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On Friday, April 10th, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued waivers that offer Public Housing Authorities administrative flexibilities in providing assistance to families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Effective immediately, here's what these waivers mean for the Chicago Housing Authority's HCV and Public Housing program operations:

1. CHA will resume conducting re-examination interviews with participants by email, phone and/or mail. Participants who are unable to participate in a remote interview will have their re-examination postponed until in-person operations resume.
2. CHA will temporarily accept written self-certification as well as oral third-party certification when verifying participant income for re-examinations and interim re-examinations.
3. CHA will now allow HCV property owners to self-certify non-emergency fail items identified during an Initial (new-move) Inspection.
4. CHA will not require a family to move at this time if the addition of a new household member would violate Housing Quality Standards (HQS) regarding space and safety.
5. CHA will not pursue program termination for participants who are able to pay their full contract rent for more than 180 days (Zero HAP in HCV and Over Income for Public Housing) or who have been away from the unit for an extended period of time.
6. CHA will not require that eligible applicants pulled from the HCV waiting list attend an in-person briefing in order to receive a voucher. Instead, eligible applicants will be directed to watch an online briefing presentation or receive an oral briefing by phone.
7. CHA will not require Public Housing families to meet the community service and self-sufficiency requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic.
8. CHA will consider circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic as a good cause for granting Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program contract extensions.
9. CHA internal processing deadlines have been extended allowing more time for staff to monitor and submit reports as well as execute HAP Contracts (with retroactive effective dates).

For more information regarding HCV and Public Housing program operations during COVID-19, please see the previously issued Frequently Asked

Questions documents that can be found on the CHA website under the Residents and Landlords tabs:

[COVID-19 FAQ for Public Housing](#)

[COVID-19 FAQ – Housing Choice Voucher Program](#)

Thank you again for your support and cooperation as we work to provide quality service to our families and partners.

Stay safe, stay home, save lives.