capital Fund Program (and Capital Fund Program/Replacement Housing Factor) Annual Statement(s), since submission of its last approved Annual Plan. The Capital Fund Program Annual Statement/Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report must be submitted annually even if there is no change.
4. The PHA has established a Resident Advisory Board or Boards, the membership of which represents the residents assisted by the PHA, consulted with this Board or Boards in developing the Plan, and considered the recommendations of the Board or Boards (24 CFR 903.13). The PHA has included in the Plan submission a copy of the recommendations made by the Resident Advisory Board or Boards and a description of the manner in which the Plan addresses these recommendations.
5. The PHA made the proposed Plan and all information relevant to the public hearing available for public inspection at least 45 days before the hearing, published a notice that a hearing would be held and conducted a hearing to discuss the Plan and invited public comment.
6. The PHA certifies that it will carry out the Plan in conformity with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
7. The PHA will affirmatively further fair housing by examining their programs or proposed programs, identify any impediments to fair housing choice within those programs, address those impediments in a reasonable fashion in view of the resources available and work with local jurisdictions to implement any of the jurisdiction's initiatives to affirmatively further fair housing that require the PHA's involvement and maintain records reflecting these analyses and actions.
8. For PHA Plan that includes a policy for site based waiting lists:
 - The PHA regularly submits required data to HUD's 50058 PIC/IMS Module in an accurate, complete and timely manner (as specified in PIH Notice 2006-24);
 - The system of site-based waiting lists provides for full disclosure to each applicant in the selection of the development in which to reside, including basic information about available sites; and an estimate of the period of time the applicant would likely have to wait to be admitted to units of different sizes and types at each site;
 - Adoption of site-based waiting list would not violate any court order or settlement agreement or be inconsistent with a pending complaint brought by HUD;
 - The PHA shall take reasonable measures to assure that such waiting list is consistent with affirmatively furthering fair housing;
 - The PHA provides for review of its site-based waiting list policy to determine if it is consistent with civil rights laws and certifications, as specified in 24 CFR part 903.7(c)(1).
9. The PHA will comply with the prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of age pursuant to the Age Discrimination Act of 1975.
10. The PHA will comply with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 and 24 CFR Part 41, Policies and Procedures for the Enforcement of Standards and Requirements for Accessibility by the Physically Handicapped.
11. The PHA will comply with the requirements of section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Employment Opportunities for Low- or Very-Low Income Persons, and with its implementing regulation at 24 CFR Part 135.
12. The PHA will comply with acquisition and relocation requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 and implementing regulations at 49 CFR Part 24 as applicable.

13. The PHA will take appropriate affirmative action to award contracts to minority and women's business enterprises under 24 CFR 5.105(a).
14. The PHA will provide the responsible entity or HUD any documentation that the responsible entity or HUD needs to carry out its review under the National Environmental Policy Act and other related authorities in accordance with 24 CFR Part 58 or Part 50, respectively.
15. With respect to public housing the PHA will comply with Davis-Bacon or HUD determined wage rate requirements under Section 12 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act.
16. The PHA will keep records in accordance with 24 CFR 85.20 and facilitate an effective audit to determine compliance with program requirements.
17. The PHA will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act, the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, and 24 CFR Part 35.
18. The PHA will comply with the policies, guidelines, and requirements of OMB Circular No. A-87 (Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Tribal Governments), 2 CFR Part 225, and 24 CFR Part 85 (Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State, Local and Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments).
19. The PHA will undertake only activities and programs covered by the Plan in a manner consistent with its Plan and will utilize covered grant funds only for activities that are approvable under the regulations and included in its Plan.
20. All attachments to the Plan have been and will continue to be available at all times and all locations that the PHA Plan is available for public inspection. All required supporting documents have been made available for public inspection along with the Plan and additional requirements at the primary business office of the PHA and at all other times and locations identified by the PHA in its PHA Plan and will continue to be made available at least at the primary business office of the PHA.
21. The PHA provides assurance as part of this certification that:
 - (i) The Resident Advisory Board had an opportunity to review and comment on the changes to the policies and programs before implementation by the PHA;
 - (ii) The changes were duly approved by the PHA Board of Directors (or similar governing body); and
 - (iii) The revised policies and programs are available for review and inspection, at the principal office of the PHA during normal business hours.
22. The PHA certifies that it is in compliance with all applicable Federal statutory and regulatory requirements.

Housing Authority of the County of Riverside

CA027


PHA Name

PHA Number/HA Code

x _____ 5-Year PHA Plan for Fiscal Years 20¹⁰ - 20¹⁵

x _____ Annual PHA Plan for Fiscal Years 20¹⁰ - 20¹¹

I hereby certify that all the information stated herein, as well as any information provided in the accompaniment herewith, is true and accurate. **Warning:** HUD will prosecute false claims and statements. Conviction may result in criminal and/or civil penalties. (18 U.S.C. 1001, 1010, 1012; 31 U.S.C. 3729, 3802)

Name of Authorized Official	Title
Marion Ashley	Chairman, Board of Commissioners
Signature	Date
	March 16, 2010

ATTEST:

KECIA HARPER-IHEM, Clerk

By  DEPUTY

FORM APPROVED CO. COUNSEL
 BY  3/2/10
 MICHELLE CLACK DATE

1 **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

RIVERSIDE COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

2 **RESOLUTION NO. 2010 – 01**

3 **PHA CERTIFICATIONS OF COMPLIANCE WITH PHA PLANS AND RELATED REGULATIONS**

4 (U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN
HOUSING)

5
6 **ADOPTED** by Riverside County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners on
March 16, 2010.

7
8 **ROLL CALL:**

9 **Ayes:** Buster, Tavaglione, Stone, Benoit, and Ashley

Nays: None

10 **Absent:** None

11
12
13 The foregoing is certified to be a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by said Board of
Commissioners on the date therein set forth.

14 **KECIA HARPER-IHEM, Clerk of said Board**

15
16 **By:** _____
Deputy

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23 03.16.10 10.1

24

25

LA OPINION

This space for filing stamp only

PO BOX 15093, LOS ANGELES, CA 90015
Telephone (213) 896-2260 / Fax (213) 896-2236

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

(2015.5 C.C.P.)

State of California)
County of LOS ANGELES) ss

Notice Type: GPN - GOVT PUBLIC NOTICE

Ad Description: FIVE-YEAR PLAN CAPITAL FUND PROGRAM

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of California; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer and publisher of the LA OPINION, a newspaper published in the English language in the city of LOS ANGELES, county of LOS ANGELES, and adjudged a newspaper of general circulation as defined by the laws of the State of California by the Superior Court of the County of LOS ANGELES, State of California, under date 07/28/1969, Case No. 950176. That the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

01/28/2010

Executed on: 01/28/2010
At LOS ANGELES, California

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature

CNS#: 1785276

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Housing Authority of the County of Riverside's Agency Plan, which includes the Five-Year Plan, Capital Fund Program, Administrative Plan and Statement of Policies, is available for review at offices located at 5555 Arlington Avenue, Riverside CA 92504 and 44-199 Monroe, Suite B, Ingle, CA 92201. It is also located on the Housing Authority website: www.harivco.org. Written public comment may be directed to the Housing Authority of the County of Riverside, Attn: Director, 5555 Arlington Avenue, Riverside, CA 92504. A public hearing to solicit public comment and feedback will be held on Tuesday, March 16th, 2010, at 1:30 pm, in the meeting room of the Board of Supervisors, Riverside County, Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, First Floor, Riverside, California. El Plan de Accion de la Agencia del Housing Authority del Condado de Riverside, cual incluye los diferentes programas, esta disponible para aquellas personas interesadas. Puede pedir una copia en las oficinas localizadas en 5555 Arlington Avenue, Riverside, CA 92504 o en 44-199 Monroe, Suite B, Ingle, CA 92201 o en www.harivco.org. Puede mandar sus comentarios por escrito, atencion al Director a la misma direccion. La audiencia publica para escuchar comentarios y sugerencias del publico se tomara acabo el Martes 16 de Marzo a la 1:30 de la tarde en el cuarto de conferencias de la Mesa Directiva, Condado De Riverside, Centro Administrativo, 4080 Lemon Street, Primer piso, Riverside CA. 1/28/10 CNS-1785276# LA OPINION



PO BOX 15093, LOS ANGELES, CA 90015
Telephone (213) 896-2260 / Fax (213) 896-2236

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

(2015.5 C.C.P.)

State of California)
County of LOS ANGELES } ss

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01/28/2010

Executed on: 01/28/2010
At LOS ANGELES, California

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.



Signature



* A 0 0 0 0 0 1 5 2 3 2 9 2 *

CNS#: 1785276

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CNS-1785276#
LA OPINION

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

3450 Fourteenth Street
Riverside CA 92501-3878
951-684-1200
951-368-9018 FAX

PROOF OF PUBLICATION
(2010, 2015.5 C.C.P.)

Press-Enterprise

PROOF OF PUBLICATION OF

Ad Desc.: NOTICE / 1785274

I am a citizen of the United States. I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am an authorized representative of THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published daily in the County of Riverside, and which newspaper has been adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Riverside, State of California, under date of April 25, 1952, Case Number 54446, under date of March 29, 1957, Case Number 65673 and under date of August 25, 1995, Case Number 267864; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in said newspaper in accordance with the instructions of the person(s) requesting publication, and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

01-28-10

I Certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: Jan. 28, 2010
At: Riverside, California

CALIF NEWSPAPER SERV BUREAU
PO BOX 60460
LOS ANGELES CA 90060

Ad #: 10141314

PO #: 1785274

Agency #: _____

Ad Copy:

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Housing Authority of the County of Riverside's Agency Plan, which includes the Five-Year Plan, Capital Fund Program, Administrative Plan and Statement of Policies, is available for review at offices located 5555 Arlington Avenue, Riverside, CA 92504 and 44-199 Monroe, Suite B, Indio, CA 92201. It is also located on the Housing Authority website: www.harivco.org. Written public comment may be directed to the Housing Authority of the County of Riverside, Attn: Director, 5555 Arlington Avenue, Riverside, CA 92504. A public hearing to solicit public comment and feedback will be held on Tuesday, March 16th, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the Board of Supervisors, Riverside County, Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, First Floor, Riverside, California. El Plan de Accion de la Agencia del Housing Authority de Condado de Riverside, cual incluye los diferentes programas, esta disponible para aquellas personas interesadas. Puede pedir una copia en las oficinas localizadas en 5555 Arlington Avenue, Riverside, CA 92504 en 44-199 Monroe, Suite B, Indio, CA 92201 o en www.harivco.org. Puede mandar sus comentarios por escrito, atencion al Director a la misma direccion. La audiencia publica para escuchar comentarios y sugerencias del publico se tomara ocavo el Martes 16 de Marzo a la 1:30 de la tarde en el cuarto de conferencias de la Mesa Directiva, Condado De Riverside, Centro Administrativo, 4080 Lemon Street, Primer piso, Riverside, CA. 3/28/10
CNS-1785274#
THE PRESS ENTERPRISE



★ A 0 0 0 0 0 1 5 3 7 1 5 3 ★

**PROOF OF PUBLICATION
(2015.5.C.C.P)**

This is space for County Clerk's Filing Stamp

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
County of Riverside

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above-entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of a printer of the, **DESERT SUN PUBLISHING COMPANY** a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the city of Palm Springs, County of Riverside, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Riverside, State of California under the date of March 24, 1988. Case Number 191236; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than non pariel, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

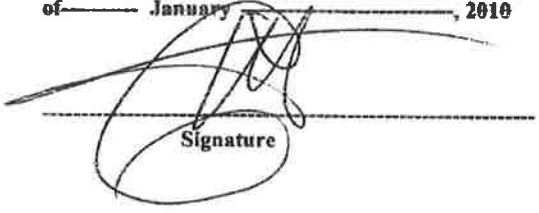
January 28th, 2010

All in the year 2010

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated at Palm Springs, California this --28th, -- day

of January, 2010


Signature

Proof of Publication of

No 0322
NOTICE IS HERE -
BY GIVEN that the Housing Authority of the County of Riverside's Agency Plan, which includes the Five-Year Plan, Capital Fund Program, Administrative Plan and Statement of Policies, is available for review at offices located at 5555 Arlington Avenue, Riverside, CA 92504 and 44-199 Monroe, Suite B, Indio, CA 92201. It is also located on the Housing Authority website: www.harivco.org. Written public comment may be directed to the Housing Authority of the County of Riverside, Attn: Director, 5555 Arlington Avenue, Riverside, CA 92504. A public hearing to solicit public comment and feedback will be held on Tuesday, March 16th, 2010, at 1:30 pm, in the meeting room of the Board of Supervisors, Riverside County, Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, First Floor, Riverside, California.
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1/28/10
CNS-17852784
THE DESERT SUN

* A 0 0 0 0 0 1 5 3 1 4 9 3 *

**PROOF OF
PUBLICATION**
(2015.5 C.C.P.)
State of California
As
County of Riverside
CNS-1785275#

I declare under penalty of perjury that: I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid: I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above-entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer of the Black Voice News, a printed newspaper of general circulation, published weekly in the City of Riverside, County of Riverside, an which newspaper has been adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court the County of Riverside, State of California, under the date of July 8, 1974 case number 108890; that the notice of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than non-pareil), has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

P. 1/28 2010

Notice This Fictitious name statement expires five years from the Date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the right of another under federal, state, or-common law (see section 14400 et seq., business and professions code) I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the forgoing is true and correct.

Dated at RIVERSIDE,
California, this 28th day of January 2010

Gabriella Merino Signature

Proof of Publication

NOTICE
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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 4/30/2011
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1.0	PHA Information PHA Name: <u>Housing Authority of the County of Riverside</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>07/2010</u> PHA Code: <u>CA027</u>												
2.0	Inventory (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>8,627</u>												
3.0	Submission Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5-Year and Annual Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Plan Only <input type="checkbox"/> 5-Year Plan Only												
4.0	PHA Consortia <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 <table border="1"> <tr> <th>PH</th> <th>HCV</th> </tr> <tr> <td>PHA 1:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>PHA 2:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>PHA 3:</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	PH	HCV	PHA 1:		PHA 2:		PHA 3:	
PH	HCV												
PHA 1:													
PHA 2:													
PHA 3:													
5.0	5-Year Plan. Complete items 5.1 and 5.2 only at 5-Year Plan update.												
5.1	Mission. 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: The primary mission of the Housing Authority is to provide affordable decent, safe and sanitary housing opportunities to low and moderate income families including elderly and disabled persons, while supporting programs to foster economic self-sufficiency.												
5.2	Goals and Objectives. 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												

PHA Plan Update

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

Updated PHA Plan Elements

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

For 2010, the HCV Waiting List will close on June 30, 2010. Households that are currently registered for the Waiting List or who register prior to June 30th will remain on the list until they are selected, withdrawn, or voluntarily removed. There are no other changes to eligibility, selection, and admission policies for 2010.

2. Financial Resources.

Please see attached **Statement of Financial Resources**, which includes listings by general categories, of the Agency's anticipated resources for FY 2010, such as PHA Operating, Capital and other anticipated Federal resources, as well as tenant rents and other income available to support public housing and tenant-based assistance. The statement also includes the non-Federal sources of funds supporting each Federal program, and the planned use for the resources.

3. Rent Determination.

For 2010, the Agency has made no changes to the policies governing rent determination. 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 have been updated based on the current fair market value for each area.

4. Operation and Management.

For 2010, the Agency has made no changes to Operations or Management.

5. Grievance Procedures.

For 2010, there are no changes to the grievance procedure policies.

6. Designated Housing for Elderly and Disabled Families.

For 2010, there are no changes to housing designated for elderly and disabled families.

7. Community Service and Self-Sufficiency.

For 2010, there are no changes to Community Service and Self-Sufficiency policies/programs. We continue to administer the Family Self-Sufficiency program for HCV participants and the Resident Opportunity and Self Sufficiency for residents at the El Dorado, Quinto del Sol, and the Cathedral City Public Housing communities.

8. Safety and Crime Prevention.

For 2010, there are no changes to the PHA plan regarding Safety and Crime Prevention.

9. Pets.

For 2010, there is no change to our pet policy.

10. Civil Rights Certification.

The Administrative Plan includes a detailed description of the Agency's steps to affirmatively further fair housing. Additionally, the Agency works closely with the Fair Housing Council of Riverside County to address any identifiable impediments to fair housing within the jurisdiction. Fair housing impediments are evaluated annually as part of the County's Consolidated Planning process.

11. Fiscal Year Audit.

For Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2009, 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 Audit**.

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) new asset management model eliminates the centralized functions and incorporates a property specific focus. Inventory that was stored at the Indio warehouse has been disbursed to individual sites and an inventory list has been compiled for 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 are near completion and will facilitate the autonomy of each site. Both central warehouses have been eliminated under this model. Services by the Public Housing Property Manager and the Maintenance Worker will be site specific and the HACR will no longer operate out of two centralized offices and warehouses. On a quarterly basis information is gathered regarding the financial, physical, and management performance of each property. The reports detail move-outs, vacant unit turnaround times, lease renewals, unit work order status and evictions. This information has been utilized to determine whether or not a property is performing according to standards. These quarterly reports are maintained by the Director of the HACR. 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 vs. actual reports and financial statements. 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.

13. Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

For 2010, the only change to the Agency's VAWA policy is the identification of a staff liaison to provide general VAWA information and assist families with the VAWA process.

(b) Identify the specific location(s) where the public may obtain copies of the 5-Year and Annual PHA Plan.

Electronic copies of the 5-Year and Annual PHA Plan can be found on the Housing Authority's website at www.harivco.org and print copies will be made available at the main administrative office located at 5555 Arlington Avenue, Riverside, CA, 92504, the eastern county office located at 44-199 Monroe, Suite B, Indio, CA, 92201; and at all Public Housing sites (located in Manager's Office).

6.0

7.0	<p>Hope VI, Mixed Finance Modernization or Development, Demolition and/or Disposition, Conversion of Public Housing, Homeownership Programs, and Project-based Vouchers. <i>Include statements related to these programs as applicable.</i></p> <p>(a) Hope VI or Mixed Finance Modernization or Development. Not applicable.</p> <p>(b) Demolition and/or Disposition Not applicable.</p> <p>(c) Conversion of Public Housing. The AMPs will be monitored to ensure they are not operating at a loss. Any that are will be considered for conversion.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(e) Project-based Vouchers. HACR currently has approximately fifty (50) project based vouchers in areas throughout Riverside County.</p>
8.0	<p>Capital Improvements. Please complete Parts 8.1 through 8.3, as applicable.</p>
8.1	<p>Capital Fund Program Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report. 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.</p>
8.2	<p>Capital Fund Program Five-Year Action Plan. 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.</p>
8.3	<p>Capital Fund Financing Program (CFFP). <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.</p>
9.0	<p>Housing Needs. 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.</p> <p>See attached Identification of Housing Needs and Housing Strategy</p>

9.1	<p>Strategy for Addressing Housing Needs. 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. Note: Small, Section 8 only, and High Performing PHAs complete only for Annual Plan submission with the 5-Year Plan. See attached Identification of Housing Needs and Housing Strategy</p>
10.0	<p>Additional Information. Describe the following, as well as any additional information HUD has requested.</p> <p>(a) Progress in Meeting Mission and Goals. 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; implementation of the Mortgage Voucher Program and the establishment of the Infill Housing Program which both constructs and sells single family homes; securing 105 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 recent foreclosure crisis; improving the supply of safe and decent housing through the Emergency Housing Response (EHR) which provides a short term rental subsidy to households displaced by disaster or code enforcement; the implementation 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) Significant Amendment and Substantial Deviation/Modification. 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"> 1. Changes to admissions policies, organization of the HCV or Public Housing waiting lists, or rent determination; 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 3. Any change with regard to demolition, disposition, designation, or conversion of Public Housing properties. <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 Required Submission for HUD Field Office Review.** 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. **Note:** Faxed copies of these documents will not be accepted by the Field Office.
- (a) Form HUD-50077, *PHA Certifications of Compliance with the PHA Plans and Related Regulations* (which includes all certifications relating to Civil Rights)
 - (b) Form HUD-50070, *Certification for a Drug-Free Workplace* (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)
 - (c) Form HUD-50071, *Certification of Payments to Influence Federal Transactions* (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)
 - (d) Form SF-LLL, *Disclosure of Lobbying Activities* (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)
 - (e) Form SF-LLL-A, *Disclosure of Lobbying Activities Continuation Sheet* (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)
 - (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.
 - (g) Challenged Elements
 - (h) Form HUD-50075.1, *Capital Fund Program Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report* (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)
 - (i) Form HUD-50075.2, *Capital Fund Program Five-Year Action Plan* (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)

This information collection is authorized by Section 511 of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act, which added a new section 5A to the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, as amended, which introduced 5-Year and Annual PHA Plans. The 5-Year and Annual PHA plans provide a ready source for interested parties to locate basic PHA policies, rules, and requirements concerning the PHA's operations, programs, and services, and informs HUD, families served by the PHA, and members of the public of the PHA's mission and strategies for serving the needs of low-income and very low-income families. This form is to be used by all PHA types for submission of the 5-Year and Annual Plans to HUD. Public reporting burden for this information collection is estimated to average 12.68 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. HUD may not collect this information, and respondents are not required to complete this form, unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Privacy Act Notice. The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development is authorized to solicit the information requested in this form by virtue of Title 12, U.S. Code, Section 1701 et seq., and regulations promulgated thereunder at Title 12, Code of Federal Regulations. Responses to the collection of information are required to obtain a benefit or to retain a benefit. The information requested does not lend itself to confidentiality

Instructions form HUD-50075

Applicability. This form is to be used by all Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) with Fiscal Year beginning April 1, 2008 for the submission of their 5-Year and Annual Plan in accordance with 24 CFR Part 903. The previous version may be used only through April 30, 2008.

1.0 PHA Information

Include the full PHA name, PHA code, PHA type, and PHA Fiscal Year Beginning (MM/YYYY).

2.0 Inventory

Under each program, enter the number of Annual Contributions Contract (ACC) Public Housing (PH) and Section 8 units (HCV).

3.0 Submission Type

Indicate whether this submission is for an Annual and Five Year Plan, Annual Plan only, or 5-Year Plan only.

4.0 PHA Consortia

Check box if submitting a Joint PHA Plan and complete the table.

5.0 Five-Year Plan

Identify the PHA's Mission, Goals and/or Objectives (24 CFR 903.6). Complete only at 5-Year update.

5.1 Mission. A statement of the mission of the public housing agency for serving the needs of low-income, very low-income, and extremely low-income families in the jurisdiction of the PHA during the years covered under the plan.

5.2 Goals and Objectives. Identify quantifiable goals and objectives that will enable the PHA to serve the needs of low income, very low-income, and extremely low-income families.

6.0 PHA Plan Update. In addition to the items captured in the Plan template, PHAs must have the elements listed below readily available to the public. Additionally, a PHA must:

- (a) Identify specifically which plan elements have been revised since the PHA's prior plan submission.
- (b) Identify where the 5-Year and Annual Plan may be obtained by the public. At a minimum, PHAs must post PHA Plans, including updates, at each Asset Management Project (AMP) and main office or central office of the PHA. PHAs are strongly encouraged to post complete PHA Plans on its official website. PHAs are also encouraged to provide each resident council a copy of its 5-Year and Annual Plan.

PHA Plan Elements. (24 CFR 903.7)

1. **Eligibility, Selection and Admissions Policies, including Deconcentration and Wait List Procedures.** Describe the PHA's policies that govern resident or tenant eligibility, selection and admission including admission preferences for both public housing and HCV and unit assignment policies for public housing; and procedures for maintaining waiting lists for admission to public housing and address any site-based waiting lists.

2. **Financial Resources.** A statement of financial resources, including a listing by general categories, of the PHA's anticipated resources, such as PHA Operating, Capital and other anticipated Federal resources available to the PHA, as well as tenant rents and other income available to support public housing or tenant-based assistance. The statement also should include the non-Federal sources of funds supporting each Federal program, and state the planned use for the resources.

3. **Rent Determination.** A statement of the policies of the PHA governing rents charged for public housing and HCV dwelling units.

4. **Operation and Management.** A statement of the rules, standards, and policies of the PHA governing maintenance management of housing owned, assisted, or operated by the public housing agency (which shall include measures necessary for the prevention or eradication of pest infestation, including cockroaches), and management of the PHA and programs of the PHA.

5. **Grievance Procedures.** A description of the grievance and informal hearing and review procedures that the PHA makes available to its residents and applicants.

6. **Designated Housing for Elderly and Disabled Families.** With respect to public housing projects owned, assisted, or operated by the PHA, describe any projects (or portions thereof), in the upcoming fiscal year, that the PHA has designated or will apply for designation for occupancy by elderly and disabled families. The description shall include the following information: 1) development name and number; 2) designation type; 3) application status; 4) date the designation was approved, submitted, or planned for submission, and; 5) the number of units affected.

7. **Community Service and Self-Sufficiency.** A description of: 1) Any programs relating to services and amenities provided or offered to assisted families; 2) Any policies or programs of the PHA for the enhancement of the economic and social self-sufficiency of assisted families, including programs under Section 3 and FSS; 3) How the PHA will comply with the requirements of community service and treatment of income changes resulting from welfare program requirements. **(Note: applies to only public housing).**

8. **Safety and Crime Prevention.** For public housing only, describe the PHA's plan for safety and crime prevention to ensure the safety of the public housing residents. The statement must include: (i) A description of the need for measures to ensure the safety of public housing residents; (ii) A description of any crime prevention activities conducted or to be conducted by the PHA; and (iii) A description of the coordination between the PHA and the appropriate police precincts for carrying out crime prevention measures and activities.

9. **Pets.** A statement describing the PHAs policies and requirements pertaining to the ownership of pets in public housing.
10. **Civil Rights Certification.** A PHA will be considered in compliance with the Civil Rights and AFFH Certification if: it can document that it examines its programs and proposed programs to identify any impediments to fair housing choice within those programs; addresses those impediments in a reasonable fashion in view of the resources available; works with the local jurisdiction to implement any of the jurisdiction's initiatives to affirmatively further fair housing; and assures that the annual plan is consistent with any applicable Consolidated Plan for its jurisdiction.
11. **Fiscal Year Audit.** The results of the most recent fiscal year audit for the PHA.
12. **Asset Management.** A statement of how the agency will carry out its asset management functions with respect to the public housing inventory of the agency, including how the agency will plan for the long-term operating, capital investment, rehabilitation, modernization, disposition, and other needs for such inventory.
13. **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).** A description of: 1) Any activities, services, or programs provided or offered by an agency, either directly or in partnership with other service providers, to child or adult victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking; 2) Any activities, services, or programs provided or offered by a PHA that helps child and adult victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, to obtain or maintain housing; and 3) Any activities, services, or programs provided or offered by a public housing agency to prevent domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, or to enhance victim safety in assisted families.

7.0 Hope VI, Mixed Finance Modernization or Development, Demolition and/or Disposition, Conversion of Public Housing, Homeownership Programs, and Project-based Vouchers

- (a) **Hope VI or Mixed Finance Modernization or Development.** 1) A description of any housing (including project number (if known) and unit count) for which the PHA will apply for HOPE VI or Mixed Finance Modernization or Development; and 2) A timetable for the submission of applications or proposals. The application and approval process for Hope VI, Mixed Finance Modernization or Development, is a separate process. See guidance on HUD's website at: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/hope6/index.cfm>
- (b) **Demolition and/or Disposition.** With respect to public housing projects owned by the PHA and subject to ACCs under the Act: (1) A description of any housing (including project number and unit numbers [or addresses]), and the number of affected units along with their sizes and accessibility features) for which the PHA will apply or is currently pending for demolition or disposition; and (2) A timetable for the demolition or disposition. The application and approval process for demolition and/or disposition is a separate process. See guidance on HUD's website at: http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/centers/sac/demo_dispo/index.cfm
Note: This statement must be submitted to the extent that approved and/or pending demolition and/or disposition has changed.
- (c) **Conversion of Public Housing.** With respect to public housing owned by a PHA: 1) A description of any building or buildings (including project number and unit count) that the PHA is required to convert to tenant-based assistance or

that the public housing agency plans to voluntarily convert; 2) An analysis of the projects or buildings required to be converted; and 3) A statement of the amount of assistance received under this chapter to be used for rental assistance or other housing assistance in connection with such conversion. See guidance on HUD's website at: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/centers/sac/conversion.cfm>

- (d) **Homeownership.** A description of any homeownership (including project number and unit count) administered by the agency or for which the PHA has applied or will apply for approval.
- (e) **Project-based Vouchers.** If the PHA wishes to use the project-based voucher program, a statement of the projected number of project-based units and general locations and how project basing would be consistent with its PHA Plan.

8.0 Capital Improvements. This section provides information on a PHA's Capital Fund Program. With respect to public housing projects owned, assisted, or operated by the public housing agency, a plan describing the capital improvements necessary to ensure long-term physical and social viability of the projects must be completed along with the required forms. Items identified in 8.1 through 8.3, must be signed where directed and transmitted electronically along with the PHA's Annual Plan submission.

8.1 Capital Fund Program Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report. PHAs must complete the *Capital Fund Program Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report* (form HUD-50075.1), for each Capital Fund Program (CFP) to be undertaken with the current year's CFP funds or with CFFP proceeds. Additionally, the form shall be used for the following purposes:

- (a) To submit the initial budget for a new grant or CFFP;
- (b) To report on the Performance and Evaluation Report progress on any open grants previously funded or CFFP; and
- (c) To record a budget revision on a previously approved open grant or CFFP, e.g., additions or deletions of work items, modification of budgeted amounts that have been undertaken since the submission of the last Annual Plan. The Capital Fund Program Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report must be submitted annually.

Additionally, PHAs shall complete the Performance and Evaluation Report section (see footnote 2) of the *Capital Fund Program Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation* (form HUD-50075.1), at the following times:

1. At the end of the program year; until the program is completed or all funds are expended;
2. When revisions to the Annual Statement are made, which do not require prior HUD approval, (e.g., expenditures for emergency work, revisions resulting from the PHAs application of fungibility); and
3. Upon completion or termination of the activities funded in a specific capital fund program year.

8.2 Capital Fund Program Five-Year Action Plan

PHAs must submit the *Capital Fund Program Five-Year Action Plan* (form HUD-50075.2) for the entire PHA portfolio for the first year of participation in the CFP and annual update thereafter to eliminate the previous year and to add a new fifth year (rolling basis) so that the form always covers the present five-year period beginning with the current year.

8.3 Capital Fund Financing Program (CFFP). Separate, written HUD approval is required if the PHA proposes to pledge any

portion of its CFP/RHF funds to repay debt incurred to finance capital improvements. The PHA must identify in its Annual and 5-year capital plans the amount of the annual payments required to service the debt. The PHA must also submit an annual statement detailing the use of the CFFP proceeds. See guidance on HUD's website at: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/capfund/cffp.cfm>

9.0 Housing Needs. Provide a statement of the housing needs of families residing in the jurisdiction served by the PHA and the means by which the PHA intends, to the maximum extent practicable, to address those needs. (Note: Standard and Troubled PHAs complete annually; Small and High Performers complete only for Annual Plan submitted with the 5-Year Plan).

9.1 Strategy for Addressing Housing Needs. Provide a 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. (Note: Standard and Troubled PHAs complete annually; Small and High Performers complete only for Annual Plan submitted with the 5-Year Plan).

10.0 Additional Information. Describe the following, as well as any additional information requested by HUD:

- (a) **Progress in Meeting Mission and Goals.** PHAs must include (i) a statement of the PHAs progress in meeting the mission and goals described in the 5-Year Plan; (ii) the basic criteria the PHA will use for determining a significant amendment from its 5-year Plan; and a significant amendment or modification to its 5-Year Plan and Annual Plan. (Note: Standard and Troubled PHAs complete annually; Small and High Performers complete only for Annual Plan submitted with the 5-Year Plan).
- (b) **Significant Amendment and Substantial Deviation/Modification.** PHA must provide the definition of "significant amendment" and "substantial deviation/modification". (Note: Standard and Troubled PHAs complete annually; Small and High Performers complete only for Annual Plan submitted with the 5-Year Plan.)

- (c) PHAs must include or reference any applicable memorandum of agreement with HUD or any plan to improve performance. (Note: Standard and Troubled PHAs complete annually).

11.0 Required Submission for HUD Field Office Review. In order to be a complete package, PHAs must submit items (a) through (g), with signature by mail or electronically with scanned signatures. Items (h) and (i) shall be submitted electronically as an attachment to the PHA Plan.

- (a) Form HUD-50077, *PHA Certifications of Compliance with the PHA Plans and Related Regulations*
- (b) Form HUD-50070, *Certification for a Drug-Free Workplace (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)*
- (c) Form HUD-50071, *Certification of Payments to Influence Federal Transactions (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)*
- (d) Form SF-LLL, *Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)*
- (e) Form SF-LLL-A, *Disclosure of Lobbying Activities Continuation Sheet (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)*
- (f) Resident Advisory Board (RAB) comments.
- (g) Challenged Elements. Include any element(s) of the PHA Plan that is challenged.
- (h) Form HUD-50075.1, *Capital Fund Program Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report (Must be attached electronically for PHAs receiving CFP grants only)*. See instructions in 8.1.
- (i) Form HUD-50075.2, *Capital Fund Program Five-Year Action Plan (Must be attached electronically for PHAs receiving CFP grants only)*. See instructions in 8.2.

Section 6 of Form HUD 50075

2. Financial Resources. A statement of financial resources, including a listing by general categories, of the PHA's anticipated resources, such as PHA Operating, Capital and other anticipated Federal resources available to the PHA, as well as tenant rents and other income available to support public housing or tenant-based assistance. The statement also should include the non-Federal sources of funds supporting each Federal program, and state the planned use for the resources.

**Housing Authority of the County of Riverside
Financial Resources**

REVENUE SOURCES	AUTHORITY PROGRAMS	PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAM	SECTION 8 PROGRAM	TOTAL ESTIMATED RESOURCES
Rental Income	\$ 403,044	\$ 1,586,483	-	\$ 1,989,527
Subsidy/Grants Revenue	21,579,170	4,212,836	-	25,792,006
Bond Pledges Revenue	218,000	-	-	218,000
Sec 8 Fraud Recovery Revenue	-	-	60,000	60,000
Interest Revenue	35,210	24,190	236,737	296,137
Miscellaneous/Tenant Charges	2,165,901	136,439	-	2,302,340
Administrative Fees (Admin. Bonds)	124,200	-	-	124,200
HUD Section 8 Earned HAP Subsidy	-	-	64,009,672	64,009,672
HUD Section 8 Earned Administrative Fees	-	-	6,582,336	6,582,336
HUD Section 8 Earned Other Subsidy	-	-	65,652	65,652
TOTAL	\$ 24,525,525	\$ 5,959,948	\$ 70,954,397	\$ 101,439,870

Authority Programs consist of the following:

1. Central Office Cost Center - This program was established to fulfill the requirement of HUD to convert to an Asset Management Model. This is the internal management agent of the Housing Authority, which provides management services and receives fee income in return from the Public Housing Program, Section 8 Program, Desert Rose Apartments and the Bond Projects.
2. Administration Building & Services Fund derives its income from reimbursement of building expenses from all Housing Authority Programs based on staff time allocation.
3. Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) - The Housing Authority agreed to serve as Project Sponsor for the County of Riverside to procure services such as short-term housing, utilities assistance, and home health care for HOPWA participants.
4. Shelter Plus Care (SPC) - This program provides rental assistance to individuals and families who are certified by the Department of Mental Health to be homeless and mentally disabled. Expenses are reimbursed by the Department of Public and Social Services.
5. Resident Opportunity for Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) - This is a collaborative effort between the Housing Authority and Neighborhood Housing Services of the Inland Empire to provide homebuyer education and training to low-income families. The City of Riverside awarded the Housing Authority a grant to cover three years.
6. Eddie Dee Smith Senior Center - The Housing Authority manages this center with Community Development Block Grant funds and County General funds to strengthen and enhance the social, physical, emotional, and health services for senior citizens.
7. HA Development was established to develop affordable housing opportunities for low-income families. Funds were first derived from the sale of vacant land in the City of Desert Hot Springs.
8. Emergency Housing Response (EHR) - The Housing Authority contracted with RDA to implement a tenant-based rental assistance program for low-income families that have been displaced by circumstances beyond their control.
9. Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) - The Housing Authority contracted with the City of Riverside to provide one-time rental assistance to low and very low income households who are homeless or at the risk of homelessness.
10. Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) - The Housing Authority was awarded a grant by the Riverside Economic Development Agency for a portion of the federal funds under the Housing and Economic Recovery Act (HERA), and designated for the Emergency Assistance for Redevelopment of Abandoned and Foreclosed Homes, or specifically known as NSP. The goal of this program is to rehabilitate single-family properties to make a positive impact in the neighborhood and thereby stabilize home values.
11. Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) - The Housing Authority contracted with the Riverside Economic Development Agency to provide homelessness prevention assistance and services to households that would otherwise become homeless due to economic circumstances; and to provide assistance to rapidly re-house and stabilize those that are homeless.
12. Desert Rose Apartments - This Housing Authority oversees the management, administration and maintenance of this 77-unit farm worker housing project in Blythe. Revenue sources are derived from Rental Revenue as well as Rental Subsidy from the RDA.
13. Palm Springs Housing Developments - The Housing Authority oversees the management, administration and maintenance of 17 apartment units. Revenue sources are solely from Rental Revenue from tenants.



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

**Housing Authority of the
County of Riverside**

Effective July 1, 2010

CHAPTER 1.....	1
STATEMENT OF POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES.....	1
A. PURPOSE OF THE PLAN.....	1
B. SERVICE POLICY/ACCOMMODATIONS.....	1
C. TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENTS.....	1
D. FAMILY OUTREACH.....	2
E. PRIVACY RIGHTS AND PROVIDING INFORMATION TO OWNERS.....	2
F. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.....	2
G. SPECIAL HOUSING TYPES.....	2
H. RULES AND REGULATIONS.....	2
I. JURISDICTION.....	2
J. MONITORING PROGRAM PERFORMANCE.....	3
K. INTERNAL PROGRAM REVIEW OPERATIONS.....	3
L. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM FILES.....	3
M. USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE FEE RESERVE.....	3
N. CODE OF CONDUCT.....	3
CHAPTER 2.....	5
ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION.....	5
A. QUALIFICATION AS A FAMILY.....	5
B. INCOME LIMITS 24 CFR 982.201 (B) (1).....	7
C. DISCLOSURE OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS.....	7
D. CITIZENSHIP/ELIGIBLE IMMIGRATION STATUS (24 CFR PART 5).....	8
E. SUITABILITY OF FAMILY.....	8
F. CHANGES IN ELIGIBILITY PRIOR TO EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE CONTRACT.....	8
G. INELIGIBLE FAMILIES.....	9
CHAPTER 3.....	10
APPLYING FOR ADMISSION.....	10
A. WAITING LIST REGISTRATION.....	10
B. SECTION 8 APPLICATION.....	11
CHAPTER 4.....	13
SELECTION OF FAMILIES FROM WAITING LIST.....	13
A. WAITING LIST PREFERENCES.....	13
B. EXCEPTIONS FOR SPECIAL ADMISSIONS CFR 982.203.....	14
C. TARGETED FUNDING.....	15
D. ORDER OF SELECTION.....	15
E. PREFERENCE DENIAL.....	15
F. REMOVAL FROM WAITING LIST AND PURGING.....	15
CHAPTER 5.....	16
SUBSIDY STANDARDS.....	16
A. DETERMINING VOUCHER SIZE.....	16
B. CHANGES IN VOUCHER SIZE.....	17
C. UNIT SIZE SELECTED.....	17
CHAPTER 6.....	18
ELIGIBILITY FACTORS.....	18
A. HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION.....	18
B. INCOME, ALLOWANCES AND MINIMUM FAMILY CONTRIBUTION.....	20

CHAPTER 7	22
VERIFICATION PROCEDURES	22
A. RELEASE OF INFORMATION	22
B. METHODS OF VERIFICATION	22
C. COMPUTER MATCHING	24
D. ITEMS TO BE VERIFIED	24
E. VERIFYING NON-FINANCIAL FACTORS	24
CHAPTER 8	26
VOUCHER ISSUANCE AND BRIEFINGS	26
A. ISSUANCE OF VOUCHERS	26
B. BRIEFING TYPES AND REQUIRED ATTENDANCE (CFR 982.301)	26
C. ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION IN LOW POVERTY AREAS	27
D. ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES WHO CLAIM DISCRIMINATION	27
E. ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES WITH DISABILITIES	27
F. SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIREMENTS	28
G. TERM OF VOUCHER (CFR 982.303)	28
H. VOUCHER ISSUANCE DETERMINATION FOR SPLIT HOUSEHOLDS	28
I. REMAINING MEMBER OF TENANT FAMILY-RETENTION OF VOUCHER	29
CHAPTER 9	30
REQUEST FOR TENANCY APPROVAL (RTA) AND CONTRACT EXECUTION	30
A. REQUEST FOR TENANCY APPROVAL (RTA) (CFR 982.302)	30
D. INFORMATION TO OWNERS	31
E. OWNER DISAPPROVAL	31
F. CONTRACT EXECUTION PROCESS	31
G. CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP	31
CHAPTER 10	32
HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS AND INSPECTIONS	32
A. TYPES OF INSPECTIONS	32
B. ACCEPTABILITY CRITERIA AND EXCEPTIONS TO HQS	32
C. INSPECTIONS CFR 982.405 (A)	33
D. EMERGENCY REPAIR ITEMS CFR 982.404 (A) (3) (B) (2)	33
E. INITIAL HQS INSPECTION	34
F. SPECIAL/COMPLAINT INSPECTIONS	34
F. QUALITY CONTROL INSPECTIONS CFR 982.405 (B)	34
CHAPTER 11	35
OWNER RENTS, RENT REASONABLENESS, AND PAYMENT STANDARDS	35
A. OWNER PAYMENT IN THE VOUCHER PROGRAM	35
B. LATE PAYMENTS TO OWNERS	35
C. MAKING PAYMENTS TO OWNERS	35
D. EXCEPTION PAYMENT STANDARD	36
E. RENT REASONABLENESS DETERMINATIONS CFR 982.507	36
F. PAYMENT STANDARDS AND ADJUSTMENTS CFR 982.503	36
G. RENT INCREASES	37
CHAPTER 12	38
REEXAMINATIONS	38
A. ANNUAL RECERTIFICATION/REEXAMINATION	38

B.	REPORTING INTERIM CHANGES	39
C.	TIMELY REPORTING OF CHANGES IN INCOME AND ASSETS	40
D.	NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS OF REEXAMINATIONS	40
CHAPTER 13.....		41
MOVES WITH CONTINUED ASSISTANCE/PORTABILITY		41
A.	ALLOWABLE MOVES	41
B.	RESTRICTIONS ON MOVES	41
C.	PORTABILITY.....	42
D.	OUTGOING PORTABILITY	42
E.	INCOMING PORTABILITY	42
CHAPTER 14.....		43
CONTRACT TERMINATIONS.....		43
A.	CONTRACT TERMINATION.....	43
B.	TERMINATION OF LEASE BY OWNER	43
C.	TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT BY HA	44
D.	TERMINATIONS DUE TO INELIGIBLE IMMIGRATION STATUS	44
CHAPTER 15.....		45
DENIAL OR TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE		45
A.	GROUND FOR DENIAL OF ASSISTANCE	45
B.	GROUND FOR TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE	47
D.	FAMILY OBLIGATIONS	49
E.	PROCEDURES FOR NON-CITIZENS	51
F.	ZERO HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT FOR TENANTS	52
G.	MISSED APPOINTMENTS AND DEADLINES	52
CHAPTER 16.....		53
OWNER DISAPPROVAL AND RESTRICTIONS.....		53
A.	DISAPPROVAL OF OWNER	53
B.	OWNER RESTRICTIONS AND PENALTIES	54
C.	OTHER REMEDIES FOR OWNER VIOLATIONS.....	54
CHAPTER 17.....		55
OWNER OR FAMILY DEBTS TO THE HA.....		55
A.	REPAYMENT AGREEMENT FOR FAMILIES	55
B.	DEBTS DUE TO FRAUD/NON-REPORTING OF INFORMATION	56
C.	OWNER DEBTS TO THE HA	56
CHAPTER 18.....		57
COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS		57
A.	COMPLAINTS TO THE HA	57
B.	NOT MEETING PREFERENCES	57
C.	INFORMAL REVIEW	57
D.	INFORMAL HEARING	58
E.	INFORMAL REVIEW/HEARING PROCEDURES	59
F.	HEARING AND APPEAL PROVISIONS FOR RESTRICTIONS ON ASSISTANCE TO	61
NON-CITIZENS		61
CHAPTER 19.....		62

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY (FSS) PROGRAM62
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.....64
APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY65
APPENDIX B: CODE OF CONDUCT.....78
APPENDIX C: ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY.....80
APPENDIX D: REASONABLE STEPS TO AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHER FAIR HOUSING.....82

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Chapter 1

STATEMENT OF POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

INTRODUCTION

The 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 Section 8 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) Section 8 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 reasonable accommodations 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 translate documents into 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 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, Single Room Occupancy (SRO), Congregate housing, group home and/or cooperative housing assistance as a reasonable accommodation to applicants and participants who request it in order to make the program more accessible. 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 Section 8 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. INTERNAL PROGRAM REVIEW OPERATIONS

The Housing Authority of the County of Riverside administers an Internal Program Review Operations (IPRO) program. 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.

IPRO staff investigates any suspected program abuse or misconduct. In addition to conducting investigations into suspected program abuse, conferences are conducted with participants, owners, and employees suspected of violating program requirements. Conferences reinforce the obligation to comply with program regulations. IPRO staff conducts independent inspections and random audits of housing assistance files. Confirmation and verification of participant information and housing quality are obtained by visual inspection and file examination.

IPRO also staffs a toll-free fraud hotline (1-800) 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, ~~as a telephone option when calling the office~~ and Housing Authority newsletters.

The HA actively pursues collection through court procedures from both landlords and participants who have violated program rules. The HA collaborates with the Office of Inspector General and local law enforcement agencies to pursue criminal convictions for program fraud.

L. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM FILES

The HA will make records available to individuals and organizations with legitimate purposes. 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.

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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, time and self-disclosed preferences.

A. QUALIFICATION AS A FAMILY

The applicant must qualify as a family. A family may be a single person or a group of persons.

A group of persons may be:

Two or more persons sharing residency whose combined income and resources are available to meet the household needs, or who have evidence of a stable family relationship.

Two or more elderly or disabled persons living together or one or more elderly or disabled persons living with one or more live-in aides is a family.

A minor who is temporarily away from home because of placement in foster care is considered a member of the family. This provision only pertains to the child's temporary absence from the home, and is not intended to enlarge the space available for other family members.

A minor whose custody has been awarded by the court to the family or whose legal guardianship has been awarded by the court to the family, is considered a member of the family.

A single person may be:

- An elderly person
- A displaced person
- A person with a disability
- Any "other single" person

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 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 **medical licensed** professional supporting the need for a Live-In Aide will be required. This **medical** statement must be renewed every year at the annual recertification.

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

1. Is determined by the HA to be essential to the care and well being 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(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 2008-20~~). (PIH 2009-22)

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 Section 8 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.

Multiple Families in the Same Household - Joint Custody of Children

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

Children 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 child, 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 child 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 Section 8 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. Any applicant is considered "continuously assisted" if the family is already receiving assistance under any 1937 Housing Act program when the family is admitted to the Voucher program. This definition would also include the Voucher period, up to a maximum of 60 days, between assisted units. Programs include Public Housing and all Section 8 programs.
- A low-income family physically displaced by rental rehabilitation activity under 24 CFR Part 511.
- A low-income non-purchasing family residing in a HOPE 1 or HOPE 2 project.
- A low-income non-purchasing family residing in a project subject to a homeownership program under 24 CFR Part 248.
- A low-income family displaced as a result of the prepayment of a mortgage or voluntary termination of a mortgage insurance contract under 24 CFR Part 248.
- A low-income family residing in a HUD-owned multifamily rental housing project when the project is sold, foreclosed or demolished by HUD.

C. DISCLOSURE OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS- PIH 2010-3

Families are required to provide verification of social security numbers for all family members, aged six and older prior to admission, if they have been issued a number by the Social Security Administration. This requirement also applies to persons joining the family after admission to the program. 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% ~~AMI~~ Income Limit. For example, if a household goes over the income limit prior to lease up, the applicant ~~will not continue to be~~ **is no longer** eligible for the program [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/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).

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, 2009 for new registrations.~~ The HA Section 8 waiting list closed July 1, 2010, as the existing pool of applicants exceeded foreseeable resources. The waiting list will remain closed until such time as it is determined additional applicants are required to ensure full program utilization. Should the waiting list reopen, the HA will follow procedures in accordance with 24 CFR, 982.206. 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 Section 8 Application, including verifications and other required documents. Registrants will be placed on the waiting list in accordance with this Plan.

A. WAITING LIST REGISTRATION

At such time as the Section 8 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. 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 Section 8 waiting list is open, any family asking to be placed on the waiting list for Section 8 rental assistance must complete a registration form. Registrations will be taken by phone, on the Internet, by mail, by fax or by personal delivery to the HA offices. Upon request, reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities.

When the waiting list registration form is received by the HA, the applicant 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.

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). 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. SECTION 8 APPLICATION

When funding is available, families will be sent a Section 8 Application according to their preference-determined sequence and by the date and time the registration was received by the HA. This process is followed regardless of family size.

The Section 8 Application 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, and the declarations and consents related to citizenship/immigration status. 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.

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.

If an applicant is denied assistance, the applicant will be offered an opportunity to request an informal review.

Upon request, reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with a disability.

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 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.

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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 [24CFR 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/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).

The waiting list will remain open at all times for registrations meeting an extraordinary local preference [CFR 982.206 (e)], registrations for families meeting the definition of a veteran according to California Military and Veterans Code, Section 980, [HSC 34322.2 (b)] and for HUD-funded specified families (i.e. Family Unification Program (FUP), Foster Care Youth, Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH), discretionary vouchers targeting special needs populations, and Mainstream Vouchers [CFR 982.204 (e)]).

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); Foster Care Youth (A program of the Council for Youth Development); registrants that are extremely elderly (75 years or older); 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. **CFR 982.204 (a) and 982.207 (a) (2) and (3).**

FIRST LEVEL

- 1) County of Riverside Residency Preference, and
- 2) Rent-burdened or homeless, and
- 3) Working Families with dependent or minor children or Elderly families or Disabled families

SECOND LEVEL

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

THIRD LEVEL

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

FOURTH 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 and time 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 Section 8 Application up until voucher issuance.

B. EXCEPTIONS FOR SPECIAL ADMISSIONS

CFR 982.203

If HUD awards an HA 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 time and date of registration.

Examples of targeted programs are:

- Disabilities/Mainstream
- Family Unification/Court Referrals
- Moderate Rehabilitation

D. ORDER OF SELECTION

Families are selected from the waiting list and sent a Section 8 Application based on the preferences listed above. The waiting list will be organized by date and time among registrants with equal preference status regardless of family size. Preference information will be verified when families complete a Section 8 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. PREFERENCE DENIAL

If the HA denies 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 that they will be returned to the waiting list and maintain the same position on the waiting list as 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 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 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.

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. (24CFR 982.505 (c) (5))

One bedroom will be assigned to the head of the household and spouse/co-head, and one bedroom will be assigned for each additional two persons. An unborn child (with verification of pregnancy) will be counted as a family member in determining bedroom size.

The HA will not issue a larger Voucher due to additions of family members other than by birth, adoption, marriage, or court-awarded custody. 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.

Any foster members 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

A family with a disabled family member may request that the HA grant an exception to the subsidy standard. The HA will approve the exception as a reasonable accommodation 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 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.

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.

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 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 move, the Voucher will be issued with the correct subsidy standard. The amount the family pays for rent must be affordable and the tenant 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.

Chapter 6

ELIGIBILITY FACTORS

INTRODUCTION

The accurate calculation of annual income and adjusted income will ensure that families are not paying more or less money for rent than their obligation under the regulations. This chapter defines the allowable deductions from annual income and how the presence or absence of household members may affect the Total Tenant Payment (TTP). Income and TTP are calculated in accordance with 24 CFR Part 5 and further instructions set forth in HUD Notices, Memoranda and Addenda. The formula for the calculation of TTP is specific and not subject to interpretation. The HA's policies in this chapter address those areas which allow the HA discretion to define terms and to develop standards in order to ensure consistent application of the various factors that relate to the determination of TTP.

A. HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

The HA must compute all applicable income of every family member, including those who are temporarily absent. In addition, the HA must count the income of the spouse/co-head or the head of the household if that person is temporarily absent, even if that person is not on the lease. If the spouse/co-head is temporarily absent and in the military, all military pay and allowances (except hazardous duty pay when exposed to hostile fire and any other exceptions to military pay that HUD may define) is counted as income.

Income of persons permanently absent will not be counted.

It is the responsibility of the head of household to report (in writing) changes in income and family composition within 10 calendar days.

The HA will evaluate absences from the unit using this policy.

Absence of Entire Family

These policy guidelines address situations when the family is absent from the unit, but has not moved out of the unit. In cases where the family has moved out of the unit, the HA will terminate the contract and/or the assistance in accordance with appropriate termination procedures contained in this Plan.

- Families are required to notify the HA before they move out of a unit.
- Families must notify the HA if they are going to be absent from the unit for more than three weeks.
- If it is determined that the family is absent from the unit, the HA will not continue assistance payments. "Absent" means that no family member is residing in the unit. In order to determine if the family is absent from the unit, the HA may, but is not limited to:
 - Write letters to the family at the unit
 - Telephone the family at the unit
 - Interview neighbors

- Verify if utilities are in service
- Contact the landlord
- Conduct special inspections

If the absence which resulted in termination of assistance was due to a person's disability, and the HA can verify that the person was unable to notify the HA in accordance with the family's responsibilities, and if funding is available, the HA may reinstate the family if an accommodation is requested by the family.

Absence of Any Member

Any member of the household will be considered permanently absent if she/he is away from the unit for 183 days in a 12 month period, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

Absence due to Medical Reasons

Housing Assistance Payments may continue up to six months when the subsidized unit is vacant due to hospitalization. However, hospitalization more than one month requires written medical verification that there is a reasonable expectation the person will be able to return to independent living within the six-month period. The participant's share of the rent must be paid during the hospitalization period. If the person who is determined to be permanently absent is the sole member of the household, assistance will be terminated in accordance with the HA's "Absence of Entire family" policy.

Foster care and Absences of Children

If the family includes a child or children temporarily absent from the home due to placement in foster care, the HA will determine from the appropriate agency when the child/children will be returned to the home.

Any foster children or foster adults 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.

Temporary Caretaker for Children

If neither parent remains in the household, and the appropriate agency has determined that another adult is to be brought into the assisted unit to care for the children for an indefinite period, the HA will treat that adult as a visitor for the first 180 days.

If the appropriate agency cannot confirm the guardianship status of the caretaker, the HA will review the status at six month intervals. If custody or legal guardianship has not been awarded by the court, but the action is in process, the HA will secure verification from social services staff or the attorney as to the status.

After 180 days the HA will approve a person to reside in the unit as caretaker for the child/children, and the income will be counted pending a final disposition. The HA will transfer the Voucher to the caretaker for as long as his/her services are required. The HA will work with the appropriate service agencies and the landlord to provide a smooth transition in these cases.

When court-awarded custody or legal guardianship has been awarded to the caretaker, the

Voucher will be transferred to the caretaker until the child/children become able to care for themselves. In no case will the caretaker be eligible to become the remaining member.

Absent Adult

If a member of the household is subject to a court order that restricts him/her from the home for more than six months then the person will be considered permanently absent.

The family will be required to notify the HA in writing within 10 calendar days when an adult family member moves out. The notice must contain a certification by the family as to whether the adult is temporarily or permanently absent.

If an adult child goes into the military and leaves the household, or moves out of the household to attend and live elsewhere for college, they will be considered permanently absent.

Visitors

Any person not included on the HUD 50058 who has been in the unit more than 14 consecutive days, or a total of 30 days in a 12-month period (unless the lease is more restrictive), will be considered to be living in the unit as an unauthorized household member.

Minors and college student family members who live away from the home and who visit up to 182 days per year will be considered eligible visitors (subject to the lease agreement), not family members, and will not be counted in determining the subsidy standard for the family. Eligible visitors must be reported to and approved by the HA prior to visiting the home.

Reporting Changes in Household Composition to Owner and HA

Reporting changes in household composition to the HA is both a HUD and a HA requirement. The family must submit a written request prior to adding household members. Any person who moves into the assisted unit without written approval from the Housing Authority will be considered an unauthorized household member. Additions to the household by birth, adoption or court-awarded custody must be reported in writing to the HA within 10 calendar days. In addition, the family must obtain prior written approval from the owner when there are members and/or a live-in aide added to the household.

If a family member leaves the household, the family must report this change to the HA, in writing, within 10 calendar days of the change and certify as to whether the member is temporarily absent or permanently absent. The HA will conduct an interim evaluation for changes in accordance with the interim policy. The HA **may will** require verification of the family member's new address. **If the head of household is unable to provide this information because the person's whereabouts are unknown, the head of household will be required to complete a Certified Statement to this effect.**

B. INCOME, ALLOWANCES AND MINIMUM FAMILY CONTRIBUTION

HUD regulations define incomes and allowances. The HA will include and exclude income in accordance with 24 CFR Part 5.

There is no minimum rent in the housing programs. The rent is based on the household income

in accordance with HUD regulations.

Averaging Income

The HA may average income when the income cannot be anticipated using verified sources for a full 12 months.

Income changes from Welfare

CFR 5.615 (b)

The HA will not decrease the family's share of the rent when there is a reduction in welfare benefits that is due to fraud or failure to participate in an economic self-sufficiency program or comply with a work activities requirement.

This prohibition on reduction of assistance is applicable only if the welfare reduction is neither the result of the expiration of a lifetime time limit on receiving benefits, nor a situation where the family has complied with welfare program requirements but cannot obtain employment (e.g., the family has complied, but loses welfare because of a durational time limit such as a cap on welfare benefits for a period of no more than two years in a five year period).

Minimum Income

There is no minimum income requirement.

Pro-ration of Assistance for "Mixed" Families

Pro-ration of assistance must be offered to any "mixed" applicant or participant family, provided other eligibility criteria are met. A "mixed" family is one that includes at least one U.S. citizen or eligible immigrant and any number of ineligible members.

Utility Allowance and Utility Reimbursement Payments

The Utility Allowance is not a payment issued to the family (except as noted below). It is intended to help defray the cost of utilities not included in the rent and is included in the calculation of the family's rent to the landlord. A Utility Reimbursement payment is made to the participant family in the amount by which the HAP payment exceeds the rent to owner. When there is a Utility Reimbursement, the HA pays the full amount of rent to the owner and sends the participant family, a utility reimbursement payment. The Housing Authority has the discretion to send the utility reimbursement to the utility company should this be a viable option. This occurs only rarely, usually when a participant family has no income.

Chapter 7

VERIFICATION PROCEDURES

INTRODUCTION

HUD regulations (24 CFR 982.516(a)) require that the factors of eligibility and Total Tenant Payment (TTP) be verified by the HA. Applicants and program participants must furnish proof of their eligibility whenever required by the HA, and the information they provide must be true and complete. The HA's verification requirements are designed to maintain program integrity. This chapter explains the HA's procedures and standards for verification of preferences, income, combined assets exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1000.00), allowable deductions, family status, and changes in family members. The HA will ensure that proper authorization from the family is always obtained before making verification inquiries.

A. RELEASE OF INFORMATION

The family will be required to sign specific authorization forms when information is needed that is not covered by the HUD form 9886, Authorization for Release of Information.

A copy of the release of information will be provided to a family member upon request.

Family refusal to cooperate with the HUD prescribed verification system will result in denial of admission or termination of assistance because it is a family obligation to supply any information requested by the HA or HUD.

B. METHODS OF VERIFICATION

The PHA will verify information through the five methods of verification acceptable to HUD in the following order:

1. Enterprise income verification (EIV)
2. Third-Party written verification (i.e.: The Work Number)
3. Third-party oral verification
4. Review of participant-supplied original documents
5. Certification/self-declaration

Enterprise Income Verification (EIV)

The HA will utilize Enterprise Income Verification tools according to PHA Security Policy and Procedures and the Work Number whenever possible.

Use of Third-Party Verification to Supplement EIV

EIV enhances, to the maximum extent possible, the third-party verification process of contacting individual employers identified/undisclosed by families. EIV should not be considered an automatic substitute for other third-party verification. Rather, it may supplement other verification documentation, such as tenant-provided current, original documents. EIV documents will not be printed unless a tenant has requested to exercise portability and in that case EIV is printed and sent to the receiving HA or because the caseworker is researching possible fraud. At the conclusion of a fraud investigation, all EIV documents will be destroyed

according to established PHA Security Policy and Procedures.

Third-Party Written Verification

Third-party written verification is used to verify information directly with the source. The family will be required to sign an authorization allowing the information source to release the specified information. Verifications received electronically directly from the source are considered third-party written verifications.

Third-party verification forms, including computerized printouts, will not be hand-carried by the family under any circumstances. The HA will send requests for third-party written verifications to the source at all times regardless of whether the family provides a computerized printout.

If third-party written verification is not used, the HA will document the reasons in the file.

For applicants, verifications may not be more than 60 days old at the time of voucher issuance. For participants, they are valid for 120 days from date of receipt.

Third-Party Oral Verification

Oral third-party verification will be used when written third-party verification is delayed or impossible. When third-party oral verification is used, staff will be required to document to whom they spoke, the date of the conversation, and the facts provided. If oral third-party verification is provided by telephone, the HA must originate the call. If third-party verification is not available, the HA will compare the specified information to any documents provided by the family.

Review of Documents

In the event that third-party written or oral verification or EIV is unavailable, or when information has not been verified by a third party, the HA will annotate the file accordingly and utilize original documents provided by the family as long as the documents contain complete information.

All such documents will be photocopied and stamped "Viewed Original" and imaged into ~~retained in~~ the family file. When documents cannot be photocopied, staff viewing the documents will annotate the file accordingly.

The HA will accept the following original (no photocopies accepted) documents from families: printed wage stubs, computer printouts from employers, signed letters and other documents as approved by the HA.

If third-party verification is received after documents have been accepted as provisional verification and there is a discrepancy, the HA will contact the third-party source and the family to resolve differences.

The HA will allow up to ten days for families to provide documents when third-party verification is impossible to obtain.

Self-Certification/Self-Declaration

When information cannot be verified by a third party or by review of documents, families will be required to submit a self-certification. The HA will allow up to ten days for a family to provide a self-certification or self-declaration if other forms of verification are impossible to obtain.

C. COMPUTER MATCHING

In addition to EIV, the HA utilizes computer matching with the Department of Social Services (DPSS), and the INS SAVE system. Other computer matching agreements with federal, state, and local government agencies will be utilized if available and cost-effective.

D. ITEMS TO BE VERIFIED

All eligibility factors will be verified, such as waiting list preference, income, deductions and exclusions, combined assets exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1000.00), and household composition.

E. VERIFYING NON-FINANCIAL FACTORS

Verification of Legal Identity

In order to prevent program abuse, the HA will require applicants to furnish verification of legal identity for all family members.

Family Relationships

The HA will require familial relationship verification as appropriate and necessary.

Verification of Permanent Absence of Adult Member

If an adult member who was formerly a member of the household is reported permanently absent by the family, the HA will require verification of the new address.

Verification of Change in Family Composition

The HA may verify changes in family composition (either reported or unreported). Third party verification procedures will be used.

Verification of Disability

Third party verification procedures will be used to document permanent disability status.

Verification of Citizenship/Eligible Immigrant Status

To be eligible for assistance, individuals must be U.S. citizens or eligible immigrants. Individuals who are neither may elect not to contend their status. Eligible immigrants must fall into one of the categories specified by the regulations and must have their status verified by Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Each family member must declare his or her status. Assistance cannot be delayed, denied, or terminated while verification of status is pending except that assistance to applicants may be delayed while the HA hearing is pending.

If an applicant or participant family member fails to sign required declarations and consent forms or provide documents, as required, they must be listed as an ineligible member. If any

family member fails to provide and sign as required, the family may be denied or terminated from assistance.

If the HA determines that a family member has knowingly permitted an individual who is not eligible for assistance to reside in the family's unit, the family's assistance will be terminated, unless the ineligible individual has already been considered in prorating the family's assistance.

Verification of Social Security Numbers

Social security numbers must be provided as a condition of eligibility for all family members age six and over. ~~if they have been issued a number.~~

Verification of Reasonable Accommodation

Reasonable Accommodation requests for families will be considered when a family includes a person with disabilities. The person with a disability, or guardian or responsible party of the person with a disability, must submit a written Reasonable Accommodation request. In cases where a separate bedroom or live-in aide is requested because of reasonable accommodation, the Housing Authority will verify the need through third party verification from the patient's designated ~~medical~~ licensed professional.

Verification of Request for Exception to the Zero Tolerance Policy

~~If a family member with criminal activity meets the requirements to be granted an exception to the Housing Authority of the County of Riverside's Zero Tolerance Policy (see Appendix C), they may complete a Request for Exception to Zero Tolerance Policy form to be reviewed by an established committee. In some instances, verification such as a police report, proof of completion of diversion, etc. may be required. Victims of domestic violence, date violence, sexual assault, or stalking requesting an exception to the Zero Tolerance Policy will be required to complete HUD Form 50066 "Certification of Domestic Violence, Date Violence, Stalking" and return it to the HA within 14 days of request.~~

Chapter 8

VOUCHER ISSUANCE AND BRIEFINGS

INTRODUCTION

The HA's objectives are to provide families selected to participate with the tools to help them be successful in obtaining an acceptable housing unit, and to give them sufficient knowledge to derive maximum benefit from the program and to comply with program requirements. When families have been determined to be eligible, the HA will conduct a mandatory briefing to ensure that families understand how the program works. The briefing will provide a broad description of owner and family responsibilities, HA procedures, and how to lease a unit. The family will also receive a briefing packet that provides more detailed information about the program. This chapter describes how briefings will be conducted, the information that will be provided to families, and the policies for how changes in the family composition will be handled.

A. ISSUANCE OF VOUCHERS

When funding is available, the HA will issue Vouchers to applicants who have been determined eligible. The issuance of Vouchers must be within the dollar limitations set by the Annual Contributions Contract (ACC) budget.

B. BRIEFING TYPES AND REQUIRED ATTENDANCE (CFR 982.301)

Initial Applicant Briefing

A full HUD-required briefing will be conducted for applicant families who are determined to be eligible for assistance, as well as participants that utilize portability and transfer into the Housing Authority of the County of Riverside's jurisdiction (port-ins).

Briefing Packet

The documents and information provided in the briefing packets for the Voucher programs will comply with all HUD requirements.

The briefing packet includes owner identification documents containing private information, that once submitted to the HA, will not be considered part of the participant file.

The HA may conduct other types of briefings such as relocation and portability briefings for families, and owner briefings.

Other Information to be Provided at the Briefing

Family and owner responsibilities are explained to the new applicant and/or port-in client. In addition to literature and the HA's website, applicants and owners may request specific clarification about program issues from the assigned Housing Specialist or Supervisor.

Guidance and materials are offered to assist the family in selecting a unit. Issues to be considered include: Proximity to employment, public transportation, schools, shopping and the accessibility of services. Applicants are encouraged to evaluate the prospective unit, such as the

condition, whether the rent is reasonable, average utility expense, energy efficiency and security.

The Housing Authority of the County of Riverside currently uses a web-based program called GoSection8 which gives the family access to owners who wish to rent their properties to recipients of the program. ~~The family will have access to a list of landlords willing to lease to assisted families and non-profit organizations willing to assist in the housing search. In providing this courtesy list,~~ The HA does not endorse any particular unit or landlord. There is no guarantee that the rents listed are reasonable or approvable, nor any guarantee that the units will pass Housing Quality Standards.

The HA will provide information on the advantages to moving to areas of low poverty. The family will be encouraged to choose a unit carefully and after due consideration.

The family will receive information about the Family Self-Sufficiency program and its advantages.

Families with three or more minors and families with disabled family members will receive additional assistance in locating units suitable for their housing needs.

Owners and participants will be instructed that side payments or any payment not approved by the HA will not be allowed. Acceptance of side payments or additional rent will be grounds for termination from program.

C. ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION IN LOW POVERTY AREAS

During its tenant briefings the Housing Authority encourages families to move to low poverty areas by explaining the advantages of moving to an area that may offer high-quality housing, education and employment opportunities. ~~To increase the available housing stock to its clients, and to facilitate the opportunity for owners and tenants to gather for the purpose of leasing a unit, the HA convenes monthly Rental Fairs at its main office. This gives current participants who are in the relocation process, as well as families newly released from the waiting list, the opportunity to become acquainted with property owners with available units. In addition, landlords are invited to list their available property in the HA's Rental Listing which is made available to all voucher holders. Finally,~~ The HA offers Landlord Workshops in order to expand its network of property owners and/or managers. The purpose of these workshops is to make special efforts to provide outreach and education to landlords who may not be familiar with the Section 8 program.

D. ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES WHO CLAIM DISCRIMINATION

The HA provides the family with the HUD Discrimination Complaint form and offers to assist in the completion of the form as well as directing the family to report suspected discrimination to the Fair Housing Council.

E. ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES WITH DISABILITIES.

The HA assists families with disabilities in locating accessible units by:

1. ~~Maintaining a rental listing~~ Providing resources such as GoSection8 (which includes

- handicapped accessible units) of owners willing to rent to Section 8 participants, and
2. ~~Providing a Housing Registry developed by the Community Access Center, and~~
 3. Providing a listing of service agencies that provide services to help the disabled, and
 4. Providing reasonable accommodation by extending the term of the voucher, if warranted.

F. SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIREMENTS

Security deposits charged by owners may not exceed those charged to unassisted tenants or the maximum prescribed by state or local law.

G. TERM OF VOUCHER

(CFR 982.303)

During the briefing session, each household will be issued a Housing Choice Voucher which represents an agreement between the HA and the family specifying the rights and responsibilities of each party. It does not constitute admission to the program, which occurs when the lease and contract become effective.

Expirations

For participants who are relocating, Vouchers are valid for a period of 60 calendar days from the last date that assistance was paid. For those families that have an initial Voucher, the term of the Voucher is also 60 calendar days.

If the family needs and requests an extension of the Voucher term as a reasonable accommodation to make the program accessible to and usable by a family member with disabilities, the HA may extend the Voucher term up to the term reasonably required for that purpose. An extension of up to 60 days may be granted. An extension of the term is granted by HA notice to the family.

If the family requests an extension for the Voucher due to other good cause such as illness of a household member, death of a family member, natural disaster or other unforeseeable circumstances, the request will be reviewed along with the documentation provided by the family regarding the circumstances requiring the extension. An extension of the term is granted by HA notice to the family.

The family will not be entitled to a review or a hearing if the Voucher has expired. If the family is currently assisted, they may remain as a Section 8 participant in their unit if there is an assisted contract in effect.

Suspensions

Suspensions are allowed for reasonable accommodation of persons with disabilities. The HA may grant a suspension for any part of the period after the family has submitted a Request for Tenancy Approval up to the time when the HA approves or denies the request.

H. VOUCHER ISSUANCE DETERMINATION FOR SPLIT HOUSEHOLDS

In those instances when a family assisted under the Section 8 program becomes divided into two otherwise eligible families, and the families cannot agree as to which family unit is to receive the assistance, and there is no determination by a court, the HA shall consider the

following factors to determine which family member will continue to be assisted:

1. Which family member has custody of dependent children.
2. Which family member was the head of household when the Voucher was initially issued (listed on the initial application).
3. Which family contains elderly or disabled members.
4. Whether domestic violence was involved in the breakup. (*VAWA protects the victim from losing their HUD assisted housing*).
5. Which family members will remain in the unit.
6. Recommendations of social service professionals.

Documentation of these factors will be the responsibility of the requesting parties. If documentation is not provided, the HA will terminate assistance on the basis of failure to provide necessary information.

I. REMAINING MEMBER OF TENANT FAMILY-RETENTION OF VOUCHER

To be considered the remaining member of the tenant family, the person must have been previously approved as part of the nucleus family by the HA and be currently living in the unit.

A live-in aide, by definition, is not a member of the family and will not be considered a remaining member of the family.

In order for a minor child to continue to receive assistance as a remaining member:

1. The court has to have awarded emancipated minor status to the minor, or
2. The HA has to have verified that the Department of Social Services and/or the Juvenile Court has arranged for another adult to be brought into the assisted unit to care for the child/children for an indefinite period.

A reduction in family size may require a reduction in the authorized payment standard Voucher bedroom authorization.

Retention of a voucher by the remaining member currently living in the unit will only be approved as a result of the death of the Head of Household, or removal of the Head of Household to an assisted living environment, or government facility. To be considered the remaining member of the tenant family, the person must have been previously approved as part of the nucleus family by the HA. In such a situation the remaining family member will retain the voucher.

Chapter 9

REQUEST FOR TENANCY APPROVAL (RTA) AND CONTRACT EXECUTION

INTRODUCTION

After a family is issued a Voucher, they may search for a unit anywhere within the jurisdiction of the HA, or outside of the HA's jurisdiction ~~if they qualify for~~ (portability). The family must find an eligible unit under the program rules, with an owner/landlord who is willing to enter into a Housing Assistance Payments Contract with the HA. This chapter defines the types of eligible housing, the HA's policies which pertain to initial inspections, lease requirements, owner disapproval, and the processing of RTA's.

A. REQUEST FOR TENANCY APPROVAL (RTA) (CFR 982.302)

The RTA and a copy of the proposed lease must be submitted by the family prior to the expiration of the Voucher.

Both the owner and Voucher holder must sign the RTA. The HA will not permit the family to submit more than one RTA at a time.

HUD regulations prohibit the HA from approving a unit if the owner is the parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister, brother of any member of the tenant family, unless the HA determines that approving the unit would provide reasonable accommodation for a family member who is a person with disabilities. (CFR 982.306 (d))

Review of the RTA (CFR 982.508)

HA staff will review the rent amount to ensure the rent is reasonable and that it is affordable as determined by HUD regulations for the family. Affordable for the family means that the family's share of the rent plus the current utility allowance cannot exceed 40 percent of the household's adjusted monthly income. If the unit does not meet the affordability criteria, the HA will attempt to negotiate the rent with the owner. If the owner does not agree on the contract rent after the HA has tried and failed to negotiate a revised rent, the HA will inform the family and owner that the RTA is disapproved. If the voucher has not expired the HA will issue another RTA to the family.

Owners must submit their own lease with the HUD lease addendum attached and a property management agreement (if applicable). The HA may review the lease to ensure compliance with HUD regulations, state and local laws. Responsibility for utilities, appliances and optional services must correspond to those provided on the RTA.

If the HA determines that the RTA cannot be approved for any reason, the landlord and the family will be notified in writing.

If the HA determines that the RTA is approvable, staff will schedule and perform the initial inspection within seven (7) working days of receipt of the RTA, if the unit is currently ready for inspection, or at the earliest possible time when the unit is not currently ready for inspection. Any variance from this time frame will be documented in the family's file.

Residence Limitations

Interest in Unit: The owner may not reside in the assisted unit. The owner may reside in a unit in which a voucher family is participating in a “shared housing” type of assistance. However, the owner may not be a resident owner if the Section 8 voucher participant is related to the owner.

Relative Owner: The HA must not approve a unit if the owner is the parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister, or brother of any member of the family, unless the HA determines that approving the unit would provide reasonable accommodation for a family member who is a person with disabilities (CFR 982.306 (d)).

D. INFORMATION TO OWNERS

The HA is required to provide prospective owners with the address of the applicant and the names and addresses of the current and previous landlords if known. The HA will make an exception to this requirement if the family’s whereabouts must be protected due to domestic abuse or witness protection.

The HA will inform owners that it is the responsibility of the landlord to determine the suitability of prospective tenants. They will be encouraged to screen applicants for rent payment history, eviction history, damage to units, and other factors related to the family’s suitability as a tenant.

E. OWNER DISAPPROVAL

For purposes of this section, “owner” includes a principal or other interested party. The HA will disapprove the owner for the reasons stated in Chapter 16 of this Plan.

F. CONTRACT EXECUTION PROCESS

The HA prepares the Housing Assistance Payment Contract for execution. The family and the owner will execute the lease agreement, and the owner and the HA will execute the HAP Contract with the owner. Copies of the documents will be furnished to the parties who signed the respective documents.

G. CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP

The HA requires written documentation of any change in ownership. Copies of the recorded grant deed and/or escrow closing statement are examples of acceptable documentation. In addition, the new owner must sign an agreement to abide by the terms of the original HA Contract with previous owner.

Chapter 10

HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS AND INSPECTIONS

INTRODUCTION

(CFR 982.404)

Housing Quality Standards (HQS) are the HUD minimum quality standards for tenant-based programs. HQS inspections are required both at initial occupancy and annually during the term of the lease. HQS inspections apply to the building and premises, as well as the unit.

These minimum standards may be enhanced by the HA, provided that by doing so the HA does not overly restrict the number of units available for lease under the program. The use of the term “HQS” in this Administrative Plan refers to the combination of both HUD and HA requirements. This chapter describes the HA’s procedures for performing HQS and other types of inspections, and standards for the timeliness of repairs. It also explains the responsibilities of the owner and family, and the consequences of non-compliance with HQS requirements for both families and owners.

A. TYPES OF INSPECTIONS

Efforts will be made at all times to encourage owners to provide housing above HQS minimum standards. All utilities and appliances must be in service before the unit will pass HQS.

There are five types of inspections the HA will perform:

1. Initial/Move-in: Conducted within seven (7) working days of receipt of Request for Tenancy Approval or as soon as possible from the date the unit will be ready for inspection.
2. Annual: Must be conducted within 12 months of the last inspection date.
3. Special/Complaint: At the request of an owner, family, agency or third-party.
4. Move-Out/Vacate: At the landlord’s request, if damage is a result of the tenant not meeting their obligations and such damage would cause tenant to lose their assistance.
5. Quality Control: Quality control inspections are conducted in an amount necessary to meet HUD requirements.

B. ACCEPTABILITY CRITERIA AND EXCEPTIONS TO HQS

The HA adheres to the acceptability criteria in the program regulations and HUD Inspection Manual.

Additions to HQS:

- Modifications or adaptations to a unit must meet applicable HQS and building codes.
- All emergency systems must be operable (i.e., pull cords for elderly/disabled complexes).
- Security bars/window bars must have a quick release mechanism.
- Two Earthquake straps (one in the top third and one in the bottom third) are required for all hot water heaters.
- A functional cooling system must be in all units located east of, and including Palm Springs.
- One good screen is required on one window in each room.
- All exterior doors must have working deadbolts (inside cannot be keyed – must be

keyless).

C. INSPECTIONS

CFR 982.405 (a)

The HA conducts an inspection in accordance with Housing Quality Standards at least annually, but no sooner than 120 days prior to the anniversary month of the contract. Special or Quality Control inspections may be scheduled between anniversary dates.

The landlord must correct HQS deficiencies that cause a unit to fail unless the fail item is one for which the tenant is responsible. HAP payments will not be made on units that do not meet HQS. The family is responsible for breaches of HQS that are caused by any of the following:

- The family fails to pay for any utilities that the owner is not required to pay for, but which are to be paid for by the tenant;
- The family fails to provide and maintain any appliances that the owner is not required to provide, but which are to be provided by the tenant; or
- Any member of the household or guest damages the dwelling unit or premises (damage beyond ordinary wear and tear).
- The family fails to allow the HA to inspect the unit at reasonable times with reasonable notice.
- If the family does not contact the HA to reschedule the inspection (with good cause), or if the family misses one inspection appointment, the HA will consider the family to have violated a family obligation, and their assistance may be terminated in accordance with the termination procedure in this Plan.

Time Standards for Repairs

1. Emergency items that endanger the family's health or safety must be corrected within 24 hours of notification.
2. For non-emergency items, all repairs must be completed as specified by the HA, not to exceed 30 days.
3. For major repairs, the Housing Specialist may approve an extension beyond 30 days.

In accordance with the Notice to Repair or Certified Repair Notice, the contract will be terminated if the unit is not in compliance with HQS. If the tenant is the responsible party, a Pre-termination of Assistance Appointment letter will be sent. No payments will be made to the owner after the contract has been terminated.

D. EMERGENCY REPAIR ITEMS

CFR 982.404 (a) (3) (b) (2)

The following items are considered of an emergency nature and must be corrected by the owner or tenant (whoever is responsible) within 24 hours of notice by the Housing Specialist.

- Lack of security for the unit
- Waterlogged ceiling in imminent danger of falling
- Major plumbing leaks or flooding
- Natural gas leak or fumes
- Electrical problem which could result in shock or fire

- Utilities not in service
- No running hot water
- Broken glass where someone could be injured
- Obstacle which prevents tenant's entrance or exit
- Lack of at least one functioning toilet
- Any other item deemed an immediate health or safety hazard

In those cases where there is leaking gas or a potential of fire or other threat to public safety, and the responsible party cannot be contacted, the proper authorities will be notified by the HA.

E. INITIAL HQS INSPECTION

An Initial Inspection will be conducted to:

- Determine if the unit and property meet the HQS as defined by HUD regulations and this Plan.
- Determine if the Rent to Owner is reasonable and document the information to be used in that determination.

F. SPECIAL/COMPLAINT INSPECTIONS

If at any time a family, owner, agency, or third party notifies the HA that the unit does not meet Housing Quality Standards, the HA will conduct an inspection.

F. QUALITY CONTROL INSPECTIONS

CFR 982.405 (b)

The Housing Supervisor or designee will perform Quality Control inspections, in an amount necessary to meet HUD requirements. The purpose of Quality Control inspections is to ascertain that Housing Specialists/Program Assistants are conducting accurate and complete inspections, and to ensure that there is consistency among inspectors in the application of HQS.

Chapter 11

OWNER RENTS, RENT REASONABLENESS, AND PAYMENT STANDARDS

INTRODUCTION

The HA is responsible to ensure that the rents charged by owners are reasonable based upon objective comparables in the rental market. When the HA has determined that the unit meets the minimum HQS, that the lease is approvable, and that the rent is reasonable, it will enter into a Housing Assistance Payment Contract with the owner. This chapter explains the HA's procedures for determination of rent-reasonableness, payments to owners, adjustments to the payment standards, and rent adjustments.

A. OWNER PAYMENT IN THE VOUCHER PROGRAM

The Housing Choice Voucher formula for determining maximum subsidy is the lower of the Payment Standard or the Gross rent (contract rent plus current utility allowance) for the unit minus the family's Total Tenant Payment.

- The maximum subsidy for each family is determined by the payment standard for the Voucher size issued to the family (or the gross rent as stated above), less 30 percent of the family's monthly adjusted income. The actual subsidy level could be less if the family is required to pay the minimum total tenant payment (10 percent of the family's monthly income).
- The Voucher size issued to the family is based on the HA's subsidy standards. The payment standard for the family is based on the lesser of the payment standard for the Voucher size issued or the payment standard for the number of bedrooms of the selected unit.
- The housing assistance payment to the owner is the lesser of the subsidy described above or the rent charged by the owner.

B. LATE PAYMENTS TO OWNERS

The HA must pay the housing assistance payment promptly when due to the owner in accordance with the HAP contract. Late payments to owners shall be the lesser of 1) the late payment as stated in the lease between the owner and the tenant, or 2) \$50.00. However, the HA shall not be obligated to pay any late payment penalty if HUD determines that late payment by the HA is due to factors beyond the HA's control. The HA has determined that the HAP payment by the HA is deemed received by the owner upon mailing by the HA. Direct deposit is available to landlords to assist in the prompt receipt of HAP payments.

The HA may only use the following sources to pay a late payment penalty from program receipts under the consolidated ACC: administrative fee income for the program or the administrative fee reserve for the program. The HA may not use other program receipts for this purpose.

C. MAKING PAYMENTS TO OWNERS

Once ownership is verified and the HAP Contract is executed, the HA begins processing monthly payments to the landlord. The Housing Assistance Payment checks to owners will be

processed by the Housing Authority Accounting Department.

D. EXCEPTION PAYMENT STANDARD

The HUD field office may approve an exception payment standard up to 120% of the FMR for all units of a given size leased by families in an exception area.

An area exception payment standard may not exceed 120% of the FMR. An area exception payment standard will not be approved unless HUD determines that an exception rent is needed either:

- To help families find housing outside areas of high poverty; or
- Because Voucher holders have trouble finding housing for lease under the program within the term of the Voucher

The HA may approve an exception payment standard up to 110% of the FMR when it has determined that it is needed as a reasonable accommodation to make the program accessible to and usable by the family member with a disability.

E. RENT REASONABLENESS DETERMINATIONS CFR 982.507

Rent reasonableness determinations are made when units are placed under HAP Contract for the first time, before any increase in rent to the owner, if there is a 5% decrease in the published FMR, and if directed by HUD.

The HA determines rent reasonableness by ~~utilizing a web-based program called GoSection8, maintaining a database of assisted and unassisted rental units in all bedroom sizes throughout the county.~~ Staff is required to add units to this database monthly, and the list is purged quarterly. Newspapers, rental magazines, calls to property owners and managers and the Internet are some of the sources used to ~~add comparables to maintain~~ the database.

The HA will consider the location, quality, size, unit type, age of the unit, amenities, services, maintenance and utilities provided by the owner in determining rent reasonableness.

A printout showing the rental amount of comparable units in the area is put into the family's file, signed and dated by the Housing Specialist, documenting the data used to determine rent reasonableness.

F. PAYMENT STANDARDS AND ADJUSTMENTS CFR 982.503

The subsidy amount is based on a payment standard set by the HA. The HA will review the Payment Standard annually to determine whether an adjustment should be made for some or all unit sizes. The Payment Standard will be reviewed according to HUD's requirements and this Plan, and if an increase is warranted, the Payment Standard will be adjusted within 90 percent to 110 percent of the current HUD-published Fair Market Rent. ~~However, should a HUD waiver be granted to an amount that falls outside the basic range of 90-110%, the HA will adopt the new range as needed to meet funding allocations.~~

The HA may approve an exception payment standard up to 110% of the FMR when it has determined that it is needed as a reasonable accommodation to make the program accessible to and usable by the family member with a disability. The HA may apply to HUD Headquarters to approve a payment standard up to 120% of the FMR if it determines that the increase is needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities in accordance with 24 CFR part 8.

The HA may use some or all of the measures below in making a determination whether an adjustment should be made to the Payment Standards.

- **Lowering of the Payment Standard**

Statistical analysis may reveal the Payment Standard should be lowered, in which case the Payment Standard should not be less than 90 percent of the current FMR. If the FMR is lowered, the Payment Standard will be decreased in accordance with HUD regulations.

- **Financial Feasibility**

Before increasing the Payment Standard, the HA may review the budget and the project reserve to determine the impact projected subsidy increases would have on available funding for the program and number of families served.

For this purpose, the HA will compare the number of families who could be served under higher Payment Standards with the number assisted under current Payment Standards.

G. RENT INCREASES

Owners may not request rent increases to be effective prior to the expiration of the initial term of the lease. An owner request for a rent increase must be in accordance with the lease, state law, the contract and HUD regulations. The owner must notify the PHA of any changes in the amount of the rent to the owner at least sixty days before any such changes go into effect (see HAP Contract 15-d). The requested rent increase must be reasonable for market conditions. If the HA disapproves the owner's request for a rent increase because the rent is not reasonable, the family may request that the HA issue the family a Voucher to enable them to relocate.

Chapter 12

REEXAMINATIONS

INTRODUCTION

HUD requires the HA to re-certify the income and household composition of all families at least annually. In addition, the HA is required to inspect the assisted unit at least annually, and to process requests for rent adjustments. These activities must be coordinated to ensure that they are completed in accordance with the regulations. It is a HUD requirement that families report all changes in household composition and income at the annual reexamination. The HA decides what other changes must be reported, and the procedures for reporting all income. This chapter defines the HA's policy for conducting annual reexaminations and coordinating the annual activities. It also explains the interim reporting requirements for families, and the standards for timely reporting.

A. ANNUAL RECERTIFICATION/REEXAMINATION

Requirement to Attend

All household members ~~may be~~ are required to attend scheduled interviews. ~~The HA will randomly select approximately 10% of reexaminations to be completed by appointment.~~ Failure to appear for a scheduled interview is ~~cause to terminate assistance for failure to comply with the family obligation of providing information to the HA.~~

Documents Required from the Family

Failure to provide documents required by the HA is a violation of a family obligation and grounds for termination of assistance. The family will be given 10 calendar days to provide requested information and/or documents.

The HA may make exceptions to these policies if the family is able to document an emergency situation that prevented them from attending a scheduled appointment or providing requested information.

Tenant Rent Increases

If the tenant rent increases, a notice of at least 30 days is mailed to the family prior to the effective date of the change whenever possible. If the owner has served the tenant with a Rent Increase Notice, that notice shall serve as the notice to the tenant of the increase in their rent.

If there has been a misrepresentation or a material omission by the family, the family may be terminated and/or required to repay any overpaid HAP to the HA.

Tenant Rent Decreases

If tenant rent decreases, it will be effective on the first day of the month after the written notification of the change. If the family causes a delay in the processing of the reexamination, the rent change will be effective on the first day of the month following completion of the reexamination.

B. REPORTING INTERIM CHANGES

The HA requires program participants to report all changes in household composition or income in writing within 10 days of the change to the HA. This includes additions due to birth, adoption and court-awarded custody. The family must obtain HA and owner approval prior to all other additions to the household.

The U.S. citizenship/eligible immigrant status of additional family members must be declared and verified as required at the first interim or regular reexamination after moving into the unit.

Interim Reexamination Policy

Participants must report all changes in income, assets, and family household composition in writing within 10 days of change. Changes will be processed if they are anticipated to continue for sixty (60) or more days.

Decreases in Income

The HA will process the change if the decrease in income is \$50 monthly or more and anticipated to continue.

Increases in Income

The HA will conduct interim reexaminations for participants who have an increase in income of more than \$100 monthly and anticipated to continue.

HA Errors

When the HA finds that we have made an error, an interim reexamination will be conducted to correct the error. A minimum of thirty (30) days notice will be given to Tenant and Owner if the correction changes the HAP payment.

Changes in family size/subsidy standards

A larger bedroom size will not be issued if a member of the nucleus family moves out and returns as an adult. In these cases, the HA will not approve the addition of household members that would result in overcrowding according to HQS maximum occupancy standards.

For additions to the family in the following cases, the HA will issue the family a relocation Voucher when the change causes overcrowding according to HQS maximum occupancy standards:

- Additions by marriage
- Addition of a minor who is a member of the nucleus family who had been living elsewhere
- Addition of a HA-approved live-in aide
- Addition due to birth, adoption or court-awarded custody
- Addition of long term placement foster care children or adults

Family Member moves out

Families are required to notify the HA in writing within 10 days if any family member leaves the assisted household. When the family notifies the HA, they must furnish the following information:

- The date the family member moved out
- The new address, if known, of the family member
- A statement as to whether the family member is temporarily or permanently absent

C. TIMELY REPORTING OF CHANGES IN INCOME AND ASSETS

Families who do not report required changes within time frames established by the HA are considered in violation of a family obligation, and are subject to termination of assistance.

D. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS OF REEXAMINATIONS

The HUD form 50058 will be completed and transmitted as required by HUD.

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Chapter 13

MOVES WITH CONTINUED ASSISTANCE/PORTABILITY

INTRODUCTION

HUD regulations permit families to move with continued assistance to another unit within the HA's jurisdiction, or to a unit outside of the HA's jurisdiction under portability procedures. The regulations also allow the HA the discretion to develop policies which define any limitations on moves. This chapter defines the procedures for moves, both within and outside of the HA's jurisdiction, and the policies and limitations on moves.

A. ALLOWABLE MOVES

A family may move to a new unit if:

1. The assisted lease for the old unit has terminated because the HA has terminated the HAP contract for owner breach.
2. The HA has terminated the HAP contract because the family is no longer eligible for the current number of bedrooms.
3. To determine whether the family is eligible for continued assistance, a full reexamination will be done prior to approval of any relocation, unless the Eligibility Questionnaire and verifications in the file are dated within the last 60 days.
4. The owner has given the family a notice to vacate and the family is eligible for continued assistance.
5. The family has given proper notice of lease termination and is eligible for continued assistance.
6. The family:
 - a. has an income change that will result in a Zero HAP at the new assisted unit. In these cases, the contract with the owner will be for a six-month period only (180 days).
 - b. is currently at Zero HAP and must relocate because the current assisted unit is either in foreclosure or up for sale. In these cases, the new contract will only be for the remaining time period left of the original 180 days since the last HAP paid (i.e. the 180 day time period at Zero HAP does not restart and includes but is not limited to the time spent searching for a new unit as well as any inspection time and RTA disapprovals).
7. A mutual agreement has been signed by both the Owner and Tenant. This applies when a participant is requesting to move before the expiration of the lease term or the owner wishes a tenant to move before the expiration of the lease term.

B. RESTRICTIONS ON MOVES

Families will not be permitted to move during the initial term of the lease. Families will not be permitted to move more than once in a 12-month period unless a 6 month lease is in place according 24 CFR 982.309 (a). The HA will deny permission to move if:

- The family owes the HA money
- The family has violated a Family Obligation
- The family is in violation of their lease

The HA may make exceptions to these restrictions if there is an emergency or safety reason for the move or as a reasonable accommodation for a disabled family member.

C. PORTABILITY

Portability applies to families moving out of or into the HA's jurisdiction within the United States and its territories. Under portability, families are eligible to receive assistance to lease a unit outside of the initial HA's jurisdiction.

D. OUTGOING PORTABILITY

When a family requests to move outside of the HA's jurisdiction, the request must specify the area to which the family wants to move. Portability outside of PHACR's jurisdiction will be approved if the family is eligible for continued assistance and if funding is available. The HA may deny a family's request to move under portability if the PHA does not have sufficient funding for continued assistance to support the move in accordance with CFR 982.314 (e)(1) and PIH 2008-43.

The Violence Against Women Act of 2005 provides that the family may receive a voucher and move in violation of the lease under the portability procedures if the family has complied with all other obligations of the voucher program and has moved out of the assisted dwelling unit in order to protect the health or safety of an individual who is or has been the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking and who reasonably believed he or she was imminently threatened by harm from further violence if he or she remained in the assisted dwelling unit.

E. INCOMING PORTABILITY

Absorption or Administration

The HA will accept a family with a valid Voucher from another jurisdiction and either administer or absorb the Voucher. When administering assistance for the family, a Portability Voucher will be issued with the same start date as the initial HA. The HA may grant extensions in accordance with this Administrative Plan and Federal Regulations.

The HA will issue a subsidy based on the family composition listed in the initial PHA's 50058. Any changes must be approved by the initial PHA. The subsidy issued will be based on the HA's current subsidy standards.

Chapter 14

CONTRACT TERMINATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Contract is the contract between the owner and the HA which defines the responsibilities of both parties. This chapter describes the circumstances under which the contract can be terminated by the HA and the owner, and the policies and procedures for such terminations.

A. CONTRACT TERMINATION

The term of the HAP Contract is the same as the term of the lease. The Contract between the owner and the HA may be terminated by the HA, or by the owner terminating the lease.

No future subsidy payments on behalf of the family will be made by the HA to the owner after the month in which the Contract is terminated. The owner must reimburse the HA for any subsidies paid by the HA for any period after the contract termination date.

If the family continues to occupy the unit after the Section 8 contract is terminated, the family is responsible for the total amount of rent due to the owner.

After a contract termination, if the family meets the criteria for a move with continued assistance, the family may lease-up in another unit. The contract for the new unit may begin during the month in which the family moved from the old unit.

B. TERMINATION OF LEASE BY OWNER

Upon proper notice, the lease may provide for termination without cause after the initial term of the lease or may terminate by mutual consent between the owner and participant during the initial lease term. In the event that the participant passes away and there are no remaining nucleus family members, the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) will be paid in full (thru the end of the month) in which the participant becomes deceased. An owner is not eligible to retain any portion of HAP for any time period beyond the month in which the participant became deceased.

If it is during the initial lease term, or subsequent lease term, the owner must provide the tenant a written notice specifying the grounds for the termination of tenancy. A copy of the notice to vacate and verification of the tenant violations must be provided to the HA. If it is *not* during a lease term, the owner must only provide the tenant with a written notice for a time period that is compliant with the lease or rental agreement that was signed with the tenant (i.e. 30 days in most cases). A copy must be provided to the HA. "Good cause" does not need to be demonstrated when the tenant is not in a lease term. If the tenant does not vacate based on the owner's notice, the owner must follow state/local laws to evict the tenant.

The HA will continue to make housing assistance payments until the participant vacates the unit or the eviction is concluded, whichever occurs first. In no instance will a housing assistance payment be made for any period beyond the contract termination date, or for the month

following the month the tenant vacates the unit.

Federal Regulations 24CFR 982.552 (c) Authority to deny admission or terminate assistance (1) Grounds for denial or termination of assistance states, "The PHA may at any time deny program assistance for an applicant or termination program assistance for a participant, for any of the following grounds: (ii) If any member of the family has been evicted from federally assisted housing in the last five years".

C. TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT BY HA

The term of the HAP contract terminates when the lease terminates, when the family vacates the unit, or when the owner has breached the HAP contract.

The HA may also terminate the contract if:

- The HA terminates assistance to the family
- The family is required to move from a unit which is under-occupied or is overcrowded
- Funding is no longer available under the ACC
- The participant has requested their assistance be terminated
- The participant passes away and there are no remaining nucleus family members

The contract will terminate automatically if 180 days have passed since the last housing assistance payment to the owner.

In the event that funding is no longer available under the ACC, the HA will implement a "first on, first off" policy on terminating families, meaning that those families who have benefited the longest will be the first to be terminated, excluding any disabled and/or elderly families. All efforts will be made to give a family no less than a 90 day notice in order to allow them substantial time to prepare. This policy is consistent with Fair Housing guidelines.

D. TERMINATIONS DUE TO INELIGIBLE IMMIGRATION STATUS

The HA will follow HUD rules for terminations due to ineligible immigration status.

Chapter 15 DENIAL OR TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE

INTRODUCTION

The HA may deny assistance for an applicant or terminate assistance for a participant because of the family's action or failure to act. The HA will provide families with a written description of the family obligations under the program, the grounds under which the HA can deny or terminate assistance, and the HA's informal hearing procedures. This chapter describes when the HA is required to deny or terminate assistance, and the HA's policies for the denial of assistance and the grounds for termination of assistance under an outstanding HAP contract.

A. GROUNDS FOR DENIAL OF ASSISTANCE

Form of Denial of Assistance

Denial of assistance for an applicant may include any or all of the following:

1. Denial for placement on the HA waiting list
2. Denying or withdrawing a Voucher
3. Refusing to enter into a HAP contract or approve a lease
4. Refusing to process or provide assistance under portability procedures

Mandatory Denial of Assistance

The HA must deny assistance to applicants for the following reasons:

1. If any member of the family fails to sign and submit HUD or HA required consent forms for obtaining information.
2. If any family member fails to meet the eligibility requirements concerning individuals enrolled at an institution of higher learning as specified in 24 CFR 5.612.
3. If an applicant or any household member has been evicted from federally assisted housing for drug-related criminal activity within three years unless the PHA determines:
 - a. That the evicted household member who engaged in the drug-related criminal activity has successfully completed a supervised drug rehabilitation program; or,
 - b. That the circumstances leading to the eviction no longer exist (for example, the criminal household member has died or is imprisoned).
4. If the HA determines that any household member is currently engaging in illegal use of a drug.
5. If the HA determines that it has reasonable cause to believe that a household member's illegal drug use or a pattern of illegal drug use may threaten the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents.
6. Any household member has ever been convicted of drug-related criminal activity for manufacture or production of methamphetamine on the premises of federally assisted housing.
7. If any member of the household is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a State sex offender registration program. (In this screening of applicants, the HA must perform criminal history background checks necessary to determine whether any household member is subject to a lifetime sex offender registration requirement in the State where the housing is located and in other States where the household members are known to have resided.) **Registered Sex Offender Notice:** The California Department of Justice, sheriff's

departments, police departments serving jurisdictions of 200,000 or more and many other law enforcement authorities maintain for public access a data base of locations of persons required to register pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 290.4 of the Penal Code. The data base is updated on a quarterly basis and is a source of information about the presence of these individuals in any neighborhood. Notice: Pursuant to Section 290.46 of the Penal Code, information about specified registered sex offenders is made available to the public via an Internet Web site maintained by the Department of Justice at www.meganslaw.ca.gov. Depending on an offender's criminal history, this information will include either the address at which the offender resides or the community of residence and ZIP Code in which he or she resides.

Permissive Grounds for Denial of Assistance

The HA may at any time deny program assistance for an applicant, or terminate program assistance for a participant, for any of the reasons listed below.

1. If the family violates any family obligation under the program.
2. If any member of the family has been evicted from federally assisted housing in the last five years.
3. If a PHA has ever terminated assistance under the program for any member of the family.
4. If any member of the family commits fraud, bribery or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program
6. If the family currently owes rent or other amounts to the HA or to another PHA in connection with Section 8 or Public Housing Assistance under the 1937 Act
7. If the family has not reimbursed any PHA for amounts paid to an owner under a HAP contract for rent, damages to the unit, or other amounts owed by the family under the lease
8. If the family breaches an agreement with the HA to pay amounts owed to a PHA, or amounts paid to an owner by a PHA
9. If the family has engaged in or threatened abusive or violent behavior toward HA personnel "Abusive or violent behavior towards HA personnel" include verbal as well as physical abuse or violence. Use of expletives that are generally considered insulting, racial epithets, or other language, written or oral, that is customarily used to insult or intimidate, may be cause for termination or denial. "Threatening" refers to oral or written threats or physical gestures that communicate intent to abuse or commit violence. Actual physical abuse or violence will always be cause for termination.
10. If the family has been engaged in criminal activity or alcohol abuse as described in CFR 982.553.
11. If the HA determines that any household member is currently engaged in, or has engaged in during a reasonable time before the admission: i) Drug-related criminal activity; ii) Violent criminal activity; iii) other criminal activity which may threaten the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents or persons residing in the immediate vicinity; or iv) other criminal activity which may threaten the health or safety of the owner, property management staff, or persons performing a contract administration function or responsibility on behalf of the HA (including a HA employee or HA contractor, subcontractor, or agent). For purposes of this prohibition, a household member is "currently engaged in" criminal activity if that person has engaged in the behavior recently enough to justify a reasonable belief that the behavior is current.

12. If the HA determines that it has reasonable cause to believe that a household member's abuse or pattern of abuse of alcohol may threaten the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents

B. GROUNDS FOR TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE

Form of Termination of Assistance

Termination of assistance for a participant may include any or all of the following:

1. Refusing to enter into a HAP contract or approve a lease.
2. Terminating housing assistance payments under an outstanding HAP contract.
3. Refusing to process or provide assistance under portability procedures.

Mandatory Termination of Assistance

The HA must terminate program assistance for the following reasons:

1. If a family is evicted from housing assisted under the program for serious violation of the lease.
2. If any member of the family fails to sign and submit HUD or HA required consent forms for obtaining information.
3. If any family member fails to meet the eligibility requirements concerning individuals enrolled at an institution of higher learning as specified in 24 CFR 5.612.
4. If the HA determines that any member of the household has ever been convicted of drug-related criminal activity for manufacture or production of methamphetamine on the premises of federally assisted housing.

Permissive Grounds for Termination of Assistance

The HA may at any time deny program assistance for an applicant, or terminate program assistance for a participant, for any of the reasons listed below.

1. If the family violates any family obligation under the program.
2. If any member of the family has been evicted from federally assisted housing in the last five years.
3. If a PHA has ever terminated assistance under the program for any member of the family.
4. If any member of the family commits fraud, bribery or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program
6. If the family currently owes rent or other amounts to the HA or to another PHA in connection with Section 8 or Public Housing Assistance under the 1937 Act
7. If the family has not reimbursed any PHA for amounts paid to an owner under a HAP contract for rent, damages to the unit, or other amounts owed by the family under the lease
8. If the family breaches an agreement with the HA to pay amounts owed to a PHA, or amounts paid to an owner by a PHA
9. If the family has engaged in or threatened abusive or violent behavior toward HA personnel
"Abusive or violent behavior towards HA personnel" include verbal as well as physical abuse or violence. Use of expletives that are generally considered insulting, racial epithets, or other language, written or oral, that is customarily used to insult or intimidate, may be cause for termination or denial. "Threatening" refers to oral or written threats or physical

gestures that communicate intent to abuse or commit violence. Actual physical abuse or violence will always be cause for termination.

10. If any household member is currently engaged in any illegal use of a drug; or if a pattern of illegal use of a drug by any household member interferes with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents.
11. If the HA determines that any family member has violated the family's obligation under 24 CFR 982.551 not to engage in any drug-related criminal activity.
12. If an applicant or family violates the Amended Policy on Zero Tolerance Policy of Criminal Activity.

C. Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 2005

Denial of assistance to an applicant or termination of assistance of a participant for criminal activity are subject to the provisions of the Violence Against Women Act of 2005 as described below:

1. Being a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking (see glossary for legal definitions) is not a basis for denial of assistance or admission to public or assisted housing if the applicant otherwise qualifies for assistance or admission.
2. Incidents or threats of abuse will not be construed as serious or repeated violations of the lease or other "good cause" for termination of the assistance, tenancy, or occupancy rights of a victim of abuse.
3. Criminal activity directly relating to abuse, engaged in by a member of a tenant's household or any guest or other person under the tenant's control, shall not be cause for termination of assistance, tenancy, or occupancy rights if the tenant or an immediate member of the tenant's family is the victim of that abuse.
4. Notwithstanding the restrictions that VAWA places, the HA may "bifurcate" a lease without regard to whether a household member is a signatory to the lease, in order to evict, remove, terminate occupancy rights, or terminate assistance to any individual who is a tenant or lawful occupant and who engages in criminal acts of physical violence against family members or others, without evicting, removing, terminating assistance to, or otherwise penalizing the victim of such violence who is also a tenant or lawful occupant, and such eviction, removal, termination of occupancy rights, or termination of assistance shall be effected in accordance with the procedures prescribed by federal, state, and local law for the termination of leases or assistance under the relevant program of HUD-assisted housing. Neither the authority nor the procedures under any other law is necessary to bifurcate or otherwise remove an individual from the lease. Furthermore, this federal statutory authority to bifurcate a lease or otherwise remove an individual takes precedence over any federal, state, or local law to the contrary.
5. The HA has authority to terminate voucher assistance for certain family members while permitting other members of a participant family to continue receiving assistance (providing the culpable family member will no longer reside in the unit). The HA's right to exercise this administrative discretion is not dependent on a bifurcated lease or other eviction action by the owner against an individual family member.
6. Certification of Abuse: The HA will request that the victim complete the HUD form 50066 - Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence or Stalking. This form must be provided within 14 business days from the date the HA requests it. Without the certification, the HA may terminate assistance.

Family Self Sufficiency (FSS)

The HA will not terminate assistance for FSS families who fail to comply with the FSS Contract of Participation unless participation in FSS is a requirement or condition of the program under which the family was admitted.

D. FAMILY OBLIGATIONS

1. The family must supply any information that the HA or HUD determines is necessary in the administration of the program, including submission of required evidence of citizenship or eligible immigration status (as provided by 24 CFR). "Information" includes any requested certification, release or other documentation.
2. The family must supply any information requested by the HA or HUD for use in a regularly scheduled reexamination or interim reexamination of family income and composition in accordance with HUD requirements.
3. The family must disclose and verify Social Security numbers and must sign and submit consent forms for obtaining information in accordance with HUD regulations.
4. Any information supplied by the family must be true and complete.
5. The family is responsible for an HQS breach caused by the family or their invitees.
6. The family must allow the HA to inspect the unit at reasonable times and after reasonable notice.
7. The family may not commit any serious or repeated violation of the lease.
8. The family must notify the HA and the owner before the family moves out of the unit or terminates the lease on notice to the owner.
9. The family must promptly give the HA a copy of any owner eviction notice.
10. The family must use the assisted unit for residence by the family. The unit must be the family's only residence.
11. The composition of the assisted family residing in the unit must be approved by the HA. The family must promptly inform the HA of the marriage (or the addition of a co-head), birth, adoption or court-awarded custody of a child. The family must request HA approval to add any family member as an occupant of the unit. No other person may reside in the unit (except for a foster child or live-in aide).
12. The family must promptly notify the HA if any family member no longer resides in the unit.
13. If the HA has given approval, a foster child or a live-in aide may reside in the unit. If the family does not request approval or HA approval is denied, the family may not allow a foster child or live-in aide to reside with the assisted family.
14. Members of the household may engage in legal profit-making activities in the unit, but only if such activities are incidental to primary use of the unit as a residence by members of the family.
15. The family must not sublease or let the unit.
16. The family must not assign the lease or transfer the unit.
17. The family must supply any information or certification requested by the HA to verify that the family is living in the unit, or relating to family absence from the unit, including any HA-requested information or certification on the purposes of family absences. The family must cooperate with the HA for this purpose. The family must promptly notify the HA of absence from the unit.
18. The family must not own or have any interest in the unit.

19. The members of the family must not commit fraud, bribery or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with the programs.
20. The members of the family may not engage in alcohol or drug-related criminal activity or violent criminal activity or other criminal activity that threatens the health, safety or right to peaceful enjoyment of other residents and persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises.
21. An assisted family, or members of the family, may not receive Section 8 tenant-based assistance while receiving another housing subsidy, for the same unit or for a different unit, under any duplicative (as determined by HUD or in accordance with HUD requirements) federal, state or local housing assistance program.
22. The members of the household must not abuse alcohol in a way that threatens the health, safety or right to peaceful enjoyment of the other residents and persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises.

Explanations and Terms

The term “promptly” when used with the family obligations always means “within 10 calendar days.”

Housing Authority Discretion

In deciding whether to deny or terminate assistance because of action or failure to act by members of the family, the HA may consider all relevant circumstances such as the seriousness of the case, the extent of participation or culpability of individual family members, mitigating circumstances related to the disability of a family member, the length of time since the violation occurred and more recent record of compliance, and the effects of denial or termination of assistance on other family members who were not involved in the action or failure to act. All denials or terminations of assistance will be consistent with fair housing and equal opportunity provisions.

The HA may impose, as a condition of continued assistance for other family members, a requirement that other family members who participated in or were culpable for the action or failure will not reside in the unit.

In determining whether to deny admission or terminate assistance for illegal use of drugs or alcohol abuse by a household member who is no longer engaged in such behavior, the HA may consider whether such household member is participating in or has successfully completed a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program, or has otherwise been rehabilitated successfully. For this purpose, the HA may require the applicant or participant to submit evidence of the household member’s current participation in, or successful completion of, a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program or evidence of otherwise having been rehabilitated successfully.

If the family includes a person with disabilities, the HA will determine if such action is subject to consideration of reasonable accommodation.

Lease Violations

In determining whether a serious or repeated violation of the lease will cause a termination of assistance, the HA will consider all circumstances including whether the owner terminates tenancy through court action for serious or repeated violation of the lease, the tenant's statements and documents, verifications provided by either the owner or the tenant, and any reports of lease violations, neighborhood complaints or other third party information.

HQS Breach

The HA will determine if an HQS breach as identified in HUD Regulations is the responsibility of the family. Families may be given extensions to cure HQS breaches by the HA in accordance with HUD regulations.

Denial of Additions to the Household.

Proposed additions to the family may be denied to:

- Persons who have been evicted from public housing.
- Persons who engage in or have engaged in, alcohol or drug-related criminal activity or violent criminal activity.
- Persons who do not meet the HA's definition of family.
- Persons who commit or have committed fraud, bribery or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program.
- Persons who currently owe rent or other amounts to the HA or to another HA in connection with Section 8 or Public Housing Assistance under the 1937 Act.
- Persons who have engaged in or threatened abusive or violent behavior toward HA personnel.

E. PROCEDURES FOR NON-CITIZENS

Termination due to Ineligible Immigrant Status

Assistance may not be terminated while verification of the participant family's eligible immigration status is pending. Participant families in which all members are neither U.S. citizens nor eligible immigrants must have their assistance terminated; however, they will be given an opportunity for a hearing.

False or Incomplete Information

When the HA has clear, concrete, or substantial documentation (such as permanent resident card or information from another agency) that contradicts the declaration of citizenship made by an applicant or participant, an investigation will be conducted and the individual given an opportunity to present relevant information.

If the individual is unable to verify their citizenship, the HA may give him/her an opportunity to provide a new declaration as an eligible immigrant or to elect not to contend their status. The HA will then verify eligible status, deny, terminate, or prorate as applicable. The HA will deny or terminate assistance based on the submission of false information or misrepresentations.

F. ZERO HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT FOR TENANTS

The HAP contract terminates automatically 180 calendar days after the last housing assistance payment to the owner. If within the 180 day time frame, the Total Tenant Payment causes the family to be eligible for a housing assistance payment, the HA will resume assistance payments for the family.

G. MISSED APPOINTMENTS AND DEADLINES

It is a family obligation to supply information, documentation, and certification as needed for the HA to fulfill its responsibilities. The HA schedules appointments and sets deadlines in order to obtain required information. The obligations also require that the family allow the HA to inspect the unit and appointments are made for this purpose.

If an applicant or participant does not keep an appointment, does not supply information required by a deadline or does not allow the HA to inspect the unit, the HA may deny or terminate assistance. The family will be given information about the requirement to keep appointments as specified in this Plan.

Appointments may be scheduled and time requirements will be imposed for the following events and circumstances:

- Eligibility for Admissions
- Verification Procedures
- Voucher Issuance and Briefing
- Housing Quality Standards and Inspections
- Re-certifications
- Appeals

Procedure when Family Obligations are not met

When the participant family fails to fulfill their obligations within the time frames established by the HA, a “Pre-Termination of Assistance” appointment will be scheduled for the family. The appointment notice shall inform the family of the obligation not met and the necessary remedy. If the obligation is still not met, a Notice of Intent to Terminate Assistance will be issued. If the family corrects the breach within the time frame allowed for requesting a hearing, the notice may be rescinded. The HA will consider whether the family has a history of non-compliance in making determinations to terminate assistance.

At the same time that the family is notified of a breach in their obligations, a “Conditional Termination of Contract” notice will be sent to the owner. This notice will inform the owner that should the family fail to comply with their obligations, the contract will end. ~~The notice will state the last day payment will be made on behalf of the family.~~

Chapter 16

OWNER DISAPPROVAL AND RESTRICTIONS

INTRODUCTION

It is the policy of the HA to recruit owners to participate in the program, and to provide owners with prompt and professional service in order to maintain an adequate supply of available housing throughout the jurisdiction of the HA. The regulations define when the HA must disallow an owner participation in the program, and they provide the HA discretion to disapprove or otherwise restrict the participation of owners in certain categories. This chapter describes the criteria for owner disapproval and the various penalties for owner violations.

A. DISAPPROVAL OF OWNER

The owner does not have a right to participate in the program. For purposes of this section, "owner" includes a principal or other interested party.

The HA will disapprove the owner for the following reasons:

- HUD has informed the HA that the owner has been disbarred, suspended, or subject to a limited denial of participation under 24 CFR part 24.
- HUD has informed the HA that the Federal Government has instituted an administrative or judicial action against the owner for violation of the Fair Housing Act or other federal equal opportunity requirements and such action is pending.
- HUD has informed the HA that a court or administrative agency has determined that the owner has violated the Fair Housing Act or other federal equal opportunity requirements
- The owner has violated obligations under a housing assistance payments contract under Section 8 of the 1937 Act (42 U.S.C. 1437f).
- The owner has committed fraud, bribery or any other corrupt act in connection with any federal housing program.
- The owner has engaged in any drug-related criminal activity or any violent criminal activity.
- The owner has a history or practice of non-compliance with the HQS for units leased under the tenant-based programs or with applicable housing standards for units leased with project-based Section 8 assistance or leased under any other federal housing program.
- The owner has a history or practice of renting units that fail to meet state or local housing codes.
- The owner has not paid state or local real estate taxes, fines or assessments.
- HA has received evidence that owner is requesting and accepting side payments for rent.
- The owner has a history or practice of failing to terminate tenancy of tenants of units assisted under Section 8 or any other federally assisted housing program for activity by the tenant, any member of the household, a guest or another person under the control of any member of the household that:
 - Threatens the health or safety of, or the right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents
 - Threatens the health or safety of other residents, or employees of the HA, or of owner employees or other persons engaged in management of the housing

- Threatens the health or safety of, or the right to peaceful enjoyment of their residences, by persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises
- Engages in drug-related criminal activity or violent criminal activity
- HUD regulations prohibit the HA from approving a unit if the owner is the parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister, brother, uncle, aunt, or in-law of any member of the tenant family, unless the HA determines that approving the unit would provide reasonable accommodation for a family member who is a person with disabilities.

B. OWNER RESTRICTIONS AND PENALTIES

If an owner commits fraud or abuse or is guilty of frequent or serious contract violations, the HA will restrict the owner from future participation in the program. The HA may also terminate some or all contracts with the owner.

Before imposing a penalty against an owner, the HA will review all relevant factors pertaining to the case, and will consider such factors as the owner's record of compliance and the number of violations.

C. OTHER REMEDIES FOR OWNER VIOLATIONS

Overpayments

If the landlord has been overpaid as a result of fraud, misrepresentation or violation of the Contract, the HA may terminate the Contract and arrange for restitution to the HA and/or family as appropriate.

The HA will make every effort to recover any overpayments made as a result of landlord fraud or abuse. Payments otherwise due to the owner may be debited from future payments in order to repay the HA or the tenant, as applicable. The HA will take court action to recover overpayments when other means fail to result in such collection.

Chapter 17

OWNER OR FAMILY DEBTS TO THE HA

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the HA's policies for the recovery of monies which have been overpaid to an owner on behalf of an assisted family ~~for families and to owners~~. It describes the methods that will be utilized for collection of monies and the guidelines for different types of debts. Before a debt is assessed against a family or owner, the file must contain documentation to support the HA's claim that the debt is owed. The file must further contain written documentation of the method of calculation, in a clear format for review by the owner, the family or other interested parties.

The HA will make every effort to collect monies owed to the HA. The HA will use a variety of collection tools to recover debts including, but not limited to:

- Requests for lump sum payments
- Civil suits
- Repayment agreements
- Abatements
- Collection agencies
- Credit bureaus
- Income tax set-off programs

A. REPAYMENT AGREEMENT FOR FAMILIES

A Repayment Agreement as used in this Plan is a document entered into between the HA and a person who owes a debt to the HA. It is similar to a promissory note, but contains more details regarding the nature of the debt, the terms of repayment, any special provisions of the agreement, and the remedies available to the HA upon default of the agreement.

The maximum amount the Housing Authority will enter into a repayment agreement with a family is \$4800.00. The maximum length of time the HA will enter into a repayment agreement with a family is 24 months. The family will be required to make monthly payments of \$200.00 for a period not to exceed 24 months until paid in full. If the family owes more than \$4800.00, the portion that exceeds \$4800.00 must be paid in full immediately as the Housing Authority will not enter into an agreement for more than \$4800.00. Furthermore, 10% of the Repayment Agreement, regardless of whether it exceeds \$4800.00 or not must be paid in full immediately. The HA reserves the right to modify the terms of the repayment agreement on a case by case basis. Signing a Repayment Agreement does not guarantee continued assistance.

Late Payments

A payment will be considered to be in arrears if it is two months in default and if the payment has not been received by the close of the business day on which the payment was due. If the due date is on a weekend or holiday, the due date will be at the close of the next business day.

If the family's repayment agreement is in arrears, the HA may require the family to pay in full.

If the family requests a move to another unit and has a repayment agreement in place, the family will be required to pay the balance in full prior to the issuance of a Voucher.

B. DEBTS DUE TO FRAUD/NON-REPORTING OF INFORMATION

HUD's definition of program fraud and abuse is a single act or pattern of actions that constitutes false statement, omission, or concealment of a substantive fact, made with intent to deceive or mislead.

Program Fraud

Families who owe money to the HA due to program fraud will be required to repay in accordance with the guidelines in the Repayment Section of this chapter and may be terminated from the housing assistance program.

If a family owes \$5,000 or more as a result of program fraud, the case may be referred to the HUD Inspector General. Where appropriate, the HA may refer the case for criminal prosecution.

C. OWNER DEBTS TO THE HA

If the HA determines that the owner has retained Housing Assistance Payments the owner is not entitled to, the HA may reclaim the amounts from future Housing Assistance Payments owed the owner for any units under contract.

If future Housing Assistance Payments are insufficient to reclaim the amounts owed, the HA may:

- Require the owner to pay the amount in full within a maximum of 12 months
- Pursue collections through the court system, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Franchise Tax Board (FTB), or any other available method
- Restrict the owner from future participation

Chapter 18

COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

INTRODUCTION

The informal hearing requirements defined in HUD regulations are applicable to participating families who disagree with an action, decision, or inaction of the HA. This chapter describes the policies, procedures and standards to be used when families disagree with a HA decision. The procedures and requirements are explained for preference denial meetings, informal reviews and hearings. It is the policy of the HA to ensure that all families have the benefit of all protections due to them under the law.

A. COMPLAINTS TO THE HA

The HA will respond promptly to complaints from families, owners, employees, and members of the public. All complaints will be documented. The HA prefers that all complaints be put in writing, however, they may be reported by telephone. Complaints that cannot be substantiated will be so noted.

Complaints from families, owners, or the general public will be referred to the Housing Specialist first. Unresolved complaints or those involving a staff member will be referred to a Housing Supervisor or Internal Program Review Operation (IPRO).

Any complaints of racial, ethnic or sexual harassment involving staff will be handled according to County personnel policies. Any complaints regarding racial, ethnic or sexual harassment not involving staff will be documented, referred to Fair Housing and/or Legal Aid, and will be reviewed by supervisory staff.

B. NOT MEETING PREFERENCES

When it is verified by the HA that an applicant does not meet a preference that they self-certified they did, they will be returned to the waiting list and will be notified in writing of the specific reason.

C. INFORMAL REVIEW

The HA must give an applicant an opportunity for an informal review of the HA decision denying assistance to the applicant. After review, the applicant will be furnished with a written final decision including a statement of the reasons for the final decision.

The HA is not required to provide the applicant an opportunity for an informal review for any of the following:

1. Discretionary administrative determinations by the HA.
2. General policy issues or class grievances.
3. A determination of the family unit size under the HA subsidy standards.
4. An HA determination not to approve an extension or suspension of a voucher term.
5. An HA determination not to grant approval to lease a unit under the program or to approve a proposed lease.

6. HA determination that a unit selected by the applicant is not in compliance with HQS.
7. An HA determination that the unit is not in accordance with HQS because of the family size or composition.

Reviews are provided for applicants who are denied assistance before the effective date of the HAP Contract. The exception is that when an applicant is denied assistance for citizenship or eligible immigration status, the applicant is entitled to an informal hearing.

D. INFORMAL HEARING

The HA must provide participants with the opportunity for an informal hearing for decisions related to any of the following:

1. A determination of the family's annual or adjusted income, and the use of such income to compute the housing assistance payment.
2. A determination of the appropriate utility allowance (if any) for tenant-paid utilities from the HA utility allowance schedule.
3. A determination of the family unit size under HA subsidy standards.
4. A determination to terminate assistance for a participant family because of the family's action or failure to act.
5. A determination to terminate assistance because the participant family has been absent from the assisted unit for longer than the maximum period permitted under HA policy and HUD rules.

The HA will give the family prompt notice of such determinations which will include:

- The proposed action or decision of the HA.
- The date the proposed action or decision will take place.
- The family's right to an explanation of the basis for the HA's decision.
- The procedures for requesting a hearing if the family disputes the action or decision.
- The time limit for requesting the hearing.
- To whom the hearing request should be addressed.

The HA is not required to provide a participant family an opportunity for an informal hearing for any of the following:

1. Discretionary administrative determinations by the HA.
2. General policy issues or class grievances.
3. Establishment of the HA schedule of utility allowances for families in the program.
4. An HA determination not to approve an extension or suspension of a Voucher term.
5. An HA determination not to approve a unit or lease.
6. An HA determination that an assisted unit is not in compliance with HQS. However, the HA must provide the opportunity for an informal hearing for a decision to terminate assistance for a breach of the HQS caused by the family as described in 24 CFR 982.551.
7. An HA determination that the unit is not in accordance with HQS because of the family size.
8. A determination by the HA to exercise or not to exercise any right or remedy against the owner under a HAP contract.

E. INFORMAL REVIEW/HEARING PROCEDURES

It is the HA's objective to resolve disputes at the lowest level possible. Informal reviews are granted to applicants and informal hearings are granted to participants. The HA will ensure that applicants and participants will receive all of the protections and rights afforded by the law and the regulations.

Notification of Review/Hearing

When the HA determines that an applicant is denied assistance, and for participants, other specified actions, the family must be notified in writing. The notice must contain:

- The reason(s) the action is being taken,
- The procedure for requesting an informal review/hearing if the applicant/participant does not agree with the decision, and
- The time limit for requesting a review/hearing.

A request for an informal review/hearing must be received in writing by the close of the business day, no later than 10 calendar days from the date of the HA's notification of denial of assistance or intent to terminate assistance. For informal hearings, the information packet must be submitted to the hearing officer by the HA within 7 business days of receipt of the request for hearing. An appointment will be scheduled and a letter will be sent by the hearing officer within 5 business days from the date the information packet is received and the informal hearing will be conducted no more than 14 calendar days from the date the appointment letter is sent. For informal reviews, the review must be performed within 14 calendar days from the date the review is requested and the results sent to the applicant by mail within 10 business days after the review. The review will be performed in person unless the applicant requests either a review by phone or letter. The informal review/hearing shall be conducted by the review/hearing officer appointed by the HA who is neither the person who made nor approved the decision, nor a subordinate of that person. The HA appoints a review/hearing officer who is a staff person at the Housing Specialist II level or above, or an individual from outside the HA.

The review/hearing shall concern only the issues for which the family has received the opportunity for a review/hearing. Evidence presented at the review/hearing may be considered without regard to admissibility under the rules of evidence applicable to judicial proceedings.

The applicant/participant will be given the opportunity to present oral or written objections to the decision. Both the HA and the family may present evidence and witnesses. Both the HA and the family may use an attorney or other representative to assist them at their own expense.

A representative with written authorization to act on behalf of the applicant/participant may conduct an informal review/hearing in the absence of the applicant/participant, unless the representative has an interest in the rental assistance, i.e., the owner of the assisted unit.

When the hearing officer receives an information packet for an informal hearing, an informal hearing date will be scheduled and the notification will contain:

1. The date and time of the hearing.
2. The location where the hearing will be held.