

To CHA HCV Participants:

On January 1, 2020 recreational marijuana became legal in Illinois and Chicago.

The Chicago Housing Authority, Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot and the City of Chicago are working together to ensure a safe, responsible, fair and equitable implementation of the law and how the new law relates to federal laws governing the use of marijuana in public housing.

Our goal is to make sure you remain in compliance with your lease. CHA's goal has been and continues to be housing stability. This notice is to clarify our policy of seeking to maintain a balanced and reasonable interpretation of the new marijuana law and address matters involving the use and possession of marijuana on a case-by-case basis with a thoughtful consideration of circumstances.

CHA will be working with participants as well as property owners and landlords to ensure that everyone understands their rights under the new law.

In situations where there are allegations that a HCV participant has violated applicable marijuana laws, or where a property owner/manager of private property has filed an eviction action solely because a HCV participant engaged in the use, possession, distribution, or growing of marijuana, the CHA's voucher review process accommodates consideration of relevant facts on a case-by-case basis and mitigating circumstances that are presented. These mitigating circumstances include the time, nature and extent of the conduct; the relationship of the conduct to the disability of a family member; its impact on others; the impact of a proposed action on family members; the viability of limiting a negative action to certain users rather than entire families; and any factors that might indicate a reasonable probability of favorable future conduct of the HCV participant, including rehabilitation.

Important Resources about the New Marijuana Law:

The City of Chicago has created a Cannabis Information Center website that provides more details, information and resources for all Chicagoans about the new law. It can be accessed here: <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/cannabis-information-center/home.html>

The City of Chicago in partnership with the Chicago Department of Public Health also has created Cannabis Facts Chicago, a website to provide precautionary guidance for the new law. You can access that information here: www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/cdph/provdrs/healthy_living/svcs/cannabis-facts-chicago.html